

news release

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Winter Haven
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Winter Haven Hospital Foundation awards \$50,000 in scholarships to 20 hospital employees

WINTER HAVEN, FL – (August 16, 2010) – The Winter Haven Hospital Foundation has awarded \$50,000 in scholarships to 20 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 local healthcare professionals in expanding their knowledge and capabilities to provide the best possible care to patients served by Winter Haven Hospital. Over the past eight years, the Foundation has awarded more than \$2 million in scholarships to current Winter Haven Hospital staffers and to nursing students at Polk State College.

The 2010 scholarships for hospital employees were awarded to: **Lisa Ruiz, Tim Spoor, Susan Rowley, Connie Stanley, Patrick Phillips, Angela Greer, Amber Vaught, Eric Kindrick, Lindsay Mahler, Dianna Gray, Marcey Drake, Bobbie Cox, Paul Bacheldor, Naisha Daniels, Merlinda Hobbs, Stephanie Ford, Sheri Phifer, Steven Rabern, Greg Wardlow and Kathy Conner.**

Degrees being sought by the scholarship recipients range 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. We believe that our scholarship recipients are our future leaders, the people who will be responsible for our community's healthcare in the future."

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

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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 the 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 will continue to have the ability to manage our healthcare needs.”

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 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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