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PRESS RELEASE

West Orange Healthcare District and City of Winter Garden Unite to Support Shepherd's Hope

Partnership Will Establish a Permanent Home and More Clinical Space

Winter Garden, FL (September 22, 2016) – The West Orange Healthcare District (the District) and the City of Winter Garden announced today a collaboration in support of Shepherd's Hope that will include a long term lease of land from the city and a \$1 million grant from the District.

This multifaceted partnership includes:

The city of Winter Garden leasing approximately 2 acres of an 8 acre plot of land at 455 Ninth Street to Shepherd's Hope. This location is just blocks away from Shepherd's Hope's original site at Westside Votech where they began providing an after hours clinic to underserved residents in 1996.

The West Orange Healthcare District will match up to \$1 million in a grant to Shepherd's Hope to be used for capital construction and the creation of a capital and maintenance endowment for the building. The West Orange Health Alliance has already agreed to contribute \$500,000 toward the \$1 million match in the form of a capital development grant for the new building.

Shepherd's Hope will build a 10,000 square foot building that will include a new health center and administrative space in order to better serve the residents of West Orange County.

"We are honored to support Shepherd's Hope's ability to expand and provide healthcare to those who need it most in our community," said Tracy Swanson, Executive Director of the West Orange Healthcare District. "Partnering with others in the community to improve the health of residents in West Orange County is foundational to the mission of the District. This project is a perfect partnership," continued Swanson.

"We are pleased with our partnership and how the mission of Shepherd's Hope dovetails with our health and wellness initiatives for the community", said Winter Garden City Manager, Mike Bollhoefer. "The location is ideal since it is next to the Winter Garden Community Garden that will be adding a farming component and a pavilion that will house a weekly farmers market for East Winter Garden," he continued.

Shepherd's Hope provides free primary and secondary medical services to the 1-in-4 Central Floridians who are

850,000 Floridians remain in a gray area – in the coverage “gap” in regards to insurance availability – earning too much to qualify for some programs, but not enough to afford products offered on the Healthcare.gov exchange, even with federal subsidies, because of out-of-reach deductibles and co-payments.

“There have been many “hope moments” in the 19 years that Shepherd’s Hope has been a part of the Central Florida community but this collaboration between these partners demonstrates a faith and commitment in our mission that goes beyond anything that we have previously experienced,” stated Marni Stahlman, President/CEO of Shepherd’s Hope. “The impact of creating a place that our team, our volunteers and most importantly our patients can call “our own” will have tremendous far reaching effects towards the health and well-being of the residents of West Orange County.”

The West Orange Health Alliance was formed over 15 years ago for the purpose of helping the uninsured and underinsured gain access to primary care. Recently, the Alliance sold their building on Plant Street and begun pursuing different ways to use those proceeds from that sale to benefit the underserved community in west Orange County. The West Orange Health Alliance has already committed a \$500,000 grant, the first large contribution towards the matching funds the District is offering.

“The Alliance is particularly pleased to partner with Shepherd's Hope; an outstanding organization, known for their commitment to providing care for those who would otherwise be unable to afford basic health care,” said Mike Yoakum, Board Chair for the Alliance.

About The West Orange Health Care District

The WOHD is an independent special healthcare district created by an Act of the 1949 Florida Legislature and is governed by a 16 member Board appointed by the Governor of Florida.. From its beginning, the purpose of the District has been to improve access to healthcare services for residents of West Orange County. This has been achieved through investing significantly in Health Central Hospital, the largest provider of healthcare services in west Orange County, and awarding over \$2 million in initiative grants since 2012 to non-profits in the community supporting programs that align with the District’s mission. For more information about the West Orange Healthcare District please visit <http://www.wohd1949.org> or call the District office at 407.296.1861.

About Shepherd’s Hope

Shepherd’s Hope is a faith-based nonprofit organization that provides free medical services to uninsured and underinsured Central Floridians, by encompassing all faiths and serving all faiths at five area health centers. Founded in 1997, Shepherd’s Hope has provided more than 221,000 free patient visits and medical services, 16,300 in 2015 alone, thanks to partnerships with hospitals, faith groups, facilities, corporations, community partners and the dedication of 2,200 individuals who donated 41,000 volunteer hours. Shepherd’s Hope, Inc. is headquartered at 4851 S. Apopka-Vineland Road, Orlando, FL 32819. Learn more at ShepherdsHope.org or (407) 876-6699.

About the City of Winter Garden

The City of Winter Garden is a municipal corporation with a city population of 41,606 and an employment base of 20,000 that was incorporated in 1908. Winter Garden has a Commission/Manager form of government with a Mayor and four Commissioners. The City of Winter Garden is located on the southern shore of Lake Apopka, 20 minutes west of Orlando in Orange County. Winter Garden is considered one of the most desirable places to live in Central Florida because it offers a unique quality of life. The City of Winter Garden City Hall is located at 300 W. Plant Street, Winter Garden, FL 34787. To learn more about the City of Winter Garden, please visit <http://www.cwgnd.com> or 407.656.4111.

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