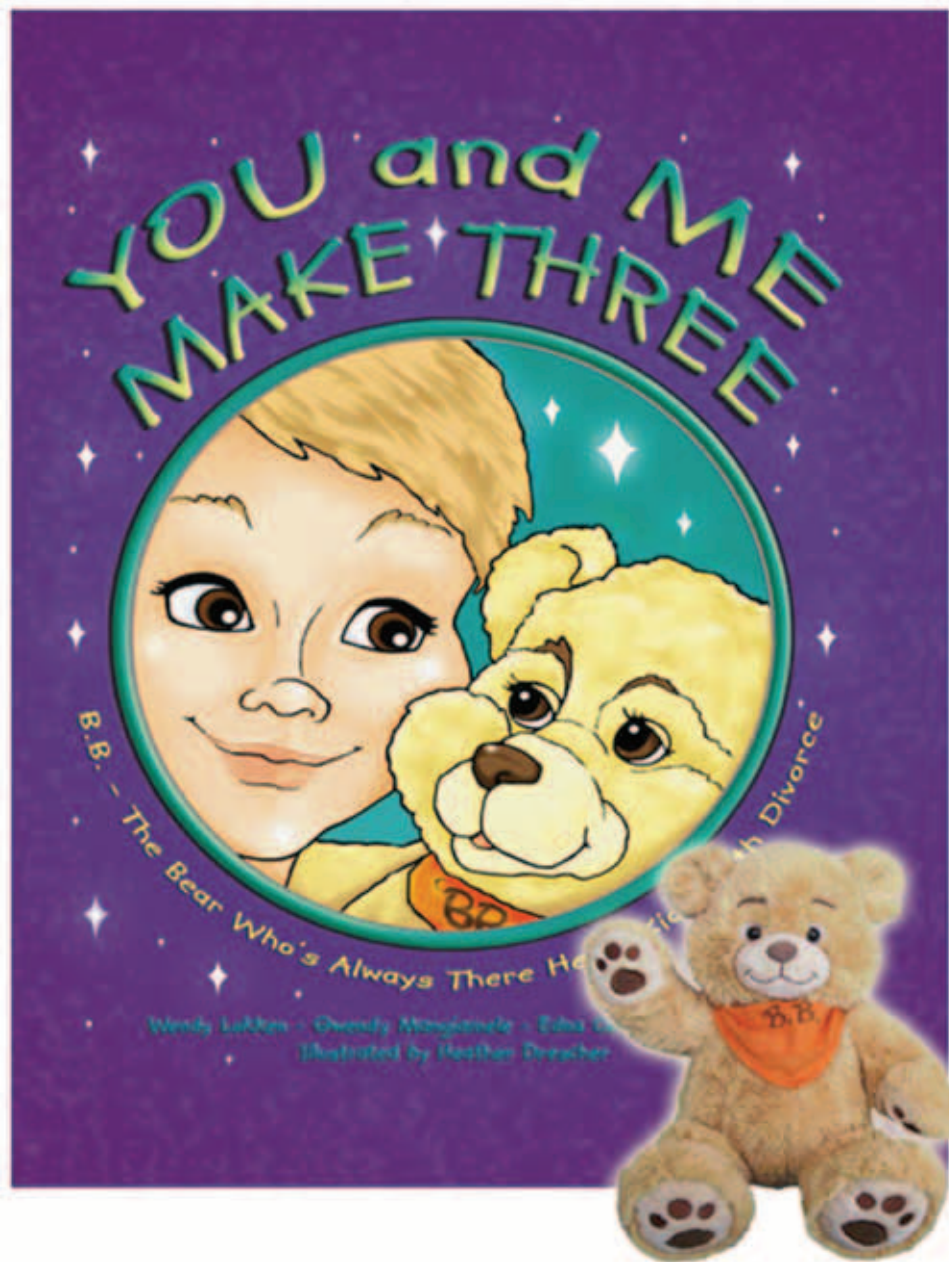


# FIRST OF NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S BOOK LAUNCH TO BENEFIT COLLIER TEACHERS, SCHOOLS AND THE EDUCATION FOUNDATION OF COLLIER COUNTY



Elementary school teachers will concur that divorce is among the most common problems facing kids today. A gala event on March 12 at the Ritz-Carlton Naples will mark the launch of *You and Me Make Three*, a new book for children of divorced families. The book is packaged with a companion teddy bear named B.B., manufactured by Build-A-Bear Workshops.

The evening honors Collier County teachers while raising funds for The Education Foundation through donations of books and bears to Collier schools. With a mission to place "A Book and Bear in Every School in America," the authors are Wendy Lokken, Gwendy Mangiamela, and Edna Cucksey Stephens, illustrations by Heather Drescher and published by EDCO Publishing, Inc. of Auburn Hills, Michigan.

*You and Me Make Three* talks about genuine family experiences with illustrations of the lovable,

bandana clad B.B. as he travels to both Mom's and Dad's separate homes. "The Education Foundation has found that books provide a special magic for learning. We are proud that such a positive book that addresses a very difficult and common social issue was written and illustrated here in our community," said Susan McManus, president of The Education Foundation. "B.B. the companion teddy bear that narrates the story will assist many teachers, students and parents through the emotional process of divorce and separation.

A portion of book and bear sales from the gala will be donated to The Education Foundation. For more information on book signings, how to donate a B.B. book and bear to a teacher or school, and to reserve copies of *You and Me Make Three* and B.B. the Bear, please visit the website at [www.bbseries.com](http://www.bbseries.com) or call 239-289-3817.