

PRESS RELEASE

May 22, 2013

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**Forty Carrots Family Center Welcomes
New Executive Director**

SARASOTA, FL – Forty Carrots Family Center’s Board of Trustees appointed **Michelle Kapreilian** as its new executive director, effective June 1, 2013.

Kapreilian brings a decade of first-hand experience with Forty Carrots Family Center to the position through extensive volunteer efforts as a parent in the Parenting Program and Preschool; several key leadership positions as a two-term trustee, board secretary and chairwoman of the Governance Committee. Kapreilian’s professional background includes leading a multimillion-dollar international business and co-owner/ CEO of several local businesses.

“I am thrilled and honored that the board has entrusted me to lead Forty Carrots into its third decade of amazing work with families in our community,” Kapreilian said. “Being a long-time supporter and advocate for Forty Carrots, it is so satisfying to focus my professional skills on the future of its continued success and positive impact on our society. We have an enormously dedicated and talented staff and I look forward to working with them and our community partners in this new capacity. I anticipate many new opportunities for Forty Carrots.”

Jennifer Abbott, who served as the interim executive director during the board’s executive search, will resume her position as development director for the agency under Kapreilian’s leadership.

Celebrating its 20th anniversary, Forty Carrots Family Center has served over 30,000 families since 1993 through its unique blend of early childhood and parenting education programs. Ninety-two percent (92%) of the 2,132 families served last year received free

services, primarily through Forty Carrots “On Wheels” community outreach Parenting Program. Forty Carrots Parenting Program both at its Kane Center on Tuttle Avenue and through community outreach offers a range of programs and services, and partners with 16 local agencies to reach parents from all walks of life, with an emphasis on parents at increased risk for child abuse and neglect. At Forty Carrots Preschool, the whole child – social, emotional, creative, physical and cognitive development – is nurtured through a developmentally appropriate, play-based, creative curriculum. Highly trained teachers balance spontaneous, guided and self-directed play to set the scene for literacy, language and mathematical development as well as positive social interactions (caring, sharing, cooperating) and self-esteem. Graduates leave with the social skills, academic knowledge and love for learning that set the stage for future success. Accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) signifies that The Preschool at Forty Carrots Family Center provides the highest quality childhood experience.

Forty Carrots Family Center is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization dedicated to strengthening families through educational programs for parents, children and professionals in the field. The agency serves families from North Port to Bradenton. Now in its 20th year, Forty Carrots is Sarasota's only agency whose singular focus is early childhood and parenting education. Through this unique blend of information Forty Carrots Family Center positively impacts factors known to contribute to healthy long-term child outcomes.

For more information visit www.fortycarrots.org

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