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**Executive Director to Retire Post at Forty Carrots Family Center  
Betsy Kane-Hartnett Will Work In Family Business**

(Sarasota, FL) Betsy Kane-Hartnett announced she is retiring her post as executive director of Forty Carrots Family Center in May 2012 to take on an increasing role in managing her family's affairs. She will work side by side with her father and mentor Stanley Kane in her family's business.

Kane-Hartnett co-founded the Forty Carrots Family Center – a nonprofit organization that seeks to strengthen families by providing parenting and early childhood education to parents, children and professionals - 18 years ago with friend and colleague, Diane Weiss - who left the agency in 2009 for other opportunities. Kane-Hartnett has led the agency full time for the past 2 years, continually building a financially and administratively sound nonprofit in these challenging economic times.

The agency recently announced its completion and success with a 1.35 million dollar capital campaign to own and maintain its Tuttle Avenue facility. It continually boasts an excellent reputation with its unique pairing of top ranking early childhood education and child development at the preschool with its parent education expertise in the family center and community.

The agency has served over 20,000 families since 1993. Today, 92% of their clients receive free services. The agency serves Sarasota County families partnering with 15 local agencies serving at-risk parents as young as early teens to adults- ranging from young, homeless pregnant women to well-educated mature adults to grandparents and single fathers – all striving to do the hardest job parents and caregivers have in life: Parenting.

Kane-Hartnett explains her transition from the agency, “I know that the board and staff at Forty Carrots are well prepared to handle this transition from a founding mother to a new executive director. Because of my devotion to this agency, I am announcing my departure now to give the transition team plenty of time to find the right person to lead the agency.” Kane-Hartnett continues, “I am tremendously proud of the agency I helped birth in 1993 and equally proud of our financial and administration turnaround over the last couple of years.”

Kane-Hartnett will remain a passionate advocate and supporter of Forty Carrots Family Center and the Board of Trustees intends to find ways for her continued involvement.

“Betsy has done a remarkable job of founding, developing and leading Forty Carrots Family Center during its 19 years of service to the community. Although saddened by her departure, we are confident the strong organization, talented staff and Betsy's continued presence for nine months, will ensure a smooth transition. A transition team will enact the succession plan

already in place. Betsy is a woman of passion, warmth, energy and talent. Her leadership will be missed.” stated Rodney Linford, chairman, Forty Carrots board of trustees.

Forty Carrots Family Center provides early childhood education, parenting education, resources and support to families from North Port to North Sarasota. Now in its 19<sup>th</sup> 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 is able to address the factors known to contribute to positive parent- child relationships, healthy long-term child outcomes and a decrease in child abuse.

**Forty Carrots Family Center is a 501(C) 3 nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening families through educational programs for parents, children and professionals in the field.**

Visit [www.fortycarrots.org](http://www.fortycarrots.org) for more information.