

# news release

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Compassion. Innovation. Trust.

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## Winter Haven Hospital Foundation celebrates Gala's 20th anniversary

**WINTER HAVEN, FL** – (October 16, 2009) – On Nov. 5, 2009, the Winter Haven Hospital Foundation will celebrate the 20th anniversary of its Gala. The Gala is Polk County's signature fundraising event and is the Foundation's major fundraiser each year.

This year's major sponsors include: The Bostick Family; Ben Hill Griffin, Inc.; Bright House; Citizens Bank & Trust; Comcast; Doster Construction Company; Don and Christine Ingram; Dorothy B. Griffin; Interlachen Groves, Inc.; Lamar Outdoor Advertising; Lynn and Tommy Oakley; Polk County Democrat / Lake Wales News; State Farm Insurance Companies; Straughn & Turner, P.A.; SunTrust Bank; SunTrust Retirement Services; TRUSCO Capital Management; the Cassidy Family; The Ledger; The News Chief; Tucker Construction & Engineering and WONN / WPCV

The Gala provides an opportunity for Winter Haven Hospital Foundation friends to celebrate the hospital's achievements of the past year. The 2008 Gala raised more than \$547,000, a record amount.

The 2009 Gala will feature the "Ultimate Beatles Tribute" show. The Los Angeles based music group, **The Fab Four**, will headline the 20th annual Winter Haven Hospital Foundation Gala at Nora Mayo Hall.

The Fab Four takes audiences on a musical tour spanning 10 years of Beatles history, from the early 1960s through the Sgt. Pepper era to the band's unforgettable "Hey Jude" and "Imagine."

"We are very excited and pleased with the early response that we are already seeing from the philanthropic community," Foundation Chairman **Don Ingram** said. "The economic climate has certainly been challenging, but we're finding that our community

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tends to take the long view when it comes to the idea of making sure we all have access to world-class healthcare. We certainly are thankful for all of our continuing – and future – Gala supporters.”

**Lance Anastasio**, President and CEO of Winter Haven Hospital, said: “Planning our annual Gala involves the work of dozens of volunteers, such as Gala Chairperson Lynn Oakley and the Gala Planning Committee, Cindy Henry, Dorothy Griffin, Deb Sizemore and Marcie Sizemore. They put their heart and soul into making this a memorable event. And they do it because they believe in the mission of our organization. There simply is no price tag that you can put on that kind of contribution. We can’t thank our contributors and our volunteers enough.”

“All funds raised from this year’s Gala will go to support patient care services at the Hospital’s new Cassidy Cancer Center,” said **Joel Thomas**, Winter Haven Hospital vice president and foundation executive. “The Gala is a perfect opportunity for the hospital and the Foundation to let our friends learn more about exciting projects and new services at Winter Haven Hospital. It is a wonderful occasion for supporters to come out and have a great time while getting behind a great cause.”

### **About Winter Haven Hospital Foundation**

The Winter Haven Hospital Foundation is a not-for-profit charitable institution governed by a board of volunteer trustees who serve without pay. In an effort to meet the continuing needs of our health service organization and the growing communities it serves, the Foundation provides philanthropic support. That support goes for the very latest in medical care, technology, equipment, facilities, manpower, and education for Winter Haven Hospital, the Regency Center for Women and Infants and many other health services provided in east Polk and Highlands counties.

### **About Winter Haven Hospital**

Established in 1926, Winter Haven Hospital serves as the major medical center for east Polk and Highlands counties and the U.S. Highway 27 / Ridge Corridor. The 527-bed hospital is a locally owned and operated not-for-profit organization. The hospital is fully accredited by the Joint Commission on accreditation for Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) and has more than 300 board-certified physicians on its medical staff representing every major specialty. Affiliated with the University of Florida College of Medicine/Shands Healthcare, Winter Haven Hospital also is the home of **Bostick Heart Center**, the **Cassidy Cancer Center**, the **Regency Center for Women and Infants**, a nationally accredited **Stroke Center** and the nationally accredited **Joy-Fuller Rehab Center**. In January, the hospital was recognized by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) with the prestigious designation of Magnet status, recognition granted to only 5 percent of the nation’s hospitals. With more than 2,500 employees, Winter Haven Hospital is east Polk County’s largest private employer and has been recognized for three consecutive years by Polk Works Workforce 2020 as one of the county’s best places to work. For more information, please visit our Web site at [www.winterhavenhospital.org](http://www.winterhavenhospital.org).