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## **Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation Gives \$500,000 in Unrestricted Funds to Nemours Children's Hospital** *Encourages Community Philanthropy and Engagement with Hospital*

**ORLANDO, FL., September 12, 2011** – The Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation and its board of directors are excited to share the news of a significant gift to encourage community philanthropy and engagement with the Nemours Children's Hospital, under construction at Orlando's Medical City. The \$500,000 challenge grant will provide unrestricted funds to Nemours, slated to open in the fall of 2012, and the community is being asked to vote for one of three prospective uses for the funds.

“Since the announcement that Nemours would be building a state-of-the-art children's hospital here in Orlando, the generous spirit of Central Florida residents has been evident as so many have been seeking ways to become involved with the mission of Nemours” said David Odahowski, President and CEO of the Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation.

Through social media engagement Nemours is seeking the community's input as to the best use of the funds to further elevate the care available to children in the Central Florida community. Votes may be cast through September 26 via [www.facebook.com/nemours](http://www.facebook.com/nemours).

The three program enhancements on which community members are invited to vote include:

### **KidsTRACK Care Coordination**

Through Nemours KidsTRACK (Teaching, Research, Advocacy, Community and Knowledge), a care coordinator provides a single point of contact for families, helping to navigate the often overwhelming healthcare system during a time when families are faced with seemingly insurmountable challenges.

### **Hospital Healing Gardens**

The Nemours Discovery Garden will create an enriching experience for patient families with an acre of interactive outdoor areas devoted to the five senses – sight, hearing, taste, smell and touch. Children can explore in a garden filled with herbs and vegetables, create music on the xylophone benches and free-standing drums, experience a wide variety of fragrant flowers, and even find their way through hedge mazes and colorful sculptures.

### **Soothing Sanctuary**

The Emergency Department at the new Nemours Children's Hospital will be less stressful for families, making the entire experience easier and more calming. While waiting for test results, families of patients can escape and relax in one of the Nemours “soothing sanctuary” play areas or enjoy interactive entertainment including educational games, videos and activities.

“When we approached Nemours to let them know of the Foundation's intention to involve the community in this challenge grant, the senior staff at the children's hospital agreed that how the funds would be used should be left up to the experts—the community that this hospital will serve—which is why we're excited to launch this voting effort,” added Odahowski. “It is our hope that, with the community pitching in to

match the Edyth Bush \$500,000 grant, we will be able to exclaim together ‘Thanks a Million’ in the coming months.”

The history of the Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation chronicles a legacy of leadership and advocacy for the needs of children. It is this legacy and the Nemours mission to “restore and improve the health of children” that inspired the foundation’s Board of Directors to approve the \$500,000 grant to enhance the Nemours Children’s Hospital and to encourage community philanthropy.

With a 38-year tradition of “philanthropy beyond check writing,” the Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation is one of Florida’s leading funders and also serves as a resource to non-profit organizations, corporate leaders, government officials and individual philanthropists dedicated to improving the quality of life in their communities. For additional information, please contact David Odahowski or Deborah Hessler at the Foundation at 407-647-4322.

#### **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 nearly 3,000 grants to more than 400 organizations throughout the state, primarily in Central Florida, totaling more than \$95 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; Herbert W. Holm, Vice Chairman; Matthew W. Certo; Deborah C. German, M.D.; David A. Odahowski and Richard J. Walsh. For more information, please visit [www.edyrbush.org](http://www.edyrbush.org).

#### **About Nemours**

Nemours, one of the nation’s leading pediatric health systems, is dedicated to achieving higher standards in children’s health by offering a spectrum of clinical treatment, research, advocacy, and educational health and prevention services extending to all families in the communities it serves. Nemours owns and operates the Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children in Wilmington, Delaware and major children’s specialty clinics in Delaware, Florida, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Nemours will establish a new full-service children’s hospital in Orlando in 2012. The Nemours award-winning website, KidsHealth.org, is the most frequently visited site in the world for pediatric health information. [www.nemours.org](http://www.nemours.org).