

**For Immediate Release**

**September 1, 2006**

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**Local Partnership Recognized for Improving Community Health**

Orlando, Florida- The American Hospital Association will present the 2006 Nova Award to Orange County Government, Florida Hospital, Orlando Regional Healthcare and Health Central. The ceremony will be held on Friday, September 8, 2006. The award ceremony will take place at 10 a.m. at the Orange County Medical Clinic located at 101 S. Westmoreland Drive in Orlando.

The organizations are being recognized for their dedication to improving local health care services and the collaborative work with the Primary Care Access Network (PCAN). PCAN's mission is to improve the access, quality and coordination of health care services to the underinsured and uninsured populations of Orange County.

PCAN was one of five recipients of this prestigious award for improving community health through effective collaborations.

The 2006 Nova Award will be presented to the Honorable Richard T. Crotty, Orange County Mayor, Richard Morrison, Corporate Vice President of Florida Hospital, Richard Irwin, President/CEO of Health Central and John Hillenmeyer, President/CEO of Orlando Regional Healthcare.

In the late 1990s, primary care was severely limited to the most vulnerable populations – underinsured, uninsured, and the working poor. Recognizing that not all Orange County residents had access to the care they needed, Orange County Government partnered with the three area hospitals, Florida Hospital, Orlando Regional Healthcare and Health Central and 16 other safety net providers, to form the Primary Care Access Network (PCAN) and address this issue.

The AHA is a not-for-profit association of health care provider organizations and individuals that are committed to health improvement of their communities. The AHA is the national advocate for its members, which include almost 4,700 hospitals, health care systems and other providers of care and 31,000 individual members. Founded in 1898, the AHA provides education for health care leaders and is a source of information on health care issues and trends.

For more information, visit the AHA Web site at [www.aha.org](http://www.aha.org).

**Media Opportunity Location:**

Friday, September 8, 2006 – 10:00 a.m.

Orange County Medical Clinic

101 S. Westmoreland – Orlando

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