

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Michelle Kapreilian

**Phone:** 941.365-7716; **Email:** michelle.kapreilian@fortycarrots.com

**Manatee Community Foundation funds Forty Carrots' Free *Partners In Play* Classes for Families with Young Children**

June 27, 2016 – Families with mobile babies to age 5 can learn and play together for free at Manatee Libraries, thanks in part to a \$5,000 grant funding from the Lawrence E. Ruf Fund at the Manatee Community Foundation. Forty Carrots' *Partners In Play* class features multiple activity stations fostering development, learning and growth. While families engage in playtime, experienced Parenting Educators answer questions and help problem solve issues like discipline, development or sibling rivalry. Each class includes an interactive circle time with music and rhymes.

“Forty Carrots provides more than 170 *Partners In Play* classes in Manatee County each year, and this generous support from Manatee Community Foundation helps to ensure we can reach hundreds of families with this free educational class,” said Michelle Kapreilian. “This unique program meets an important need in our community and we are so grateful to the Foundation partnering in our work to strengthen families.”

Forty Carrots Family Center offers *Partners In Play* classes at Braden River and Central Libraries in the summer months, and at all 6 Manatee County library locations September through May. No preregistration is required and up to twelve families can participate weekly on a first come, first served basis. More information is available at [www.fortycarrots.org](http://www.fortycarrots.org).

**Forty Carrots Family Center** strives to provide children with a Good Beginning That Lasts a Lifetime through its NAEYC-accredited Preschool, award-winning Parenting Center, and Free Community Outreach Program providing more than 1,300 free parenting education and mental health classes throughout the community annually. Rated 4-Stars by Charity Navigator, Forty Carrots fundraises to provide these services to families from all walks of life, with 90% of families receiving free services. [www.fortycarrots.org](http://www.fortycarrots.org)

**Manatee Community Foundation** connects the charitable interests of donors with needs in the community. Since 1998, the foundation has awarded more than \$16 million in grants and scholarships, working as partners with donors to make the most of their philanthropy during their lifetimes and to ensure their charitable legacies last for good, forever. For more information, visit [www.ManateeCF.org](http://www.ManateeCF.org).

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