

# news release

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## Live performances by famed artists will add color to Winter Haven Hospital Foundation Gala

**WINTER HAVEN, FL** – (October 6, 2011) – Guests at the Winter Haven Hospital Foundation Gala on Nov. 10 will be treated to a new feature this year: Innovative and colorful performances by live artists putting the finishing touches on paintings created especially for the event. The paintings will be auctioned during the Gala, which this year will raise funds dedicated toward expanding access to medical care for women and children in Polk County.

Artists booked for the Gala include the internationally known impressionist **Tinia Clark**, a Polk County resident; Florida Highwayman **Robert Butler**; Florida wildlife and landscape artist **Richard Powers** and “speed painter” **Tony Trotti**, who creates portraits of celebrities in five minutes or less.

The art performances will be interactive. Gala guests will be invited to pick up a brush and leave their own brush strokes on the paintings, said **Jane Waters Thomas**, executive director of the Arts Ensemble of Winter Haven, who is helping organize the performances. As an added feature, rock legend **Eddie Money**, who will provide the evening’s musical entertainment, will join artist Clark adding his own special touches to Clark’s painting, Waters said.

“This will truly be a one-of-a-kind opportunity to both observe and participate in creating works of art,” Waters Thomas said. “It’s a pretty amazing experience to paint alongside a well-known living artist.”

In addition to the live, interactive performances, paintings by other noted Polk County artists will be featured in the Gala’s silent auction. Among those artists are: Florida wildlife artist **Paul Schulz** of Winter Haven; landscape artist **Thomas Brooks** of Lakeland; portrait artist **Robert Morrisey** of Winter Haven and **Janice Charles** of Gloucester, Mass., who specializes in watercolors.

Proceeds raised from the Gala will be contributed to a newly established charitable

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fund dedicated to expanding access to medical care for women and children in Polk County. The **Winter Haven Hospital Foundation Women & Children's Fund** initially will use its resources to target initiatives for staffing, technology, training and facility improvements at the **Regency Center for Women and Infants**.

**Lynn Oakley**, a trustee of the Winter Haven Hospital Foundation and chair of the Gala Planning Committee, said: "We devote ourselves year after year to making each Gala a memorable event for our generous philanthropic supporters. We think having nationally recognized artists working on paintings – and giving our guests the chance to bid on paintings on which they have added their own brush strokes – will create a fun and unique experience."

**Joel Thomas**, Vice President, Development Marketing and Public Relations, said: "We are extraordinarily blessed in Polk County to have these wonderful artists who not only make their homes here, but are willing to contribute their time and talents to the cause of advancing our not-for-profit healthcare mission. We know that our friends who join us at the Gala are going to be in for a special treat."

### **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 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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