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For Immediate Release



## **Forty Carrots Family Center To Reach More At-Risk Families Through Two New Community Outreach Partnerships**

October 14, 2016 - Forty Carrots Family Center is expanding its Community Outreach Program to provide parenting education and mental health services to clients through new partnerships with two agencies: the Sally & Sam Shapiro Babies and Children's Medical Center and Selah Freedom. This brings the total number of Forty Carrots' Community Outreach partnerships to fifteen throughout Sarasota & Manatee Counties.

Forty Carrots' Community Outreach Program reaches more than 3,900 clients annually, many of them through partnerships with other local agencies such as Salvation Army, SPARCC (Safe Place and Rape Crisis Center) and Sarasota County Schools' CYESIS Teen Parent Program. These partnerships allow Forty Carrots to deliver critical information and support to clients at agencies where they are already receiving other services, reaching some of our community's most at-risk families and providing services that are convenient, accessible and relevant. For most partnerships, services are delivered weekly.

At the Sally & Sam Shapiro Babies and Children's Medical Center, Forty Carrots will provide a weekly Partners In Play class for children 0-5 and their caregivers. Two parenting educators will provide information, skills and support for families to learn about child development, early literacy and parenting strategies, while offering children an enriching learning environment. The Sally & Sam Shapiro Babies and Children's Medical Center is a federally qualified health center operated under the auspices of the Community Health Centers of Sarasota County, Inc. and the Florida Department of Health in Sarasota County.

Through its partnership with Selah Freedom, Forty Carrots' licensed mental health therapists will work with survivors of sex trafficking and exploitation in a weekly therapy group, exploring issues surrounding parental reunification. The group will help mothers to understand the trauma their children have been through and equip with the tools they need to better care for their children in the future once reunited as a family. Selah Freedom, a national organization headquartered in Sarasota, exists to end sex trafficking and bring freedom to the exploited.

**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 free Community Outreach program provides more than 1,200 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 93% of families receiving free services. To learn more about Forty Carrots, including a full list of Community Outreach Partnerships: [www.fortycarrots.org](http://www.fortycarrots.org).

**About the Florida Department of Health.** The department, nationally accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board, works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts. The Sally & Sam Shapiro Babies and Children’s Medical Center was established in response to the need for more pediatric health services in north Sarasota. Follow us on Twitter at @HealthyFla and on Facebook. For more information about the Florida Department of Health please visit [www.FloridaHealth.gov](http://www.FloridaHealth.gov). For more information, visit [www.sarasotahealth.org](http://www.sarasotahealth.org) or call 941-861-2900.

**About Selah Freedom.** Selah Freedom is a national organization with a mission to end sex trafficking and bring freedom to the exploited. They provide four key programs: Awareness, Outreach, Teen Prevention and Residential. Selah Freedom actively confronts the issue of sex trafficking and is being upheld as the statewide model for how to effectively bring solutions to survivors of sex trafficking & exploitation. Selah Freedom's national headquarters is located in Sarasota, Florida. For more information: [www.selahfreedom.com](http://www.selahfreedom.com)

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