



# EDYTH BUSH CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

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## **Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation Turning Tide for Homeless and Disadvantaged**

*Foundation creates staff position at local non-profit to make impact*

**WINTER PARK, FL., August 4, 2010** – After 37 years, the Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation and its board of directors are proud to announce their new mission “Creating Innovative Civic Solutions Helping People Help Themselves.” In line with their renewed mission, their grant making efforts have recently focused on health and human services, particularly for the homeless and disadvantaged.

Gerald Hilbrich, Chairman of the Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation board of directors, and David Odahowski, president of Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation, reached out to homelessness experts in the Central Florida area this year to develop an innovative solution to help a community affected by joblessness, home loss, and a continued weak economy. The result was more than \$661,000, strategically targeted to make a positive impact on the issue.

As part of their financial commitment to helping this cause, the Foundation is funding a Contract Performance Manager staff position in a two-year grant to the Homeless Services Network of Central Florida (HSN). The new position will increase HSN capacity to manage its existing inventory of Federal grants and to be more competitive in acquiring additional funding from a variety of Federal agencies.

“Our programs prevent homelessness and return those who are homeless to self-sufficiency,” said Cathy Jackson, Executive Director for Homeless Services Network. “The new staff position created, thanks to the leadership of Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation, will exponentially expand our ability to impact the rapidly changing face of homelessness in Central Florida. With this new key resource from the foundation, we anticipate an increase in federal funding of \$6 million over the next three years!”

HSN programs provide specialized services for homeless families and individuals in shelters, including employment programs, mental health and substance abuse counseling and medication, food, clothing, rent/utility assistance, credit counseling and repair, transportation and shelter operating expenses. According to HSN, the local homeless population now includes hardworking families who have been laid off, honorably discharged veterans, victims of domestic violence, aged foster youth who require a path to independence, those who are mentally ill and many more.

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“The Homeless Service Network is the gravitational force for innovative civic solutions helping people help themselves in Central Florida,” said David Odahowski of the Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation. “They are civic entrepreneurs turning the tide of homelessness into the pride of self sufficiency. If they did not already exist, we would need to create them.”

Other related organizations receiving grants from the Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation in 2010 to make an impact on this issue are: Mustard Seed of Central Florida, Catholic Charities of Orlando, Coalition for the Homeless, Jewish Family Services of Greater Orlando, Lutheran Counseling Services, Rebuilding Together, Second Harvest Food Bank, Hope Foundation for the Homeless, Tree of Life Ministries of Orlando, Christian Help Foundation, The Sharing Center, New Beginnings of Lake County, South Lake Community Foundation, Florida Vision Quest, and Grace Medical Home.

In 1994, the Foundation funded a local coalition of leaders known as Nonprofit Housing Roundtable of Central Florida, whose work evolved into the Homeless Services Network. The Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation has made over \$91 million in grants since 1973.

#### **About the Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation**

The Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation was created in 1973. Since then, it has been enriched by the Richard J. Conlee Fund and the H. Clifford Lee Fund. To date, the Foundation has issued 2,789 grants to more than 400 organizations throughout the state, but primarily in Central Florida, totaling more than \$91 million. Though it does not actively solicit outside donations, the Foundation will work with philanthropists to achieve their charitable goals. Board members are Gerald F. Hilbrich, Chairman; Mary Gretchen Belloff, Vice Chairman; Matthew W. Certo; Deborah C. German, M.D.; Herbert W. Holm; David A. Odahowski and Richard J. Walsh. For more information, please visit [www.edyrbush.org](http://www.edyrbush.org).

#### **About Homeless Services Network of Central Florida**

Established in 1995, the Homeless Services Network (HSN) establishes and implements programs to prevent homelessness and provides emergency shelter and services to more than 9,000 men, women and children in Central Florida who become homeless each year. HSN has brought more than \$45 million in HUD Supportive Housing Program funds to Central Florida.

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