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West Orange Healthcare District Awards Grants to Four Local Nonprofits

ORLANDO, Fla. (Jan. 12, 2016) – The West Orange Healthcare District (WOHD) today announced that it has awarded grants, totaling more than \$470,000, to four local nonprofits to help improve health care in West Orange County. The grant recipients include Quest, Inc., The Birth Place, The Howard Phillips Center, and United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) of Central Florida.

“This is an exciting way to kick off the new year,” said Tracy Swanson, Executive Director, WOHD. “These four nonprofits are truly deserving of these grants because they are making major impacts in our community. We’re looking forward to seeing the difference they will continue to make in the lives of so many in West Orange County.”

Grant recipients are:

- **The Birth Place**, which focuses on providing safety-net maternity care services for indigent, uninsured, and underinsured women who are at risk for a poor birth outcome, has been awarded \$169,200. This funding will support expansion of access to maternity healthcare, educational support and psychosocial/mental health counseling, through an innovative, evidence-based, service delivery model for over 240 residents of the District.
- **UCP of Central Florida**, which serves children with a variety of developmental disabilities, delays and special healthcare needs, was awarded a \$148,843 grant. This funding will support programs and services to reduce obesity, improve overall health and nutrition, provide family support to improve family functioning through social services and enhance access to communication through assistive technology.
- **The Howard Phillips Center**, which is dedicated to advocating for the needs of children who have medical, emotional and developmental challenges, was awarded \$137,000. This funding will support a mobile health unit providing integrated comprehensive medical, mental health, nutrition education and family centered case management services for uninsured/underserved adolescents at Ocoee and West Orange High School.
- **Quest, Inc.**, which provides important therapy to physically and cognitively developmentally delayed children, was awarded a \$15,000 grant. The grant will provide Applied Behavioral Therapy, communication and physical therapy to children residing within the district. Specifically, this funding will alleviate some of the financial burden to families, as these services are not covered by insurance, often resulting in discontinuation of therapy, which can be a significant setback to the children.

Applications were accepted from local nonprofits in the fall of 2015. Only programs that primarily strive to improve, preserve or provide health services to residents of the district can be funded. The district board selected grant recipients from the pool of all eligible applicants.

The next round of grant applications will be accepted in the fall of 2016. 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 April 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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