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Charles & Margery Barancik Foundation Awards \$25,000 to Visible Men Academy

Sarasota, FL (January 21, 2016) – A child’s success in life is closely tied to his or her parents’ ability to overcome their own obstacles. This belief is the premise of Visible Men Academy’s Two-Generation Parent Success Program - a program Charles and Margery Barancik Foundation recently supported through a \$25,000 grant.

Visible Men Academy (VMA) is a tuition-free public charter school that educates boys in grades K-5, from low-income communities in Sarasota and Manatee counties. Their mission is to provide outstanding academic, character, and social education in a nurturing school environment. “We believe in the VMA leadership team and their schoolhouse model,” said Teri A Hansen, President and CEO of the Barancik Foundation. “VMA is transforming the lives of the boys they educate and their parents and we are pleased to support their work.”

The parents of the students face many obstacles, including language barriers, low levels of education, exposure to violence, and many are single mothers. These obstacles impact the children and they arrive at school facing unique barriers to education because of their home life. “Stabilizing and supporting the family greatly increases student success in the classroom and in life. That is the goal of the Parent Success Program,” said Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Neil Phillips.

VMA’s Parent Success Program offers wellness, parenting literacy, and basic education classes, and will soon expand to focus on employability preparation, career advancement and financial empowerment. The program is delivered in partnerships with community organizations, including the Women’s Resource Center of Manatee, Sarasota Literacy Council, Goodwill of Manatee, Manatee Credit Union, JFCS of the Suncoast and more.

A growing body of research highlights the critical role that parents play in the development of young children in terms of physical health, social and emotional wellness, and academic readiness. Low income families often face increased challenges that, when unaddressed, become barriers to a child’s social and academic development.

“This generous award from the Barancik Foundation allows us to expand programs and serve more at-risk boys and their families”, noted Shannon Rohrer-Phillips, MSW, VMA Co-Founder and creator of program. “The early outcomes from our program are incredible. We have parents who work two jobs, raise multiple children and attend the

Parent Success Class every week. Their commitment to strengthen their families and pursue their goals inspires us and we believe in their potential.”

About the Charles & Margery Barancik Foundation

The Charles and Margery Barancik family has long believed in the power of philanthropy to shape our world and enrich the lives of all people. It was the expression of this belief that led them in 2014 to establish the Charles & Margery Barancik Foundation—a private, family foundation located in Sarasota, Florida. The Barancik Foundation creates initiatives and awards grants in Sarasota and beyond in the areas of arts and humanities, education and science, humanitarian causes, medical research, and the environment. For further information, please contact Teri A Hansen at THansen@BarancikFoundation.org.

About Visible Men Academy

The vision of Visible Men Academy is to lead boys toward a realization of their innate strong character. VMA exists to disrupt the cycle of underachievement and low expectations. The school culture is built on an unwavering commitment to setting boys from lower-income communities on a path toward lifelong achievement, family and community contribution, and realization of their great potential. For further information, please visit vmacademy.org or contact Mitzie P. Henson at mhenson@vmacademy.org.

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