



NEWS RELEASE

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The Blue Foundation Grant Saves Children's Lives ***\$37,000 Grant Buys a Pediatric Simulator for the FSU School of Nursing***

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Student nurses at Florida State University's School of Nursing will be better prepared to save children's lives thanks to a grant from The Blue Foundation for a Healthy Florida, Inc. The \$37,000 grant from The Blue Foundation provided a state-of-the-art pediatric patient simulator for FSU's nursing skill laboratory.

The new simulator gives nursing students the opportunity to practice a variety of essential health care procedures on a child model that breathes, has a heartbeat and reacts to medication. More than 300 nursing students a year will benefit from training with the new simulator, helping countless children in the future.

The Blue Foundation, a charitable foundation launched in August 2001, is dedicated to creating a healthier Florida by filling in some healthcare gaps in the state. This grant accomplishes that by helping nursing students learn the nuances of pediatric care before they are faced with a real life and death situation. Nurses with more specialized training mean better outcomes for Florida's children, and those outcomes support The Blue Foundation's vision of providing caring solutions.

While FSU received its grant money earlier this year, the simulator recently arrived. Today's special awards ceremony at the FSU campus coincided with Nurses Appreciation Week. Representatives from FSU, the community, and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida, as well as executives of The Blue Foundation, participated in the event.

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The Blue Foundation
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"Nursing is a keystone to good health care," said Susan Towler, executive director of The Blue Foundation for a Healthy Florida, Inc. "We are fortunate in Florida to have excellent training programs for our nurses. With this grant, our hope is to enhance existing education and improve the health and well-being of Florida's children."

The FSU School of Nursing was one of 16 Florida non-profit organizations to receive an inaugural grant from The Blue Foundation. In all, \$925,000 was distributed last December through these first grants, and The Blue Foundation will annually award \$1 million during two grant cycles – in the spring and fall.

The Blue Foundation for a Healthy Florida, Inc., provides grants to programs with a positive impact on the health of Florida's uninsured and underserved population. The Blue Foundation was created in 2001 as a separate charitable foundation with a \$5 million donation from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida.

The Blue Foundation for a Healthy Florida is a separate, philanthropic affiliate of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida incorporated in the state of Florida. The Blue Foundation for a Healthy Florida, and its parent, BCBSF, are independent licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association, an association of independent Blue Cross and Blue Shield companies. For more information concerning The Blue Foundation for a Healthy Florida, please visit its website at www.bcbsf.com.