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For Immediate Release



## **Forty Carrots Receives Grant to Provide Parenting Education at First Step**

January 25, 2017 - Forty Carrots Family Center, a local nonprofit dedicated to strengthening families, will provide parenting education to pregnant and postpartum women recovering from addictions with the help of a generous grant from the Wilson Wood Foundation. The grant of \$10,000 will support the longstanding partnership between Forty Carrots and First Step Mothers & Infants Program, partially funding two parenting education classes per week at First Step's residential facility.

"Everyone can benefit from information and support on the journey to becoming the parent we all want to be," said Michelle Kapreilian, executive director. "The Wilson Wood Foundation is making it possible for us to reach some vulnerable families that would otherwise not have access to these crucial services."

Forty Carrots Family Center provides more than 1,000 client service hours annually at First Step's residential facility for women working towards a drug free birth. The classes augment First Step's services by helping mothers prepare for birth and parenting. Using a strength-based, non-judgmental approach, FCFC builds protective factors that are shown by research to reduce the risk of abuse and neglect within families. Additionally, the classes emphasize improving the parent-child bond that is instrumental to healthy relationships later in life and empowering parents to be their child's first teacher.

**About Forty Carrots.** Forty Carrots Family Center strives to provide children with a Good Beginning That Lasts a Lifetime through its Parenting Program, Mental Health Services, and Preschool. Its Community Outreach program provides more than 1,000 free parenting education and mental health classes throughout in Sarasota and Manatee counties annually. Rated 4-Stars by Charity Navigator, Forty Carrots fundraises to provide these services to families from all walks of life, with 93% of families receiving free services. To learn more about Forty Carrots programs: [www.fortycarrots.org](http://www.fortycarrots.org).

**About Wilson Wood Foundation** Wilson-Wood Foundation has granted organizations in Sarasota and Manatee Counties the ability to operate, expand, modernize, rebuild and deliver services to the less fortunate for many years. In 2016, the Foundation awarded a total of \$380,000 to 28 nonprofits.

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