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## **PNC AWARDS \$150,000 GRANT TO EDUCATION FOUNDATION** ***Partnership with Forty Carrots Expands Parenting Education to Title One Schools***

Sarasota, FL (January 2018) - PNC has awarded \$150,000 to the Education Foundation of Sarasota County in partnership with Forty Carrots Family Center designed to improve the school success of young children in Sarasota County Title One elementary schools. The three-year grant will expand the **Partners In Play<sup>SM</sup>** program to Gocio Elementary School and allow Forty Carrots to offer **Abriendo Puertas Bilingual Parenting Education** (Parent University) at Gocio and Alta Vista Elementary Schools.

“PNC understands that a sound education is a strategic investment in helping to broaden children’s opportunities for social and economic mobility, which will ultimately help build a solid foundation for the future of this region,” said Chad Loar, regional president of PNC for Central and West Florida. “Research shows the measurable impact school readiness has on the success of at-risk children in school and life. We know that a child who enters kindergarten ready to learn is more likely to do well in school, graduate on time, go onto higher learning, obtain a meaningful job and contribute to the community. And by teaching parents as well, we’re easing their burden while helping pave the way for growth and success of Sarasota children, their families and ultimately, our economy.”

As an independent philanthropic supporter of Sarasota County Schools, the Education Foundation strives to connect other youth-serving organizations such as Forty Carrots Family Center with Sarasota County Schools to address specific and identifiable needs. Together these organizations have created a collective impact model program which is designed to serve children as well as their parents and families and is built around programs that have proven successful.

Research consistently confirms that a strong caregiver-child relationship is critical in mitigating the negative impact of stressors (like poverty or homelessness) on children’s mental health and subsequent school success. **Partners In Play** Parenting Education groups address this issue and have been utilized with success by Forty Carrots Family Center in many other community locations. The multi-year grant provided by PNC allows Forty Carrots’ professionally trained parenting educators to provide parenting information, early learning strategies and support within the context of parent-child playtime. Partners In Play<sup>SM</sup> will be provided weekly during the school year for families with children ages 0-5 on campus at Gocio Elementary.

“We are very grateful for the generosity of PNC and the Education Foundation of Sarasota County,” commented Gocio principal Steve Royce. “Through their philanthropy, we can provide quality early childhood programming through Forty Carrots and parental support over the next three years. Engaging the entire family with innovative educational programming provides the resources for closing the gap on school readiness.”

To address achievement gaps at Title One schools with a high percentage of Hispanic students, this grant will also fund an adaptation of **Abriendo Puertos Bilingual Parenting Education** at Gocio and Alta Vista Elementary

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Schools. This five-week program is the nation's first evidence-based parenting education program developed by and for Latino parents with children ages 0-5. The curriculum, which has been tested over five years by researchers at University of California, Berkeley, aims to develop parents' understanding of how to best prepare children for school in areas including nutrition and early literacy as well as offering information on accessing community resources.

#### **About the Education Foundation**

The Education Foundation of Sarasota County is an independent partner working to advance philanthropic support for Sarasota County Schools. Its mission is to enhance the potential of students, promote excellence in teaching and inspire innovation in education. Guided by the belief that education changes lives, the Education Foundation strives to match each donor's passion with high-impact projects created to ensure students graduate with purpose and are prepared for a post-secondary pathway. The Education Foundation of Sarasota County and its philanthropic investors are champions for students, teachers, and schools. For more information on how to be a champion for education, visit [EdFoundationSRQ.org](http://EdFoundationSRQ.org).

#### **About Forty Carrots**

Forty Carrots Family Center strives to provide children with Good Beginning That Last a Lifetime through its expertise in parenting education, early childhood education and mental health services. 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. To learn more: [www.fortycarrots.org](http://www.fortycarrots.org).

#### **About PNC**

The PNC Foundation, which receives its principal funding from The PNC Financial Services Group ([www.pnc.com](http://www.pnc.com)), actively supports organizations that provide services for the benefit of communities in which it has a significant presence. The foundation focuses its philanthropic mission on early childhood education and community and economic development, which includes the arts and culture. Through Grow Up Great, its signature cause that began in 2004, PNC has created a \$350 million, multi-year initiative to help prepare children from birth to age 5 for success in school and life. To learn more about the PNC Grow Up Great initiative, go to [www.pncgrowupgreat.com](http://www.pncgrowupgreat.com). Follow PNC at [www.twitter.com/PNCNews](http://www.twitter.com/PNCNews) and [www.youtube.com/PNC](http://www.youtube.com/PNC).

#### **PHOTO CAPTION:**

Partners In Play provides parents with early learning strategies in the context of playtime with their children at Gocio Elementary School.