



## **Local Authors Support Children and Families in Need**

**Sarasota, FL (February 01, 2021)** - Local philanthropists and recently published authors Mitchell Epstein and Mike Keebaugh are giving back to the children and families at Children First in unique ways that will not only provide support for comprehensive services but instill a love of literacy and life-long learning.

After publishing his first book, 'Mr. Lucky – My Unexpected Journey to Success,' retired entrepreneur Mitchell Epstein decided to donate its total proceeds to support the missions of local non-profits benefitting our community, including Children First. "The more you give, the more you get. It's a pleasure helping an organization that does all the right things for families," says Epstein.

Retired executive and Chair Emeritus of the Children First Board of Directors, Mike Keebaugh now adds the title of author with his first children's book, 'Mr. Mike's ABC Adventure.' Based on his experiences as a classroom volunteer with the agency, the book is a new, exciting way for children preparing for Kindergarten to read along while learning the alphabet. Copies of his book have been donated to every Head Start classroom across the agency's 15 locations.

"Mitchell and Mike, alongside their families, have been wonderful supporters of our children, families, and mission for more than a decade. We are deeply appreciative to have them share in their successes and create such special opportunities for our community's most vulnerable," says CEO Philip Tavill.

### **About Children First:**

Founded in 1961 and ranked in the top 1% out of over 1,800 Head Starts nationwide, Children First strengthens children and families by improving the quality of their lives through a comprehensive approach to development, education, health, and well-being. At 15 sites throughout Sarasota County, Children First offers full-day preschool, infant and toddler care, and nutrition and health care assistance to children ages birth to five years old from low-income families. Through Children First, the children receive the social, emotional, and cognitive skills needed to enter kindergarten and elementary school on track. For more information, call (941) 953-3877 or go to [childrenfirst.net](http://childrenfirst.net).

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