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**EDYTH BUSH CHARITABLE FOUNDATION TEAMS UP WITH  
COMMUNITY LEADERS TO DELIVER 250,000 POUND FOOD BASKET**

*Local foundation responds to community needs in the holiday season with a cornucopia of food*

**ORLANDO, FL., December 18, 2009** – What began as a cup of coffee between community leaders David Albertson, Owner of Albertson International, Inc., and Jerry Hilbrich, Chairman of the Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation, became an emergency meeting between the Foundation and leaders from three area non-profit organizations to discuss how to meet critical community needs during the holiday season.

The result; a “gift basket” from Winter Park-based Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation equating to 250,000 pounds of food to enable community cupboards to meet the demands of hungry families during the holiday season. Three Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation grants totaling \$45,000 will be given to Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida, Catholic Charities and Jewish Family Services of Greater Orlando to provide more than 250,000 pounds of food to families facing hunger.

“Our food distribution is now at disaster relief levels,” said Dave Krepcho, Executive Director at Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida. “Beyond people who have already been at the poverty level, sick or disabled, there’s an entire new population now in need of emergency food – blue collar and white collar workers who are looking for a job and cannot find employment. This donation will help partners to reach out even further to provide meals to many more people in need. Every single meal will make a difference.”

According to Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida, whose partner feeding programs collectively provide food to 54,000 people weekly on average, there’s a large gap between supply of food and need.

“We are working hard to make up the gap between the resources we currently have and the increasing demand for families in need,” said Arne Nelson, President and CEO of Catholic Charities. “We are thankful to be considered an organization that can make a difference for families struggling to keep food on the table and grateful to the Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation for their great generosity.”

“These grants given by the Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation are an endorsement of the essential work of these three organizations and the Foundation’s desire to call attention to the basic needs of families across our community,” said David Odahowski, President of the Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation. “We hope this ‘gift basket’ will encourage those who can, to make a contribution to these agencies this holiday season.”

“This donation comes at a time when it’s a challenge to keep up with demand,” said Barry J. Kudlowitz, Executive Director of Jewish Family Services of Greater Orlando. “We are very appreciative to the Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation for stepping up when the need has never been greater.”

**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 2,148 grants to more than 400 organizations throughout the state, but primarily in Central Florida, totaling more than \$90 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).

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