

David R. Roberts Youth in Philanthropy Award Presentation

AFP National Philanthropy Day Awards Ceremony

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By David A. Odahowski, President & CEO

Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation, Inc

Good morning ladies and gentlemen. On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of the Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation, both past and present, I want to begin by thanking the Association of Fundraising Professionals for creating this outstanding celebration of philanthropy. You have changed our community through the giving hearts of those past, present and future.

It is indeed my honor to present the 2009 David R. Roberts Youth in Philanthropy Award. This award is a memorial to the first President of the Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation, David R. Roberts - a lawyer, a scholar, and a leader in philanthropy. I am delighted that Libby Roberts, David's widow, is with us to celebrate this special occasion.

Dave Roberts believed in the power of our youth to enhance our community's tradition of philanthropy and volunteerism. The young man you are about to meet has that power. He exemplifies the true spirit of philanthropy and volunteerism.

Tyler Youtz was like any other four year-old boy. He liked playing video games, going to soccer practice, skateboarding, attending Prince of Peace Lutheran preschool, and harassing his little sister. The Youtz family was happy and seemed to have it all. Little did they know their world would soon to be turned upside down as Tyler was about to begin a fight for his life.

Tyler's doctor said the words no parent ever wants to hear: "I am so sorry. Your little boy has cancer."

Stage 4 Neuroblastoma would be enough to quell the energy of just about any kid, but not our little man, Tyler. He put up a good fight as he endured a full year of excruciating treatment. Tyler and his family had faith in God and in his doctors that he would be completely healed of the cancer inside him. They were willing to do whatever it took to be rid of the disease for good.

After a grueling year of hair loss, vomiting, radiation, chemotherapy, and bone marrow treatment, Tyler has beaten cancer!

For most children, this battle would be enough, but not Tyler; he wanted to do more. While in the oncology unit of Arnold Palmer Hospital, he befriended many of the other

children. Later that year, around Christmastime, five-year-old Tyler asked his mother, “Do you think we could bring toys to the kids on floor seven?”

Toys From Tyler was born. Tyler handpicked board games, trucks, baby dolls, and electronics and went room to room and to hand out 11 gifts, one for each child in the Arnold Palmer Oncology Department. At only five, Tyler understood the true meaning of giving better than many adults.

Before long, it was the end of 2006, the Youtz family celebrated the end of maintenance medications and was ready to put cancer behind them when Tyler surprised them again: “Aren’t we going to take toys to the hospital again this year?” he asked. Feeling like Santa, Tyler marched in with over 100 toys.

By 2007, he wanted toys for everyone in the hospital, a lofty goal of 250. That Christmas, a truck pulled up to the Hospital with 432 toys.

Each year, the excitement surrounding *Toys from Tyler* has grown. Last year in 2008 he recruited family, friends, and workplaces and aimed for 500 toys, expanding to other hospitals and other sick children. He easily surpassed it with several truck loads of toys, now totaling 736 toys! Even Fox35 took notice and has featured him multiple times in their community highlights.

What should we expect from this young man next? In 2009, he has vowed to top the 1,000 toy mark, and he is already recruiting for this Christmas. Nobody doubts that he will once again top this goal.

Tyler does not deserve the AFP’s “Youth in Philanthropy” award because he beat cancer; he deserves it because he has changed a little bit of the world with his giving heart. *Toys From Tyler* – started by the little boy with the huge heart.

Ladies and gentleman please give a generous and heart warmed welcome to Tyler Youtz, CEO of Toys for Tyler, his Mom and Dad and his little sister.