

# news release

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## ‘Walk in the park and reminisce’ with Little River Band at Hospital Foundation Gala

*One of the biggest rock groups of the ‘70s and ‘80s, Australia’s Little River Band will provide the featured entertainment at the annual Winter Haven Hospital Foundation on Nov. 4 at Nora Mayo Hall. The group achieved world-wide fame for Top 10 hits such as ‘Reminiscing,’ ‘Lady,’ ‘Lonesome Loser,’ ‘Cool Change,’ and ‘Help is on the Way.’*

**WINTER HAVEN, FL** – (June 18, 2010) – The sounds of one of Australia’s most famous rock groups, the Little River Band, will fill Nora Mayo Hall on Nov. 4 at the annual Winter Haven Hospital Foundation Gala.

The Little River Band first achieved fame in 1976, after the release of their self-titled debut album. Over the following decade, the group sold more than 25 million records and had 13 American Top 10 hits, including songs such as ‘Reminiscing,’ ‘Lady,’ ‘Lonesome Loser,’ ‘Cool Change,’ and ‘Help is on the Way.’

The gala 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 \$500,000 in philanthropic contributions, notes **Eric Adamson**, chairman of the Foundation’s Board of Trustees.

“Each year we feel we can build on our great success by showcasing not only the outstanding medical services that Winter Haven Hospital brings to our community,” Adamson said, “but also by making the Gala a memorable occasion. This year, we are bringing in one of the best bands from the ‘70s and ‘80s.”

Bolstered by philanthropic community support at events like the Gala, access to state-of-the-art healthcare has dramatically expanded at Winter Haven Hospital in recent years. Among

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those efforts are:

- **The Bostick Heart Center.** Central Florida's newest state-of-the-art cardiovascular center of excellence offers a full spectrum of diagnostic, surgical and therapeutic cardiovascular health services. The Society of Thoracic Surgeons has reported that the Bostick Heart Center ranked in the top 98 percent for patient outcomes compared to similar centers in the United States.
- **The Cassidy Cancer Center.** The Center is affiliated with the University of Florida College of Medicine and Shands Healthcare. It offers patients access to state-of-the-art diagnostic and treatment technologies.
- Winter Haven Hospital's **nationally-accredited Stroke Center** is the only "Top 100" Stroke Center in Polk County.

**Lance Anastasio**, president and CEO of Winter Haven Hospital, said: "The Gala continues to be one of the standards by which we measure progress. We come together once a year and celebrate the milestones we have achieved and the plans we have laid. At the same time, we get a chance to appreciate the value of our not-for-profit patient care mission. 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 outstanding medical facility, 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 Nov. 4th 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 especially pleased with the early reception that we are already hearing from the business and philanthropic communities. The economic climate has certainly been challenging for several years now, but we're finding that our community tends to take the long view when it comes to the idea of making sure we all have access to world-class healthcare. We certainly are thankful for all of our continuing – and soon-to-be – Gala supporters."

### **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 communities.

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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**, 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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