Eighteen-year-old Justin Sheppard, a Titusville resident, doesn’t remember the First Flight air ambulance ride to The Trauma Center at Holmes Regional Medical Center following a car collision in Cocoa that left him in a coma with a brain injury and multiple broken bones and crushed organs. By the time his family arrived at the hospital, Justin was already undergoing emergency surgeries being performed by several of the trauma team surgery specialists. One week later Justin emerged from the coma and saw for the first time the surgeons and other trauma team members who had saved his life. His recovery has been a slow process. As a reminder of the accident, Justin has a small scar on his temple, and a large scar on his stomach. Justin is working full time, enjoying his family and friends, and making plans for his future. He believes he owes his life to the trauma team who knew exactly what type of care and treatment he needed in the golden hour.

“I only remember a few days of my three-week hospital stay,” said Justin, “but based on the picture of my totaled car, and hearing about the body and head injuries I suffered, I have no doubt that I was close to death. The doctors in The Trauma Center at Holmes saved my life. I will always be grateful to them.”