



**CONTACT: Trista G. Meister
239-354-1468**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 21, 2014**

David Lawrence Center Announces New Parent Academy Prevention Program

Naples, FL – The David Lawrence Center, Collier County’s only comprehensive, not-for-profit mental health and substance abuse treatment facility serving children, adults and families, is pleased to announce a new collaboration with Grace Place and Collier County Public Schools for the launch of Parent Academy, a new children’s prevention program.

David Lawrence Center’s highly skilled prevention specialists provide exceptional workshops to the parents of young children and/or adolescents who attend Grace Place as well as the general public through the new collaboration. The workshops are held onsite the second Tuesday of every month at Grace Place located at 4300 21st Avenue SW in Golden Gate in Naples from 6:15 – 7:45 p.m. and will continue through the end of the school year.

Every month, different topics will be discussed to help further shape a nurturing attitude and mindset. The program is designed to empower individuals and families with new knowledge, beliefs, strategies and skills to make good and healthy lifestyle choices. Valuable tips and tools are provided on a variety of mental health and substance abuse topics. Positive parenting skills are also presented to help parents become more aware, more nurturing and better prepared. Upcoming topics include warning signs of depression, anxiety and other mental distress, bullying and violence, positive brain development, alternatives to spanking, communication, morals, values and rules, and much more. Parents can register for a specific topic or the entire series.

Tom Powers, Director of School Age Programs at Grace Place, states, “Grace Place is thrilled to offer parenting workshops to our families through our strong partnership with David Lawrence Center and Collier County Public Schools. Our families are eager to learn how to support the education of their children. We know that building a strong foundation starts in the home and the parents appreciate the learning that happens in these workshops both with the counselors and the other participants. Together we are building a healthier community.”

Through the partnerships, the Collier County Public Schools Title 1 program has made complimentary meals available for the children and adults during the workshops which are held during the dinner hour. To make the program even more convenient for parents, free childcare services are also available and provided by qualified, trained Grace Place staff.

Didi Arpaia, Collier County Public Schools Title 1 Coordinator, adds, “This is a great collaboration that gives us yet another way of reaching out to the families we serve.”

David Lawrence Center is the Southwest Florida-based, not-for-profit leading provider of behavioral health solutions dedicated to inspiring and creating life-changing wellness for every individual. The Center provides innovative, comprehensive inpatient, outpatient, residential and community based prevention and treatment services for the one in four local children and adults who experience mental health, emotional, psychological and substance abuse challenges. David Lawrence Center has eight locations in Collier County and touches the lives of more than 50,000 people each year. For more information about David Lawrence Center call 239-455-8500 or visit www.DavidLawrenceCenter.org.

####