

# news release

Winter Haven Hospital  
200 Avenue F, N.E.  
Winter Haven, FL 33881



Winter Haven  
Hospital

Compassion. Innovation. Trust.

More information:  
Joel Thomas  
Winter Haven Hospital  
(863) 292-4334

## Winter Haven Hospital Foundation awards 12 Rynerson scholarships

**WINTER HAVEN, FL** – (September 1, 2010) – The Winter Haven Hospital Foundation has awarded scholarships to 12 Polk County residents who are studying nursing at Polk State College. The William E. Rynerson Memorial scholarships are named for former Winter Haven *News Chief* owner and publisher William E. Rynerson and continue to be supported by the Rynerson family.

The 2010 Rynerson scholarships mark the second time in the last 30 days that the Foundation has awarded scholarships to individuals seeking to advance careers in healthcare. Earlier in August, the Foundation awarded \$50,000 in scholarships to 20 Winter Haven Hospital employees seeking degrees in a variety of healthcare disciplines.

The Rynerson scholarships of \$500 to \$1,000 are given to students who have completed an initial year of studies in nursing. Candidates must meet all of the Foundation selection committee's criteria.

Scholarships were awarded to: **Lindsey Aleck, Cindy Alvarez, Kimberly Baker, Veronica Bell, Leah Brown, Trina Ellison, Stephanie Jones, Jelisa Mahon, Laticia Meeks, Victoria Trevino, Shannon Vollmer** and **Christy Woodard**. All are Polk County residents.

**Eric Adamson**, chairman of the Foundation board of trustees, said: "We believe this investment in nursing education fulfills one of the central missions of our foundation. Through the Rynerson scholarship program, we are seeking to ensure that our community will have nurses when we need them."

**Lance Anastasio**, president and CEO of Winter Haven Hospital, said: "We are very proud of each scholarship winner for their dedication to their chosen profession. This is an outstanding group of individuals."

**Joel Thomas**, vice president Development Marketing and Public Relations for Winter

-more-

## **Foundation awards Rynerson scholarships for nursing (Page 2)**

Haven Hospital, said the Foundation encourages organizations and individuals to consider establishing named programs and scholarships to tackle critical healthcare needs in the community.

“For philanthropic-minded individuals and organizations, naming a scholarship fund, a program or an endowed professional chair at the hospital is one way to establish a permanent legacy for our community,” Thomas said. “And, to use the Rynerson nursing scholarships as an example, it is also a great way establishing a focal point on a long-term manpower need that our community must address for many years to come.”

### **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](http://www.winterhavenhospital.org).

###