

news release

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Eddie Money's performance at 2011 Foundation Gala will give attendees 'Two Tickets to Paradise'

WINTER HAVEN, FL – (June 6, 2011) – Eddie Money, who found success in the 1970s and '80s with a string of Top 40 hits and platinum albums, will headline the 2011 Winter Haven Hospital Foundation Gala, scheduled for Nov. 10 at Nora Mayo Hall.

The Gala is Polk County's signature black-tie event with an audience comprised of this area's most generous civic, business and philanthropic leaders. It is held annually to help support the Foundation's fundraising programs and services at Winter Haven Hospital, Regency Center for Women and Infants; seven Family Health Centers and a variety of additional healthcare facilities. 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 \$550,000 in philanthropic contributions, notes **Eric Adamson**, chairman of the Foundation's Board of Trustees.

"Each year, we celebrate the success of our not-for-profit healthcare organization and its mission to serve Central Florida patients," Adamson said, "We also try to make the Gala a memorable occasion by bringing in top-flight entertainment such as Eddie Money."

Money, who started out as a New York City policeman, burst onto the scene in 1977 with his eponymous debut album. Fans immediately fell in love with Money's sound, and the album, which went double platinum, featured hits such as "**Two Tickets to Paradise**" and "**Baby Hold On.**" Money followed the success of his debut album with a stream of Top 40 hits, as well as some creative videos for songs like "**Think I'm in Love**" and "**Shakin.**" In 1986, Money released the album ***Can't Hold Back***, which featured the classic, Grammy-Nominated duet with 60's vocalist Ronnie Spector, "**Take Me Home Tonight.**" The song reached number 4 on the Billboard Hot 100. The album went platinum and also featured the hit, "**I Wanna Go Back.**"

These days, Money continues to delight new and old fans alike at venues throughout the country. In addition to maintaining a busy touring schedule, Money has been featured on

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hit television shows like “The Drew Carey Show,” and “The King of Queens,” where he performed for his good friend Kevin James.

As the years have passed, Money’s brand of rock ’n roll has managed to transcend generations and continues to move audiences today. Along with having sold more than 28 million records, Money’s songs have appeared in dozens of movies and television shows, and have been included in hit video games such as “Guitar Hero.”

Lance Anastasio, president and CEO of Winter Haven Hospital, said: “The Gala continues to be one of our community’s annual milestones. We come together once a year to celebrate our accomplishments and at the same time look to the future toward the plans we have laid. It also gives us the chance to appreciate what our not-for-profit patient care mission means to the community. We are extraordinarily grateful for all of our philanthropic supporters who have invested so generously in our vision of taking patient care to the next level of excellence at Winter Haven Hospital.”

Foundation Trustee **Lynn Oakley**, who chairs the Gala planning committee, said: “Our purpose is to encourage people to invest in our hospital and all the services it offers, 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 November 10 will be Nora Mayo Hall supporting the patients of Winter Haven Hospital.”

Joel Thomas, Vice President Development, Marketing & Public Relations for Winter Haven Hospital, said: “We are very blessed to have won the trust of the business and philanthropic communities who share our commitment to ensuring access to world-class healthcare. One of the special features of this year’s Gala is going to be our recognition of what is unquestionably one of the most philanthropic organizations in this area. We invite the public to stay tuned because that organization will be presented with the Foundation Vision Award at the Gala. But fundamentally, we certainly are thankful for all of our continuing – and soon-to-be – Gala friends.”

For sponsorship and ticket information, please call the Winter Haven Hospital Foundation 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 educated and trained personnel. The funds benefit the patients of Winter Haven Hospital, the Regency Center for Women & Infants, and many other health services provided to our growing community.

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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**, the **Center for Urology** and the **Robotics Institute**, 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.

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