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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Orlando Health Breaks Ground on new Skilled Nursing Facility**

**Ocoee, FL (September 26, 2017)** – As the population of West Orange county continues to grow, so does the need for access to high quality healthcare. The West Orange Healthcare District (the District) and Orlando Health continue working together toward the shared goal of enhancing the availability of healthcare services to the residents of west Orange County. Today they broke ground on Orlando Health Center for Rehabilitation, a new skilled nursing and rehabilitation center located on the campus of Health Central Hospital in Ocoee.

“We are excited to partner yet again with the West Orange Healthcare District as we work to increase access and expand the healthcare services our hospital and other facilities offer,” said Mark Marsh, president of Orlando Health - Health Central Hospital. “This skilled nursing facility will allow our patients to receive the highly specialized levels of rehabilitative and post-acute care they require in a state-of-the-art facility here in the community they call home.”

The 95,000 sq. ft. Orlando Health Center for Rehabilitation will be a 110-bed skilled nursing facility capable of providing care to patients in need of either short-term outpatient rehabilitative services or patients in need of long-term care. A portion of those beds will be dedicated to inpatient rehabilitation for orthopedic/spine injury patients or post-surgery patients in need of additional care prior to returning home. The facility will also house a separate memory care unit, built to provide a secure and attractive setting to care for patients suffering from Alzheimer’s and/or dementia.

“We welcome this new facility with open arms,” said Norma Sutton, chair of the West Orange Healthcare District, which funded \$24.5 million toward the facility’s construction. “Our mission is to enhance the health and wellness of the residents of our community and this project brings high-quality healthcare right to our doorstep. It’s a wonderful addition to the campus.”

Construction will begin later this year and is expected to take 12-14 months. The \$37 million project will generate approximately 400 construction jobs. Once fully operational, the new facility will staff 150 full-time employees. Architect for the project is KTH Architects and Gilbane Building Company is the construction manager.

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### **About The West Orange Healthcare District**

The West Orange Healthcare District (WOHD) is an independent special healthcare district whose mission is to enhance health and wellness in west Orange County. In just the past five years, the District has awarded nearly \$125 million to local not-for-profits that provide healthcare services to area residents. The District was created by an Act of the 1949 Florida Legislature and is governed by a 16-member Board appointed by the Governor of Florida. Although originally designed as a taxing organization, the District no longer collects tax from the community; the last tax collected was in 2000. More information at [wohd1949.org](http://wohd1949.org)

The District is a founding champion of “Healthy West Orange,” a grassroots movement to inspire west Orange County to become the healthiest community in the nation. More information at [healthywestorange.org](http://healthywestorange.org).

### **About Orlando Health**

Orlando Health is a \$2.8 billion not-for-profit health care organization and a community-based network of physician practices, hospitals, and outpatient care centers throughout Central Florida. The organization is home to the area’s only Level One Trauma Centers for adults and pediatrics and is a statutory teaching hospital system that offers both specialty and community hospitals. In October 2017, Lakeland Regional Health System will join Orlando Health. More than 2,000 physicians have privileges at Orlando Health, which is also one of the area’s largest employers with more than 18,000 employees who serve nearly 2 million Central Florida residents and more than 4,500 international patients annually. Additionally, Orlando Health provides more than \$253 million in support of community health needs. More information can be found at [www.orlandohealth.com](http://www.orlandohealth.com).

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