

news release

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Winter Haven
Hospital

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Winter Haven Hospital Foundation awards scholarships to 18 hospital employees

WINTER HAVEN, FL – (August 25, 2011) – The Winter Haven Hospital Foundation has awarded \$50,000 in scholarships to 18 hospital employees who are seeking advanced training in their respective fields.

The provision of scholarships for training in healthcare professions is a central component of the Foundation's mission. The Foundation seeks to assist in recruiting and retaining talented professionals to provide the best possible care to patients served by Winter Haven Hospital. Over the past nine years, the Foundation has awarded more than \$2 million in scholarships to Winter Haven Hospital employees and to nursing students at Polk State College.

The 2011 Foundation scholarships for hospital employees have been awarded to:

- **Marcy Drake**, a work/life benefits specialist in Human Resources.
- **Paul Bacheldor**, R.N., administrative director of the Non-invasive Cardiology and Central Monitoring Unit.
- **Merlinda Hobbs**, compliance and quality improvement manager in the Clinical Laboratory.
- **Patrick Phillips**, radiographer in the Radiology Department.
- **Lindsey Mahler**, R.N., staff nurse in the Mother Baby Unit at the Regency Center for Women and Infants.
- **Stephanie Bridges**, R.N., charge nurse in the Ambulatory Care Unit.
- **Connie Stanley**, assistant to the director of Human Resources.
- **Lisa Schlagel**, R.N., administrative director, recruitment and retention, in Human Resources.
- **Dorothea Thompson**, R.N., unit manager, Advanced Medical Care Unit.
- **Dennisse DeJesus**, laboratory processing supervisor, in the Clinical Laboratory.
- **Jennifer Richards**, R.N., clinical systems educator, in the Education Services department.

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- **Jean Masterson**, R.N., unit manager of the Endoscopy Unit.
- **Calprunia James**, R.N., assistant unit manager of the Advanced Medical Care Unit.
- **Veronica Isaac**, R.N., unit manager of the Medical Surgical Diabetic Center.
- **Ellen Lockwood**, R.N., nursing unit manager, Joy-Fuller Rehabilitation Center.
- **Alvaro Garcia**, R.N., assistant unit manager, Medical Intensive Care Unit.
- **Crystal Ingle**, R.N., charge nurse, Emergency Department.
- **Sharon Traylor**, R.N., wound ostomy nurse, Surgical Services Department.

Degrees being sought by the scholarship recipients have ranged from bachelor's of science in nursing to master's in business administration.

Eric Adamson, chairman of the Foundation board of trustees, said: "The philanthropic friends of the Winter Haven Hospital Foundation whose investments have made these scholarships possible should be proud. Better trained nurses, clinicians and administrative staff represent the dividends of their investment."

Lance Anatasio, president and CEO of Winter Haven Hospital, said: "We have seen again and again how the Foundation's scholarship program has repaid our community many times over. The additional training that these outstanding individuals receive doesn't just rest within them. They are able to share their expertise and experience with their colleagues, and so we see multiple benefits throughout our organization."

Joel Thomas, Vice President, Development, Marketing and Public Relations for Winter Haven Hospital, said the Foundation welcomes discussions with individuals and organizations who have an interest in advancing local healthcare by expanding availability of Foundation scholarships.

"This is in some ways a discussion about the capacity of our community and our organization to handle patient care needs in the near and distant future," Thomas said. "Make no mistake: We are a growing community and we need to invest in our human resources – our students and our current Winter Haven Hospital manpower – to ensure that we have the ability to manage our healthcare needs into the future."

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

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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 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**, the **Center for Urology** and the **Robotics Institute**, a nationally accredited **Stroke Center** and the nationally accredited **Joy-Fuller Rehab Center**. The hospital has been 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

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