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For Immediate Release

Gulf Coast Community Foundation invests in families with \$25,000 parenting education and early learning programming.

(Sarasota – January 22, 2025) – Children and families in South Sarasota County will have access to high-quality early learning and parenting education through Forty Carrots Family Center’s Partners In Play® thanks to the Kathryn H. Beach Charitable Fund at Gulf Coast Community Foundation.

Forty Carrots is the only organization providing free early learning and parenting education through its Partners In Play® (PIP) programming to children and families in South Sarasota County. Since 2022, Forty Carrots increased the number of children and families being served through PIP in South Sarasota County by 58%.

PIP groups play a crucial role in the community by serving diverse families from all walks of life while other organizations provide education and support in an in-home setting to families meeting specific requirements. PIP groups in South Sarasota County are offered at four local libraries (North Port, Jacaranda, Venice, and Shannon Staub) and require no eligibility requirements or pre-registration, ensuring accessibility to all families. After winter break, PIP groups returned on January 7, 2025, once again welcoming any parent, grandparent, or caregiver with a child aged from babies to five years old.

“93% of children participating in PIP do not attend any formal early learning programs before entering kindergarten, emphasizing the vital role PIP plays in nurturing early learning—a fundamental element for future successful outcomes. PIP builds resiliency in children, supports early learning, and offers a free, consistent learning environment, all while empowering caregivers as their child’s first and most important teacher. PIP, our largest program, is vital in Forty Carrots’ mission of preventing abuse and neglect in our community,” said CEO of Forty Carrots Michelle Kapreilian.

“We are proud to support Forty Carrots and its mission to nurture healthy child and family development through research-based, relationship-centered education and mental health services,” said Gulf Coast Community Foundation’s President | CEO Phillip Lanham. “We are especially excited to see Partners In Play® (PIP) providing vital, free early learning and parenting education to families in South Sarasota County which significantly impacts our community.”

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About Forty Carrots Family Center

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 96 percent of families receiving services free of charge. Visit www.fortycarrots.org for more information.

About Gulf Coast Community Foundation

Headquartered in Venice, Fla. and with a second office in downtown Sarasota, Fla., Gulf Coast Community Foundation was founded in 1995 to serve our community - forever. Together with our donors, Gulf Coast transforms the region through bold and proactive philanthropy. Serving the needs of the region as a partner in philanthropy and leader in community initiatives, Gulf Coast has surpassed granting over \$575 million in the areas of: health and human services, civic and economic development, education, arts and culture, and the environment. Since 2006, the Foundation has earned accreditation with Community Foundations National Standards®, the nation's highest standard for philanthropic excellence. Gulf Coast was named one of the "Best Nonprofits To Work For" nationally by *The NonProfit Times* in 2010, 2011, 2017, 2020, 2021, and 2023. To learn more, visit GulfCoastCF.org and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

Image attached