

H. Clifford Lee Introduction
Lifetime Achievement Award
AFP National Philanthropy Day Awards Ceremony
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By Cindi L. Kopelman, Executive Director
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I am so thrilled to be introducing Cliff Lee. I have never before had the honor or opportunity to celebrate the lifetime achievements of someone who is so well respected and had such a profound impact on the field of philanthropy. Cliff, it is truly an honor to be celebrating with you today.

The truth is, Cliff and I don't know each other very well. But, I have a deep personal knowledge of the impact that his life's work in the field of philanthropy has had on the people who come through our doors at Shepherd's Hope.

I know Charles, a gardener who lost his job, then his health insurance, and finally his health care. Eventually, Charles had to have part of his foot amputated, all because he couldn't afford the medicine and treatment for his diabetes. Cliff's leadership made it possible for Charles, through Shepherd's Hope, to get the diabetes medicine he so badly needed, after years of going without.

I know Raul, a young sports fan in middle school, who received a sports physical his family couldn't afford. He wasn't able to play intramural sports the year before because he didn't have the proper medical documentation. Raul is now playing after-school sports for the first time.

Then there's Mabel. Mabel was desperate because she lost four straight days of work in the meat department at a local grocery store. Mabel couldn't afford to go the doctor and get a medical release to return to work after a minor illness. Her employer was ready to terminate her from a job she really needed. Mabel found a Shepherd's Hope clinic and was able to see a physician and return to work the next day.

Finally, I know Tamra. She walked into a Shepherd's Hope clinic one evening, terrified, after finding a lump in her breast. Her mother and grandmother both died of cancer. Soon after, Tamra received the same, terrible diagnosis, but also found herself uninsured and without the funds to pay for treatment. The support of the Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation, made her treatment possible. It saved her life.

As I thought of these people, and probably many thousands of others that Mr. Lee's life contributions have touched in the past four decades, I realized what an amazing thing it must be to directly and profoundly impact people at the most grass roots level, and yet they are all people you will never know. It's an extremely selfless act to help and support

people whose face you will never see, who will never be able to say thank you. This is the true meaning of the biblical mandate, “*love you’re your neighbor as yourself.*”

I would like to address another side of Cliff’s work that has indirectly, but just as profoundly touched the nonprofit world. My favorite line in a movie in the last ten years is in, *As Good As It Gets*. Jack Nicholson is a grouchy, somewhat unstable, eccentric man who falls in love with Helen Hunt. When she finally agrees to go on a date with him, he manages to insult her repeatedly, despite his best efforts to “woo” her. She finally says she wants one good reason why she should continue to pursue this relationship and Jack turns to her and says, “*Because you make me want to be a better man.* ”

Well you are probably wondering by now what this has to do with Cliff. But here it is... The Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation, through Cliff’s decades of leadership and dedication to developing a *Best Practices Model*, makes me want to be a better nonprofit! I believe that Cliff has been absolutely visionary in knowing that the only real way to make a lasting change in “Helping Others Help Themselves”, a Core Mission of the Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation, is to help nonprofits become better nonprofits. His unwavering dedication to supporting nonprofits build capacity has improved the entire nonprofit community.

I see the Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation under Cliff’s visionary leadership, to be more like an investor than a donor or funder. A donor gives generously and from the heart, usually to causes that have touched them in some way; causes they are passionate about. An investor does research and analysis. They study trends and then with faith and trust and knowledge, invest in something they believe will yield high dividends. Only in Cliff’s case, the dividends have nothing to do with personal or financial reward. The dividends come in the form of a stronger nonprofit community. The dividends come in the form of changed lives. This is what real life time achievement is all about.

Cliff...on behalf of all the lives you have touched, all the beauty you have brought through the arts, all the knowledge you have brought through your educational support, all the healing you have provided and the relief from suffering from the those who are weary, or sick, or poor or lost, we thank you.

Ladies and gentlemen, Mr. Cliff Lee.