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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – February 6, 2023**

***Drug Free Charlotte County receives United Way of Charlotte County, Board of County Commissioners Grant Funding***

Drug Free Charlotte County is pleased to announce new funding from The United Way of Charlotte County. These funds, which come from the Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners Community Grants, will help the work of the Kids Thrive Collaborative and Circle of Parents in efforts to build and enrich early childhood literacy and family bonding.

The program provides Circle of Parents families with opportunities and resources to build early literacy skills needed for their children to be ready for kindergarten, while nurturing family bonding. The Circle of Parents is an evidence-based peer support group established through the Kids Thrive Collaborative. Family-based, literacy rich activities will be provided as a result of this valuable local funding support.

Drug Free Charlotte County was established in 2002 to address youth substance use and prevent addiction in our community. Focused on a foundation to “engage, equip and empower” the community, the organization works to promote healthy choices and support resiliency in children and youth. The Kids Thrive Collaborative fosters strong family bonds and early childhood educational success – both critical protective factors for preventing use of substances and breaking family cycles of addiction. This project is just one of the ways Drug Free Charlotte County works to prevent addiction. Learn more at [drugfreecharlottecounty.org](http://drugfreecharlottecounty.org).

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