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Beatlemania! The Fab Four headline Hospital's 20th Foundation Gala

Billed as the "ultimate Beatles tribute," the Fab Four are accompanied by an Ed Sullivan lookalike as a master of ceremonies. The annual Winter Haven Hospital Gala is Polk County's premier fundraising event.

WINTER HAVEN, FL – (June 16, 2009) – Look for the Florida Citrus building's Nora Mayo Hall to come down with a case of Beatlemania this November. The musical group The Fab Four have been signed to headline the 20th annual Winter Haven Hospital Foundation Gala, scheduled for November 5.

The Los Angeles-based group puts on a multimedia revue described as the "ultimate Beatles tribute." The group takes audiences on a musical tour spanning 10 years of Beatles history, from the early 60s, featuring songs such as "I Want to Hold Your Hand," and "Twist and Shout," through the Sgt. Pepper era to the band's hits of the late 60s hits, such as "Hey Jude" and "Imagine."

"After every Gala, we always ask ourselves: How are we going to top the last one?" said Don Ingram, chairman of the Winter Haven Hospital Foundation Board of Trustees. "I believe we have found the answer. The Beatles were simply one of the biggest bands of all time. And if we can't have the actual Beatles themselves, the next best thing is the Fab Four."

The fund-raising event will help support programs at Winter Haven Hospital, Regency Center for Women and Infants and six family health centers. The community-owned, not-for-profit Winter Haven Hospital is the major medical center for east Polk County and the Ridge Corridor communities

Last year's Gala raised more than \$547,000 in philanthropic contributions, a record for the sixth consecutive year.

Bolstered by community support at events like the Gala, progress at Winter Haven Hospital has been dramatic in recent years. Among the achievements:

- In January, Winter Haven Hospital was recognized by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) with the prestigious designation of Magnet status for its nursing program. The hospital became the first in Polk County to achieve Magnet status, which has been granted to only 5 percent of the nation's hospitals.
- In October, the hospital's nationally-accredited Stroke Center received a Gold Award of Excellence from the American Stroke Association. The recognition makes Winter Haven Hospital one of only 53 hospitals in the nation to receive such an honor.
- The Bostick Heart Center, Central Florida's newest state-of-the-art cardiovascular service pavilion, offers a full spectrum of diagnostic, surgical and therapeutic cardiovascular health services. The Society of Thoracic Surgeons recently reported that for the past 12 months, the Bostick Heart Center ranked in the top 98 percent for patient outcomes compared to similar centers in the United States.

- In January, the hospital opened its new Cassidy Cancer Center. The Center is affiliated with the University of Florida College of Medicine and Shands Healthcare. It offers patients access to state-of-the-art diagnostic and treatment technologies.

Lance Anastasio, president and CEO of Winter Haven Hospital, said: “The Gala continues to be one of the standards by which we measure progress. We come together once a year and celebrate the milestones we have achieved and the plans we have laid. At the same time, we get a chance to appreciate the value of our not-for-profit healthcare mission. We are extraordinarily grateful for all of our philanthropic supporters who allow us through their vision and generosity to continue to pursue our mission of improving local patient care.”

Foundation Trustee Lynn Oakley, who chairs the Gala Planning Committee, said: “Our purpose is to encourage people to invest in the patients Winter Haven Hospital cares for, but our goal is more than that. We want to create a fun, memorable evening that gets our supporters excited about being part of this outstanding organization. We want everyone in Central Florida to know that THE place to be on the night of Nov. 5th is at Nora Mayo Hall supporting this great cause.”

Joel Thomas, Vice President Development for Winter Haven Hospital, said: “We are especially pleased with the early reception that we are already hearing from the business and philanthropic communities. The economic climate has certainly been challenging, but we’re finding that our community 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 soon-to-be – Gala supporters.”

About the 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 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 the many other health services Winter Haven Hospital provides.

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. Winter Haven Hospital is affiliated with the University of Florida College of Medicine/Shands Healthcare. And with more than 2,500 employees, Winter Haven Hospital is the largest private employer in east Polk County. Winter Haven Hospital has been recognized by Polk Works Workforce 2020 as one of the best places to work in Polk County for three consecutive years. In January, the hospital was recognized by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) with the prestigious designation of Magnet status, a recognition granted to only 5 percent of the nation’s hospitals.

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