

# Opinion

## Editorial

### Cooperation equals success, progress for South Lake

Clermont Elementary School's motto is "Cooperation Equals Success."

It seems as if some of the community's adult members have adopted that motto as well.

The South Lake Wellness Center opened Monday, Aug. 4, the product of cooperation between Orlando Regional Healthcare Systems and South Lake Hospital, one of its member facilities.

The state-of-the-art facility has a side devoted to medical offices manned by orthopedic specialists, podiatrists, chiropractors and pain management specialists.

The other side – devoted to health, fitness and rehabilitation – has areas for aerobic classes, cardiovascular equipment, strength-training, massage and rehabilitation patients sharing the equipment. And the Wellness Center is just a tip of the iceberg.

A parcel of property between Jack's Lake Road and Hancock Road will hold many products of cooperation.

Originally owned by the Maury L. Carter family of Orlando, the area will soon be home to a new hospital, a branch of Lake-Sumter Community College, a branch of the University of Central Florida, the national triathlon governing board and commercial and residential development.

Such ambitious plans have been made possible only through the cooperation of the city of Clermont, the hospital, USA/Triathlon, Lake-Sumter Community College, the University of Central Florida and the Carter family.

The Carter family has generously donated 67 acres for a campus which will hold branches for both Lake-Sumter and the University of Central Florida. Lake-Sumter is

buying another 30 acres. In addition, the hospital is buying 30 acres which it will resell to the college as funds become available.

Orlando Regional Healthcare Systems has agreed to build an Olympic-size swimming pool, athletic dorms, large recreation areas and field spaces. Those facilities will be available for visiting athletes, the community and college students.

"The college could support a swim team right out of our facility," hospital administrator Shannon Elswick said recently.

On a recent visit, Lt. Gov. Buddy MacKay called the cooperation "unprecedented" and vowed to use Clermont as a good example of what can be accomplished through cooperation.

We hope the cooperation will continue and grow, leaving a trail of progress throughout South Lake County.