

# Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation's 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner

Interlachen Country Club, Winter Park

November 21, 2008

By David A. Odahowski, President  
Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation, Inc

Good Evening Everyone.

I am not here to make a speech – but I yield myself such time as I may consume and I ask unanimous consent to revise and extend my remarks!

On behalf of the Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation I want to welcome everyone to tonight's 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner celebration. Let me first begin by thanking all the current Board members for all of their preparation, discussion and decision making since the last time we met and through today's meeting. Let me also extend a warm welcome to all of our former Board members. We appreciate you more than you could ever know. And a dear, dear welcome to Libby Roberts. You have a special place in our hearts. Jean Hartsaw, we are delighted that you could join us. To the Foundation staff, Deborah, Michael, Margaret and Mary Ellen, you are the very best at what you do. And most of all, welcome to the spouses and special friends that are here with us tonight. Your support of "your someone" special helps them "help people help themselves" throughout all of Central Florida and beyond.

Now you all are probably wondering what the Foundation did to celebrate its 10<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> or 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The truth of the matter is, we were so busy with our work, those anniversaries just passed us by!

Tonight is a celebration – it is not about living in the past – it's about honoring the past. Tonight is a celebration – it is not about how or what we are doing today, but how and what our impact will be upon the future. Tonight is a celebration - of the three principles that has made this Foundation a well respected leader in philanthropy. Tonight we celebrate: A Spirit of Accountability; A Legacy of Leadership; and Philanthropy Beyond Check Writing.

*A Spirit of Accountability* holds us accountable to our Foundress, and to those who have come before us. We are accountable to the community and we are accountable to God.

*The Legacy of Leadership* is found in all of you; each and every one of you. Your leadership in business, government, nonprofits and philanthropy has made this community great and your leadership has made the Foundation even better.

*Philanthropy Beyond Checkwriting* is a small three letter phrase that has a powerful impact. The Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation is more than just a listing of grants – it is a vital part of the community that has initiated, instigated or investigated almost every important nonprofit milestone in this community for the past 35 years.

The work of this beneficent foundation is reflective of the advice that John Wesley gave his followers: “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.”

Finally, let me just impart one small piece of advice: if you would like to be remembered at the Foundation’s 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary, you had better be nice to Matt Certo. And with that final remark, I yield back the balance of my time.