

# news release

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## Lewis Family Cancer Fund contributes \$25,000 to Winter Haven Hospital Foundation

*Second annual charity golf tournament nearly doubles in size and participation, boosted by the presence of PGA legend Fuzzy Zoeller.*

**WINTER HAVEN, FL** – (June 14, 2011) – The Winter Haven Hospital Foundation is pleased to announce a major contribution from the **Lewis Family Cancer Fund**, a philanthropic initiative in Polk County that seeks to raise funds to help combat cancer. The fund will contribute \$25,000 to the Foundation on June 20 at the annual meeting of the Community Foundation of Greater Winter Haven. The funds will be directed to the hospital's Cancer Center.

The funds were raised at a May 15 charity golf tournament at the Southern Dunes Country Club in Haines City. The tournament attracted a capacity field of 30 teams as well as nearly 400 attendees at a pre-tournament kickoff party. **Josh Lewis**, who co-founded the Lewis Family Cancer Fund with his brother **Geoff**, said participation in this year's event was nearly double that of the inaugural event in 2010. The appearance of family friend and professional golfer **Fuzzy Zoeller** generated "enormous interest," Lewis said.

"We're obviously very grateful to Fuzzy and his family for their deep and personal commitment not only to our family, but to our cause of fighting cancer and making treatment more widely available to those in our community who need it most," Lewis said. "He made a personal commitment to us that he will be back next year and we already have heard from a lot of people that they are putting this event on their calendar for 2012."

In 2010, after the inaugural event, the Lewis Family Cancer Fund contributed \$20,000 to the Hospital Foundation. With this year's contribution, it brings the fund's two-year contribution to \$45,000.

Zoeller's friendship with the Lewis family dates back to 1987. The week of their mother's funeral in October of that year, the two boys were taken by their father to a PGA

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tour event at Walt Disney World. During the tournament, word reached Zoeller about the boys and the loss they had suffered. The golfer reached out to the family and invited the boys to accompany him inside the boundaries on the final day of the tournament. They have been dear friends ever since.

**Eric Adamson**, chairman of the Winter Haven Hospital Foundation Board of Trustees, said: “The Lewis family’s story of turning tragedy into triumph is one of the all-time great stories of this community. Other families who are confronted by this disease surely will be able to take heart from their inspiration. On behalf of the entire Board of Trustees and all of the cancer patients Winter Haven Hospital cares for, I offer my thanks to the Lewis family, Fuzzy Zoeller, and all the participants who came together to make this happen.”

The Lewis Family Cancer Fund is a donor-advised fund organized through the Community Foundation of Greater Winter Haven. The Lewis brothers launched their fund-raising initiative after undergoing numerous personal experiences with cancer. Not only did the two men lose their mother, **Ingred Mae**, to cancer when they were 10 and 11 years old, but **Geoff Lewis**, now 35 successfully underwent treatment in 2007 for colon cancer. Their father, **Harry W. “Bill” Lewis**, successfully underwent treatment in 2009 for prostate cancer.

**John Scheck**, outgoing president of the Community Foundation of Greater Winter Haven, said: “The Lewis’ decision to organize their fund-raising efforts through the community foundation demonstrates how philanthropic-minded individuals in Central Florida can leverage and amplify their fund-raising efforts.”

“This is a great example of how one family, who have faced their own personal struggles with this disease, are turning it around to create a long-term positive legacy for greater Winter Haven community,” Scheck said. “The Community Foundation helps facilitate the process of giving by educating potential donors on strategies that match their objectives.”

**Lance Anatasio**, president and CEO of Winter Haven Hospital, said: “Throughout the history of this community, we are continually reminded of how this not-for-profit healthcare organization came into existence and why it continues to endure. It has always been community-minded individuals and families, like the Lewis family, who have rallied their friends and neighbors together to provide for the healthcare needs of our community. We are all blessed by their generosity and spirit.”

**Joel Thomas**, Vice President Development, Marketing & Public Relations for Winter Haven Hospital, said: “Visionary philanthropic support like that of the Lewis family and their friends is key to creating the future of healthcare we all want to see right here where we live. We are very grateful to the Lewis family for their commitment to this continuing initiative and we look forward to working with them for years to come.”

Josh Lewis also expressed his thanks to the event’s advisory board: Bill Lewis of **Choice Dantzler Properties**; Sandy Lewis and Brett Barnhardt of **CenterState Bank of Florida**; Lora Donley of the **Levi Burch Foundation**; Wes Donley of **Donley Citrus**; Erin Emry of **Paul**

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**Citrus** and Gretchen Zoeller of **GMZ Solutions** as well as Josh and Geoff Lewis.

### **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.

### **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](http://www.winterhavenhospital.org)

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