



# WINTER HAVEN HOSPITAL FOUNDATION: Compassion, Innovation and Trust

By **LOREN SPANGLER**

Winter Haven Hospital was founded in 1926. History records that the fledgling hospital spent four years in its original building before moving in 1930 to a new facility at 223 SW Seventh Street.

From those humble beginnings, the hospital has today grown into a major medical facility serving east Polk and parts of Highlands and Hardee counties. Its multiple facilities provide care to more than 17,000 admitted patients; more than 2,000 newborn babies and more than 55,000 people who visit the hospital's emergency room or family health centers.

The hospital's services are provided under the most rigorous standards of care. Winter Haven 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 **The 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 December 2008, Winter Haven Hospital was recognized by the American Nurses Credentialing Center with the prestigious designation of Magnet status for its outstanding nursing program. The Hospital is the first in Central Florida to achieve Magnet status, which has been granted to less than 5 percent of the nation's hospitals.

The hospital, which is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization, is governed by an independent board of trustees who serve without pay or compensation.

"Our Foundation's supporters and volunteers put their heart and soul into helping us provide access to the best healthcare available," says Lance Anastasio, president and CEO of Winter Haven Hospital. "And they do it because they believe in the mission of our organization. There simply is no price tag that you can put on that kind of contribution. We

can't thank our supporters and our volunteers enough."

The mission of the Winter Hospital Foundation is to provide philanthropic support to Winter Haven Hospital, the Regency Center for women and infants, and the many other services the hospital provides the community.

"Charitable donations directed to the Foundation are investments in the patients that Winter Haven Hospital cares for," says Foundation Chairman Don Ingram. "When we as a community pull together to support our hospital, it ensures that state-of-the-art care will be available when each of us become patients."

"Excellence in healthcare begins with concerned citizens who care and build from a foundation of vision, compassion and generosity," Ingram adds.

Winter Haven Hospital Foundation funds support cutting-edge technology and equipment, top-quality education, and the best and brightest personnel. Contributions also reach far beyond the hospital's walls. Gifts to the Foundation touch every facet of the communi-



ABOVE: 100 Holes of Golf Challenge. TOP RIGHT: Big Bass Bash. BELOW: The Gala.



## 2009 & 2010 EVENTS

**The Gala**, scheduled this year for Nov. 5, 2009.

The New and Improved **Citrus Classic 5K Race**, scheduled for Jan. 30, 2010.

The Second Annual **Big Bass Bash**, scheduled for Feb. 27, 2010.

The **Foundation Invitational Golf Tournament** at Mountain Lake, scheduled for May 2010.

**The 100 Holes of Golf Challenge**, scheduled for April 2010 (a private fundraiser conducted to benefit the Hospital's nationally recognized Stroke Center).

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ty by facilitating outreach programs, support groups, charity care and health fairs.

“Philanthropy comes in many different forms and has long-term effects that we may not even be aware of today,” Ingram says.

The Winter Haven Hospital Foundation's Annual Fund helps to augment the most current and urgent needs of the hospital and the patients it serves. Scholarships are funded from the donations given through the Annual Fund each year and go to Winter Haven Hospital staff and local future healthcare professionals. Since the Annual Fund's inception, it has raised more than \$1.7 million. Other examples of how Annual Fund resources have been used are staff education and training, patient safety and security systems as well as the Hospital Auxiliary Scholarship Program for East Polk High School students.

There are many ways the community can support the Foundation's healthcare mission. For example, the Foundation seeks individual and corporate philanthropic support for many different events throughout the year. Among

the upcoming events are:

- The Gala, scheduled this year for Nov. 5, 2009.
- The New and Improved Citrus Classic 5K race, scheduled for Jan. 30, 2010.
- The Second Annual Big Bass Bash, scheduled for Feb. 27, 2010.
- The Foundation Invitational Golf Tournament at Mountain Lake, scheduled for May 2010.
- The 100 Holes of Golf Challenge, scheduled for April 2010 (a private fundraiser conducted to benefit the Hospital's nationally recognized Stroke Center).

“These many events are designed not just to raise funds, but to educate people about the importance of investing philanthropically in the patients we care for,” says Joel Thomas, Winter Haven Hospital Vice President and Foundation executive. “We call it ‘friend raising.’ The events help to get people focused so they can see our mission in action, and at the same time, it allows them to develop a closer relationship with our organization.”

Participants and sponsors also gain a better appreciation of how and why the Foundation raises funds and how it supports local physicians, nurses and, of course, patients.

“The Foundation has a lot of other ways individuals and organizations can invest in our mission,” Thomas says. “Philanthropic leaders of our community continue to honor us by placing their names on our facilities and centers of excellence. For example, the Bostick Heart Center and the Cassidy Cancer Center were both recently named after these prominent families recognized the importance of our mission.”

The Foundation has recently started a charitable estate planning program. This program enables individuals to develop estate plans with their professional advisors that help them leave greater assets to their heirs while at the same time allowing them to leave a major legacy to the Hospital and the patients it serves.

For information on how you can help the Winter Haven Hospital Foundation improve local healthcare, call (863) 291-6732.