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NEWS RELEASE
For Immediate Release
October 9, 2017

LAKWOOD RANCH COMMUNITY FUND AWARDS \$1438 GRANT TO THE EARLY LEARNING COALITION FOR STEAM MACHINE PROGRAM IN MANATEE COUNTY

Palmetto, Florida, October 9, 2017 – The Early Learning Coalition (ELC) of Manatee County, Inc. has been awarded a \$1438 grant from the Lakewood Ranch Community Fund of the Manatee Community Foundation. The grant will support the ELC ‘STEAM Machine’ as it arrives at early learning classrooms in the Lakewood Ranch area.

The STEAM Machine has been visiting child care centers across Manatee County since mid-July, providing one hour sessions that focus on Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and/or Mathematics. Promoting STEAM education gives children the opportunity to attain essential skills to connect ideas and integrate knowledge across disciplines, all the while capturing their attention.

ELC has partnered with the School District of Manatee County as The STEAM Machine program grows, and would like to thank the Lakewood Ranch Community Fund of the Manatee Community Foundation for their generous support.

Sharon Oakes, ELC Chief Operations Officer, said: “We are very excited to have The STEAM Machine out on the road, and now moving into the Lakewood Ranch area. STEAM education is a proven success, and our customized vehicle will provide an exciting experience for the children to engage in, and have fun, whilst they learn.”

In 2000, the Lakewood Ranch Community Fund was established at the Manatee Community Foundation to serve the people and interests of the Lakewood Ranch community, and allow donor-allocated funds to stay in our region, serving a variety of charitable interests. The Lakewood Ranch Community Fund Mission: To enhance the quality of life in and near our community by promoting philanthropy, responding to community needs and granting funds. Since 2002 the Fund has awarded \$1.1 Million in grants to 105 local nonprofit organizations.

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



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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.



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