

For Immediate Release

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Flo Rida to Headline at Forty Carrots' 7th Annual Firefly Gala
Forty Carrots Family Center Announces Spring 2017 Fundraiser

Sarasota, FL - (Tuesday, January 13, 2017) - On Saturday, April 1, 2017, Forty Carrots Family Center's **Firefly Gala**, will be presented by the **Dart Foundation**, at The **Ritz- Carlton Members Golf Club**. This award winning fundraising gala features a full-scale private concert, gourmet dinner and auction.

This year's headline performer, **Flo Rida**, was raised by a single mother in Miami's rough neighborhood of Carol City. "My mother instilled in us that you could be from the ghetto, but you don't have to be of it. Because when it came down to doing certain things, I decided to be a leader and do more positive things." Flo Rida has become an international superstar uniting fans of pop, hip-hop and club music and is approaching a remarkable 100 million singles sold worldwide with chart-topping hits like "Low" and "My House".

Forty Carrots Family Center has been shaped by the belief that all parents, regardless of socioeconomic status, educational background, age or other factors, deserve access to information, education and support in order to do the best possible job raising their children in our ever changing and challenging world.

"I am passionate about helping families and young children to thrive in Sarasota and Manatee Counties," said Ariane Dart, seven time chairwoman and Firefly Gala creator. "Our community is stronger because of the parenting education, mental health services and early childhood education that Forty Carrots provides to people at every economic level. I am so grateful to those who are joining me to support this important work through sponsoring or attending the Firefly Gala."

The evening will begin with a cocktail reception and silent auction as well as a chance drawing for exciting items; a masterfully catered dinner by the Ritz-Carlton will be followed by a live auction. Guests will enjoy an intimate concert under the stars and complete the night at the After Party with music and dancing. Additional sponsorships by the Steinwachs Family Foundation and The Brunckhorst Family - Tomeika Hunter-Koski, and many others, will contribute to the success of one of Sarasota's signature events.

For more information about the 7th Annual Firefly Gala or to learn how to be involved, email events@fortycarrots.com or call (941) 365 7716. Visit www.fireflygala.org or www.fortycarrots.org. Follow **The Firefly Gala** on Facebook.

2017 Committee Photo Attached:

Standing left to right: Michelle Kapreilian, Valerie Dorr, Janet Allen, Sarah Monsalve, Tomeika Hunter-Koski, Caroline Ellerson, Silvana Medina, Ashley Williams, Ivana Rivolta, Adelle Bethel, Lindsay Currie, Shelly Cairo

Seated left to right: Bianca Lawrence, Kim Hickerson, Jane Bennett, Ariane Dart, Trisha Dunn, Elizabeth Dumbaugh

Committee Not Pictured: Sandi Boyajian, Silke Cuff, Nina Dion, Jess Ferraro, Lesley France, Tonya Getzen-Gowan, Tina Granthon, Francis Hoang, Eldon Johnson, Kristen Johnson, Patti Kuemmel, Ashley McLeod-Reeves, Melissa Morsli, Katie Pulvino, Christine Sket, Colleen Sims, Lorie Tiernay, Jena Wilson

NOTE: Flo Rida Photo AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST. Contact Tonya Gowan eventsandmore@msn.com

About Forty Carrots Family Center

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. www.fortycarrots.org.

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