

news release

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Estate planning can free up family resources, reduce taxes and leave a permanent charitable legacy

WINTER HAVEN, FL – (April 21, 2010) – A noted national expert on estate planning says that savvy use of structured estate planning techniques can allow families to simultaneously increase their annual income, reduce their state and federal tax burden, transfer more wealth to heirs and establish a permanent charitable legacy that can affect their communities for generations. Attorney **Jason Meredith** will be the keynote speaker on these techniques at the first annual Winter Haven Hospital Foundation Charitable Estate Planning Seminar on May 14.

Meredith, who works for Thompson & Associates, a nationally recognized estate planning firm, said that many families throughout the nation have sizable estates locked up in illiquid assets such as land or other business holdings. Using proven charitable estate-planning techniques, many families are able to convert portions of their estates into liquid assets by making philanthropic contributions to non-profit organizations. These contributions can have the dual effect of solidifying or establishing a family's philanthropic legacy while minimizing estate tax consequences, Meredith said.

“We often encounter individuals and families who have already established a wonderful record of philanthropy in their community and would like to do more, but they are unaware of these advanced structured techniques,” Meredith said. “We are able to work with local professionals in a way that produces a win-win-win scenario for their clients and the non-profit organizations their clients wish to support.”

Eric Adamson, chairman of the Winter Haven Hospital Foundation Board of Trustees, said Meredith's presentation will be presented to this area's top financial planning, legal and tax experts. Adamson noted it is their clients who can take advantage of advanced and complex charitable estate-planning techniques.

“This is a presentation that we believe will have many positive benefits, including making more financial resources available to families that they already own but believed they could not access without incurring terrible state and federal tax consequences,” Adamson said. “At the

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same time, a structured gift to a local not-for-profit organization such as the Winter Haven Hospital Foundation can make a significant difference in that organization's ability to serve the people of our community."

Joel Thomas, Vice President, Development Marketing and Public Relations for Winter Haven Hospital, said the Foundation plans to make this seminar an annual educational event for Central Florida's professional advisory community.

"We often hear about scenarios like this: Individuals or families who would like to make a major gift to our foundation or another of their favorite nonprofit organizations. What they find, or believe, is that their assets are 'trapped,' due to possible tax consequences preventing them from making such gifts. The good thing is that by working with their personal attorney, CPA and wealth manager in conjunction with firms like Thompson & Associates, they are often able to find solutions that they were not aware were available."

Thomas added: "The Foundation is pleased to have Mr. Meredith and Thompson & Associates on retainer at no cost to professional advisors and their clients."

Regarding the relationship between local professional advisors, Thompson & Associates and the Winter Haven Hospital Foundation, the following conditions apply:

- Thompson & Associates has nothing to sell.
- Thompson & Associates does not manage money or provide accounting/legal services.
- Thompson & Associates' service is provided completely free of charge.
- All information clients choose to share with Thompson & Associates is completely confidential. No information is shared with Foundation staff.
- There is no obligation on the part of professional advisors to Thompson & Associates or to the Winter Haven Hospital Foundation.

The seminar is certified for two continuing education professional credits. To register or obtain more information, call the Winter Haven Hospital Foundation at 863-291-6732.

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. In an effort to meet the communities needs of our health service organization and the growing communities it serves, the Foundation provides philanthropic support for the very latest in medical care, technology, equipment, facilities, manpower, and education for Winter Haven Hospital, the Regency Medical Center and the many other health services the Winter Haven Hospital Foundation provides in east Polk and Highlands counties.

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 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**, 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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