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Contact: David Sylvester
Phone: 407-296-1812

West Orange Healthcare District Awards More Than \$1.3M to Four Local Nonprofits

ORLANDO, Fla. (Feb. 11, 2014) – The West Orange Healthcare District (WOHD) today announced that it has awarded grants, totaling more than \$1.3 million, to four local nonprofits to help improve health care in West Orange County. The grant recipients include The Brain Foundation of Florida, Roper YMCA, Shepherd’s Hope and United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) of Central Florida.

“This is an exciting time for our District, as this is the first time our formal process has awarded grants,” said David Sylvester, Executive Director of WOHD. “It was extremely difficult for the board to narrow down the list from all eligible applicants, but these four nonprofits are truly deserving of this award. We’re looking forward to seeing the difference they will continue to make in the lives of so many in West Orange County.”

“Having been a part of the District Board for several years, it is exciting to be at the point where the proceeds from the sale of Health Central are benefitting the West Orange community through these grants from the district,” added West Orange Health District Chairman, Tim Keating.

Grant recipients are:

The Brain Foundation of Florida, which provides affordable housing and support services for individuals with mental illness, was awarded \$150,000 for the purchase and renovation of a home for recovering mental health patients.

The **Roper YMCA** was awarded a grant totaling \$500,000 to be used for capital improvements to areas of the YMCA. The Healthy Living Center will expand the availability of health and wellness offerings that will be conducted in collaboration with Health Central Hospital.

Shepherd’s Hope, which provides free health care to the uninsured, was awarded a grant totaling \$636,699 to be paid over three years. Funds will help provide health care services for the medically underserved and uninsured residents of West Orange County.

UCP of Central Florida, a tuition free public charter school for children with and without disabilities, was awarded \$110,403 to support a program to provide services to children with disabilities and special health care needs in collaboration with Arnold Palmer Children’s Hospital.

Applications were accepted from local nonprofits in the fall of 2013. Only programs that primarily strive to improve, preserve or provide health services to residents of the district can be funded. Additional requirements for funding include an established relationship with an acute care facility and implementing the findings of the PRC Community Health Needs Assessment. The district board selected grant recipients from the pool of all eligible applicants.

The next round of grant applications is planned for later this year. Nonprofits interested in applying should visit www.wohd1949.org.

About West Orange Healthcare District

The WOHD is an independent special healthcare district created by an Act of the 1949 Florida Legislature. The Governor of Florida appoints the 16 members of the district board. Since the beginning, the purpose of the district has been to improve access to health care services for residents of West Orange County.

In March 2012, the district board sold all of the district's facilities, operations and assets, including Health Central, an affiliate of Orlando Health. Under the provisions of the sales agreement, Orlando Health has agreed to pay the West Orange Healthcare District \$181 million plus interest over 15 years. The proceeds from this sale will be used to award grants that will improve and preserve the health of district residents.

| For more information, please visit www.wohd1949.org or call 407-296-1812.

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