

PRESS RELEASE

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Publix Super Markets Charities Commits Support to Area Children and Families

Publix Super Markets Charities has once again committed its support to children and families in Sarasota and Manatee Counties with sponsorship of all three upcoming Forty Carrots special events. Two of the events, *Firefly Gala* and *Wine, Women & Shoes*, raise money for early childhood and parenting education. The third event, *Forty Carrots Free Community Speaker Event*, offers a nationally recognized speaker sharing information on a timely parenting topic, available to parents and educators free of charge. With support from generous donors like Publix Super Markets Charities, Forty Carrots is able to serve 86% of the families it reaches for free.

“When you strengthen families, you strengthen the community” said Michelle Kapreilian, Executive Director. “Publix Super Markets Charities has demonstrated a deep commitment to families over many years and they are true partners in our work to make early childhood and parenting education available to those who would not otherwise have access. We are grateful for their dedication to providing great beginnings for young children.”

The charitable foundation of Publix Super Markets has supported the agency for more than ten years, creating a lasting impact on our community. In addition to annual support of the three events, Publix Super Markets Charities was a significant donor to the agency’s capital campaign. Their pledge of \$100,000 was instrumental in successful completion of the \$1.3 million effort to purchase the building that has housed the agency for 20 years. The final payment was presented on January 9, 2014.

Photo Attached: Publix Super Markets Charities presents Forty Carrots Family Center with the final payment on their 5 year Capital Campaign Pledge. Pictured left to right: Michelle Kapreilian, Executive Director, Forty Carrots Family Center and Brian West, Media & Community Relations Manager, Lakeland Division, Publix Super Markets, Inc.

Photo Attached: Forty Carrots Preschool Students present Publix Super Markets Charities with a handmade thank you. Pictured left to right: Shaun Harlan-Vale, Finn Dingle, Jack Moulton, and Ava Johnson.

Publix Super Markets Charities is the philanthropic arm of Publix Super Markets. Founded in 1930, Publix Super Markets is the largest and fastest-growing employee-owned supermarket chain in the United States. Publix and our associates excel in community involvement, volunteerism and a commitment to our market areas and beyond. Publix's commitment to diversity has contributed to our success in being a great place to work and shop. Details available at www.publix.com.

Forty Carrots Family Center: Founded in 1993, Forty Carrots Family Center is a nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening families through educational programs for parents, children and professionals in the field. Forty Carrots offers a variety of classes for families with children ages 0-5 at their Kane Campus (1500 South Tuttle Avenue, Sarasota), and through community partners as part of the *On Wheels* community outreach program. Forty Carrots also offers a NAEYC-accredited, Preschool program for children ages 2-5. Details on the Preschool and the Parenting Program, including a complete listing of classes, can be found at www.fortycarrots.org or by calling 365-7716.

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