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**MEDIA RELEASE**  
Palmetto, FL  
May 13th, 2019

**ELC AWARDED $5000 GRANT FROM FLORIDA WINEFEST AND AUCTION FOR ‘CATCH’ EARLY CHILDHOOD COMMUNITY HEALTH PROGRAM**

**Palmetto, Florida, May 13th, 2019** – The Early Learning Coalition of Manatee County (ELC) has been awarded a $5000 grant from the Florida Winefest and Auction to support CATCH (formerly known as WAVE).

Sharon Oakes, ELC Chief Operations Officer, said: “We are tremendously appreciative of the continued support from Florida Winefest and Auction. This generous grant will enable the ELC to implement a fun, interactive, research-proven health and wellness curriculum to preschoolers and their families in Manatee County.”

Coordinated Approach to Child Health (CATCH) is a comprehensive community health program that creates behavior change in children by teaching them to identify healthy foods and increase their moderate to vigorous physical activity (MVPA) each day. The CATCH Early Childhood program is designed to encourage physical activity and healthy eating in children ages 3-5. CATCH EC includes 3 components: 1. It’s fun to be Healthy! Classroom curricula consisting of interactive nutrition and garden-based lesson plans and activities, 2. Structured physical activities provided in a CATCH EC Physical Activity Box, and 3. Family Education including tips for parents to incorporate nutrition and physical activity into home routines. It is a daily curriculum with lessons and activities that are approximately 30 minutes each.

The Florida Winefest and Auction, Inc. is a 501 (c) 3 not-for-profit organization that provides funding to qualified charitable organizations for programs assisting disadvantaged children, youth, and families in Sarasota and Manatee Counties. They are celebrating their 29th year of supporting charities and have awarded $8.6 million in grants to 87 different charities since 1991. Visit www.floridawinefest.org for more information.

The Early Learning Coalition of Manatee County, Inc. is a multi-service agency dedicated to helping children develop skills that they will need to be successful in school and life. The agency’s focus is on high quality school readiness opportunities for all children and their families, understanding that it is in the first years of life that a child’s future educational success is determined and the critical role of parents, as their child’s first and most important teacher. To learn more about Coalition’s services, go to www.elc-manatee.org or call 941-757-2900, extension 212.