## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Michelle Kapreilian, Executive Director

**Phone:** 941.365.7716;

Email: Michelle. Kapreilian@fortycarrots.com

## Selby Foundation Awards \$26,000 Grant to Expand Local Parenting Education Funding for van to allow Forty Carrots Family Center to add 400 free classes

June 16, 2014 – The William G. and Marie Selby Foundation has awarded Forty Carrots Family Center a grant of \$26,000 to purchase a van and materials, enabling significant expansion of the community outreach component of its Parenting Program, *On Wheels*. *On Wheels* travels into the community five days a week fostering essential parent-child bonds, preventing child abuse and increasing school readiness for children from all walks of life.

"We are thrilled to be able to deliver critical information and support to more children and families than ever before" said Michelle Kapreilian, Executive Director of Forty Carrots Family Center. "We are so grateful to the Selby Foundation for launching our expansion with this generous grant. The van and materials make it possible for Forty Carrots to deliver programs to families who would otherwise not have access."

Forty Carrots *On Wheels* Parenting Program currently reaches families via two vans that travel to locations throughout Sarasota and Manatee counties daily making parenting education & mental health services accessible by bringing free classes to clients where they live, work and study. For example, teen parents participate at their high school during as part of their regular class schedule. Young, pregnant homeless mothers are able to

participate at their place of temporary shelter. All families can participate in drop-in classes at Sarasota and Manatee County Libraries.

Grant funding received from The William G. and Marie Selby Foundation will enable the *On Wheels* program to provide more than 400 additional classes annually by funding a van to carry parenting educators and developmentally appropriate play and learning materials to the families who need this crucial program.

The additional classes represent an increase of over 40% in FREE services. The expansion of the program will include the addition of: a second weekly class at 7 Sarasota County Library locations; 2 classes weekly at Manatee County School's Teenage Parent Program (TAPP); additional group therapy support for teen parents at Sarasota County School's Teen Parent Program; weekly classes at Salvation Army; additional classes at Visible Men Academy.

Currently, the *On Wheels* program provides more than 800 free group classes and child & family therapy sessions throughout Sarasota and Manatee Counties at 18 partner locations as well Forty Carrots Kane Campus.

Forty Carrots Family Center helps children reach their full potential and become contributing members of society by providing exceptional early childhood education and by giving families the tools they need to raise their children in healthy, safe homes. A complete listing of programs and classes can be found at www.fortycarrots.org.

The William G. and Marie Selby Foundation focuses primarily on

academic scholarships and grants for capital projects in Sarasota, Manatee, Charlotte and DeSoto counties. The legacy of William and Marie Selby continues to enhance our area as a result of more than \$94 million in grants and scholarships given to nearly 400 organizations and over a thousand students. More information is available at www.selbyfdn.org.

###