

David R. Roberts Youth in Philanthropy Award Presentation

AFP National Philanthropy Day Awards Ceremony
Presidential Ballroom, Church Street Station, Orlando
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By David A. Odahowski, President
Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation, Inc

Good Morning, Everyone. On behalf of Mary Gretchen Belloff, Chairman of the Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation, and the entire Board of Directors and Staff, it is an honor to present the David R. Roberts Youth in Philanthropy Award.

David R. Roberts was the first president of the Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation. He was a man of superior intellect, unquestionable ethics, and a bulldog when it came to loyalty. It was David R. Roberts, along with H. Clifford Lee, who stood along side Mrs. Bush to be certain that this foundation would remain in Winter Park, Florida and benefit generations unknown to Mrs. Bush. David and Cliff are no longer with us, but Mrs. David "Libby" Roberts is here this morning, and please thank her for her support of Mrs. Bush's philanthropy.

This past week, the National Association of Fundraising Professionals – Youth in Philanthropy Summit was held at Rollins College and co-hosted by the Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation, the National 4-H, the Rollins College Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership Center along with our very own Central Florida Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals. I felt the "spirit" of David R. Roberts when youth, scholars and practitioners from around the United States and Canada, gathered to enhance a uniquely American tradition of philanthropy which David R. Roberts devoted his life to. (Let me also say that the participants thoroughly enjoyed the Bert Martin Foundation Patio off the Galloway Room on campus.)

Today the David R. Roberts Youth in Philanthropy Award is presented to the Imperial Dance Company. The Imperial Dance Company, which was established for the benefit of youth interested in the development of dance, conducts its *Sharing Through Dance* benefit each year to raise funds for a local community charity. Pam Weisbrod, President of Imperial Dance Company, her staff, and several parents sell advertisements, auction gift baskets, and have a bake sale to fund the costs of the show and provide a generous contribution to a charity as well.

In 2006, the elementary-through-high-school age dancers voted to support other children by raising funds to improve a playground for children at Devereux, which provides residential psychiatric and behavioral health care. The current playground at Devereux is over 18 years old and in serious need of refurbishment for the 150 children who use it. The young dancers succeeded in raising \$1,200 for playground equipment which will entice the children into enjoying fresh air and much-needed exercise. This is even better than "Dancing with the Stars."

Please welcome the Imperial Dance Company, joining me on stage. On behalf of the Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation, I am happy to present this \$1,000 check to the Imperial Dance Company.

H. Clifford Lee was my friend, your friend, my mentor, and a community mentor. Cliff passed away this July after a delightful trip to Europe with his family and a sudden illness upon his return. The Foundation is grateful that the Association of Fundraising Professionals–Central Florida Chapter has named their Award for Professional Achievement the *H. Clifford Lee Award*.

Cliff believed that philanthropy was a sacred calling. Cliff's lifetime work and the work of our inaugural award winner might be best expressed by the John Wesley quote,

“Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can.”