

news release

Winter Haven Hospital
200 Avenue F, N.E.
Winter Haven, FL 33881



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Hospital

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More information:
Joel Thomas
Winter Haven Hospital
(863) 292-4334

Winter Haven Hospital Foundation's Citrus Classic slated for Jan. 22 at Lake Myrtle Sports Complex

WINTER HAVEN, FL – (January 5, 2011) – The Winter Haven Hospital Foundation Citrus Classic, a community-wide health event designed for participants of all ages, will take place on Jan. 22, 2011 at Auburndale's new Lake Myrtle Sports Complex. Proceeds from the Citrus Classic will benefit the patients served by Winter Haven Hospital's nationally recognized Bostick Heart Center.

Hundreds of participants are expected to take part in one of three events planned for the Classic: a 5K run; a 3-mile walk and a "Tot Trot." The 5K run begins at 7:30 a.m.; the walk at 8:00 a.m. and the Tot Trot takes place at 9:00 a.m. Early registration fees for the 5K run and 3-mile walk are \$20 and \$15 respectively. The cost for the Tot Trot is \$5 per participant.

"Auburndale's Lake Myrtle Sports Complex is one of Florida's premier venues for community-based sporting events like the annual Citrus Classic," said **Eric Adamson**, chairman of the Winter Haven Hospital Foundation. "Last year was the first time that we held the Classic in Auburndale and the reaction was fantastic. We think we're going to see even more participation this year, which will mean great things for our patients served by the Bostick Heart Center."

Auburndale City Manager **Bobby Green** said: "The City of Auburndale is pleased to host the Citrus Classic in support of the patients served by Winter Haven Hospital's Bostick Heart Center. Many of our city's residents seek treatment every year at Winter Haven Hospital and we know the importance of having a locally owned, not-for-profit healthcare organization accessible to our community."

"The event will be a celebration of health and wellness," said **Lance Anastasio**, president and CEO of Winter Haven Hospital.

"Whether you're an avid runner or simply choose to walk, the Citrus Classic will be great fun," Anastasio said. "We'll have plenty of T-shirts, awards and trophies. We're looking

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Citrus Classic 5K scheduled for Jan. 22 (Page 2)

for an outstanding turnout.”

Christina Fitzsimons, director of development, marketing and PR support services for Winter Haven Hospital, said sponsorship opportunities for the Citrus Classic remain available.

“Our current sponsors are the City of Auburndale, Lifestyle Family Fitness, FitNiche in Lakeland, Noble Juice of Winter Haven, Central Florida Media Group, *Today & Tonight* magazine, and Coca Cola. We’re going to have an outstanding event with hundreds of participants and it’s our sponsors who help to make that possible,” Fitzsimons said.

The Lake Myrtle Sports Complex is located at 905 Myrtle Park Drive in Auburndale, off Berkley Road. Participants can register at www.active.com or by calling 863-291-6705. Sponsorship and vendor opportunities include a presenting sponsorship for \$5,000, a silver sponsorship for \$2,500 and a bronze sponsorship for \$1,000. To find out more about sponsorship and vendor opportunities call Holly Hughes at 863-292-4138.

About the Winter Haven Hospital Foundation

The Winter Haven Hospital Foundation, Inc. is a not-for-profit charitable institution governed by a board of volunteer trustees who serve without pay. The Foundation cultivates philanthropic support to provide patients with state-of-the-art medical care, cutting-edge technology and equipment, top quality education, and the best and brightest personnel. The funds benefit the patients of Winter Haven Hospital, the Regency Center for Women & Infants, and many other health services of our growing community.

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 home of **Bostick Heart Center**, the **Cassidy Cancer Center**, the **Robotics Institute and Center for Urology**, 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.