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For Immediate Release

**Fortifying Families – Community Foundation of Sarasota County expands access to parenting education for families**

(Sarasota – December 2024) – Community Foundation of Sarasota County awarded Forty Carrots Family Center \$35,000 to provide at-risk families with evidence-based Circle of Security® (COS) Parenting Education groups, which support building secure attachments between parents and children.

The generous funding received from the James Franklin Warnell & Dorothy J. Warnell Fund and the Carolyn Caruthers Fund II at the Community Foundation of Sarasota County meets the needs of parents requiring education to comply with court orders, families experiencing homelessness, and parents in recovery or jail diversion. The power of COS groups is life-changing, demonstrated by client’s testimonials. One client said, “I’m fixing myself for my son,” and another parent remarked, “I’m more aware of my children’s needs. I’m ready to be a better father.”

“With continued investment in this evidence-based programming, and in response to our community’s need, Forty Carrots is expanding COS with one-on-one virtual services, removing barriers to participation,” said Forty Carrots CEO, Michelle Kapreilian.

COS groups are at Forty Carrots, Lightshare Mothers & Infants and CORT (Community Offender Rehabilitative Treatment) residential programs, Harvest House, and now offered virtually.

“We know that the capability of parents to create nurturing relationships with their children cultivates confidence, security, and hopefulness for both generations, propelling the family forward,” said Kirsten Russell, Vice President of Community Impact at the Community Foundation. “When we build stronger families, we build a stronger community. We’re delighted to support this noble work of Forty Carrots.”

Since 1993, **Forty Carrots Family Center** has served families in Sarasota & Manatee counties, ensuring good beginnings that last a lifetime for children through its expertise in Parenting Education, Mental Health Services, and Early Childhood Education. Rated 4-Stars by Charity Navigator, Forty Carrots serves

families from all walks of life, with 94 percent of families receiving services free of charge. Visit [www.fortycarrots.org](http://www.fortycarrots.org) for more information.

***About the Community Foundation of Sarasota County:*** The Community Foundation of Sarasota County is a public charity founded in 1979 by the Southwest Florida Estate Planning Council as a resource for caring individuals and the causes they support, enabling them to make a charitable impact on the community. With assets of \$460 million in more than 1,570 charitable funds, the Community Foundation awarded grants and scholarships totaling \$45.3 million dollars last year in the areas of education, the arts, health and human services, civic engagement, animal welfare and the environment. Since its founding, the Community Foundation has been able to grant more than \$396 million to area nonprofit organizations in our community thanks to the generosity of charitable individuals, families, and businesses. For more information, visit [www.CFSarasota.org](http://www.CFSarasota.org) or call (941) 955-3000.