

# news release

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## Winter Haven Hospital Foundation establishes new charitable fund to benefit care for women and children

**WINTER HAVEN, FL** – (September 1, 2011) – The Winter Haven Hospital Foundation has established a new charitable fund dedicated to expanding access to medical care for women and children in Polk County.

Proceeds raised from the upcoming Winter Haven Hospital Foundation Gala on Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> will be contributed to the new fund. Beyond that, the foundation is expanding its efforts to continue to work with philanthropic-minded organizations and individuals seeking to address the unique healthcare needs of local women and children.

The **Winter Haven Hospital Foundation Women & Children's Fund** initially will use its resources to target initiatives for “talent, technology, training and facility improvements,” at the **Regency Center for Women and Infants**, said **Eric Adamson**, chairman of the foundation's board of trustees.

“We want to make sure that we have the best available personnel, state-of-the-art facilities/technology and the most well-trained staff that we can find,” Adamson said. “This is the product of months of discussion by the leaders of our foundation, our hospital and our community. The consensus among our trustees is we must take this next step as an organization to continue to create the world-class healthcare that all of us want.”

In 2006, the Regency Center for Women and Infants was awarded the national Premier Award for Quality for Maternal and Neonatal Care. The award recognized Regency as a national leader in healthcare, achieving excellence in both quality of care and operational efficiency. In 2007, the Regency celebrated its 20th anniversary and the fact that more than 37,000 babies had been delivered since its opening. That number today exceeds 40,000.

Roughly 2,000 babies are born each year at the Regency. Of those, about 300 babies each year require the services of the Regency's Level II neo-natal intensive care unit, or NICU. The NICU specializes in care for premature infants, defined as birth before the 37th

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week of gestation.

**Lance Anastasio**, president and CEO of Winter Haven Hospital, said: “We recognize that providing healthcare services to women and children is a unique proposition and that there are circumstances where a special setting may be beneficial or that a particular service should be offered in a distinctive way. That’s why the effort to create a special fund is so important. We can train our focus on this critical area of need in a directed, purposeful way.”

**Lynn Oakley**, a foundation trustee and chair of the Gala Planning Committee, said: “The members of our committee are in agreement. We are very excited about bringing this new focus to the members of our community who attend the Gala. Creating services that address the special healthcare needs of women and children is something around which we can all rally.”

**Joel Thomas**, vice president, Development Marketing and Public Relations, said: “It is important to note that the idea for the establishment of the fund for women and infants came from trustee Lynn Oakley. We thank her for her vision and passion on this initiative. This may lead to synergy with another recently established Foundation fund. The Foundation Fund for the Under-Insured was recently created by a major donation from an anonymous local philanthropist. The anonymous donor’s request is that the fund for the under-insured be used to support local working families who lack adequate resources to pay for healthcare services. A significant component of our population are working women with children who can’t afford insurance or who do not qualify for government funds for care. We see a great deal of potential linkages between these two visionary funds.”

### **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 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

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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).

### **About the Winter Haven Hospital Regency Center for Women & Infants**

The Regency Center for Women & Infants is a 61-bed specialty hospital, located on a separate campus at 101 Avenue O, S.E., Winter Haven. The primary focus of the Regency Center for Women and Infants is providing state-of-the-art maternity and gynecological services, with a strong commitment to wellness promotion for the community. In June 2006, the Regency received the Premier Award for Quality in the area of Maternal and Neonatal Care. This nationally recognized award honors excellence in both quality of care and operational efficiency. This award publicly acknowledged the excellent quality of care that has long been delivered by the Regency staff and physicians.

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