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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**FORTY CARROTS FAMILY CENTER ELECTS NEW TRUSTEES**

(Sarasota – June 17, 2026) Forty Carrots Family Center welcomes new Board of Trustee members Melanie Nealis, James D. O’Donnell, and Barry Preston. Melanie, President and Chief Legal Officer of CLO Advisory Services, has over 25 years of executive experiences in both public and private global companies. James is a litigation Partner at Shumaker focusing on complex business litigation. Barry, Managing Director of Preston Giuliano Capital Partners, has experience as a CFO and an extensive background in restoration of historic properties. Melanie, James, and Barry will serve a three-year term supporting Forty Carrots' mission of nurturing healthy child and family development and preventing child abuse, neglect, and other childhood traumas.

Officers include Board Chair Ben Jones, Managing Director at Mariner Wealth Advisors, Treasurer Anthony Glover, Retired Financial Services Executive, and Secretary Jackie Griese, Realtor with Michael Saunders & Company.

“Melanie, James, and Barry bring a wealth of insight and experience to our board and will undoubtedly be assets as we strengthen all families through parenting education, mental health, and early childhood education services,” said Board Chair, Ben Jones.

Remaining board of trustee members: Kevin Cooper, Valerie Dall’Acqua, Puja Dhanraj, Dawn Doughty, Jag Grewal, Hal Johnson, Eric Kaplan, Bob Lewandowski, Alan Ross, Susan Sakhai, Joleen Searles, Susan Travers, CEO Michelle Kapreilian (ex-officio) and trustee emeriti Kim Githler and Jeff Steinwachs.

**ABOUT FORTY CARROTS:**

Since 1993, Forty Carrots Family Center has served families in Sarasota, Manatee, and DeSoto 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.

Photos attached:



Melanie Nealis



James D. O'Donnell



Barry Preston