ELC AWARDED $50,000 GRANT FROM UNITED WAY SUNCOAST

Palmetto, Florida, June 10th, 2020 – The Early Learning Coalition of Manatee County, Inc (ELC) has been awarded a $50,000 grant from United Way Suncoast to help fund a collaborative effort between the ELC and Feeding Tampa Bay, in support of PALS participants, teen-age parents, and Early Head Start participants being served at Harllee Service Center.

Play and Learning Strategies (PALS) facilitates the parents' mastery of specific skills for interacting with their infants, toddlers, and preschoolers with a focus on strengthening the bond between parent and child and to stimulate early language, cognitive, and social development.

Parents with children 4 months to 48 months participate in 15-18 weekly home visits. Additionally, families will have access to nutritionally adequate food at the Harllee Service Center food pantry.

The overall program cost is $75,000 and anyone willing to support this partnership can find more information at www.elc-manatee.org.

Sharon Oakes, ELC Chief Operations Officer, said: “We are grateful to the United Way Suncoast for this investment in our partnership with Feeding Tampa Bay. Through our collaboration with the school district and Early Head Start, we will have the good financial start needed to serve some of our most vulnerable citizens.”

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 2100.