

David R. Roberts Youth in Philanthropy Award Presentation
AFP National Philanthropy Day Awards Ceremony
Ritz-Carlton, Orlando
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By David A. Odahowski, President & CEO
Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation, Inc.

Good morning ladies and gentlemen. On behalf of Jerry Hilbrich, Chairman of the Board, and the entire 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 2010 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.

David Roberts believed in the power of our youth to enhance Central Florida's tradition of philanthropy and volunteerism. The young lady you are about to meet has that power, and her "giving heart" exemplifies the true spirit of philanthropy and volunteerism.

Eleven-year-old Elizabeth Mattei says she just likes to make people happy! In 2009, Elizabeth was old enough to understand the concept of war. She knew that soldiers like her Uncle Chris were thousands of miles away from anything that resembled a "normal" life. Elizabeth sat down with her Grandpa Joe — a veteran of the Vietnam War — for advice on the kinds of goodies lonely soldiers would appreciate.

With \$30, Elizabeth bought supplies for her first soldier's care package and K.I.S.S. (Kids in Support of Soldiers) was born! Since its inception fifteen months ago, Elizabeth has recruited a little army of volunteers including her siblings, classmates, children of veterans, kids from Boys Town, and the Caretakers Motorcycle Club. The Club is governed by only two rules: 1. "Evil triumphs when good men do nothing," and 2. "Ride it like you stole it"!

The Casselberry Veterans and Auxiliary is K.I.S.S.'s biggest supporter supplying 684 care packages and sending them with love to 125 soldiers. I was there one Saturday morning to witness what I can only describe as a charitable assembly line of boxes, goodies, packaging, and postage! In by 10 and out by noon!

Elizabeth and her K.I.S.S. friends have raised more than \$9,000 since the beginning of the year. Elizabeth now knows more about the United States Postal Service rates – “if it fits, it ships” - than any fifth grader in the country!

Although she describes herself as shy, she takes on the daunting challenge of speaking to groups with another kind of K.I.S.S. (Keep It Simple Sister): tell people about her soldiers and how they can help.

Elizabeth Mattei has quite an effect on people. K.I.S.S. reflects Elizabeth’s “giving heart” in bringing happiness to soldiers. In a quiet, unassuming way, she is a motivational force with which to be reckoned. Please join me in welcoming Elizabeth Mattei to the stage to receive the 2010 David R. Roberts Youth in Philanthropy Award. Thank you.