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**AUTHORS ACHIEVE NATIONAL CERTIFICATION
FOR ACCREDITED DIVORCE PROGRAM**

NAPLES, FL (March 10, 2008) – Wendy Lokken, Naples-based author of *You and Me Make Three* and her co-authors have obtained certification in the Sandcastles program, a special child-focused divorce recovery program created by licensed mental health counselor M. Gary Neuman.

Neuman certified Lokken to practice the innovative and unique style of counseling to help young children and families cope with divorce. This certification is timely with the launch of *You and Me Make Three*, a children's book about the challenges of divorce, which is sold with a companion teddy bear named B.B. to help comfort children during the transition. The book will officially launch on Wednesday, March 12, 2008, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at a reception held at the Ritz-Carlton, Naples.

As an accredited Sandcastles" instructor, Lokken can now utilize this effective counseling program, which focuses on teaching children and families how to effectively communicate during and after divorce, as well as understand and accept their emotions through the process.

The "Sandcastles" certification allows Lokken to employ exercises in age-appropriate workbooks that help children develop self-expression and problem-solving skills, and qualifies her to help children learn how to express their feelings of anger and sadness in constructive ways in order to achieve a higher understanding of divorce.

Lokken, along with Gwendy Mangiamele, Edna Cucksey Stephens and illustrator Heather Drescher, are the creators of the B.B. Bear and co-authors of *You and Me Make Three*. The book details a gentle story narrated by B.B. Bear to children and also includes practical suggestions for parents and caregivers to help children through the divorce process.

“Expression is magical. B.B. can be that catalyst to comfort a child and help them find that magical expression,” said M. Gary Neuman, creator of the “Sandcastles” program. Recognized by Oprah Winfrey and featured on her television show, the “Sandcastles” program has also been featured in People Magazine, the Today Show, the View, NPR, NBC Nightly News, Dateline NBC, and Good Morning America.

The book and B.B. Bear will appear for the first time in public on March 12, 2008, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Ritz-Carlton Beach Resort in Naples. Lokken will also be signing books in Naples on March 15th at Borders Books, March 22nd at Book-a-Million, and March 29th at Barnes and Noble in Naples.

A portion of book and bear sales from the March 12th event will be donated to The Collier County Education Foundation, the Victor SMILE ©Foundation and International Kids Alliance Network (IKAN) a non-profit that helps improve literacy and cultural diversity awareness in children by providing high-quality, interactive programs, books and educational materials. For more information on the scheduled charity events, 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 or call 239-289-3817.

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