



BILL ORBEN

# David Odahowski

president and CEO,  
Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation Inc.

**Education:** Law degree, Hamline University School of Law; management certificate program, Rollins College Roy E. Crummer Graduate School of Business

Two decades seems like a short time to David Odahowski.

The president and CEO of the Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation Inc., who has been in his position for 20 years, considers it his goal to revitalize the economic, intellectual and philanthropic spirit in Winter Park. And it hasn't been too difficult, since community leaders and philanthropists recognize that the foundation's work goes beyond check writing.

"The leadership of our board and staff is sought even more than our grants," Odahowski said. "We are part of the legacy of Winter Park; our founders invested in the community, making it the premier urban village in Florida."

And as if that wasn't enough of a challenge, Odahowski in the spring was named one of 11 new board members for the Florida Blood Centers. That followed a state Senate investigation into alleged questionable business practices in which no-term-limit board members sold millions of dollars of goods and services to the blood bank annually.

Odahowski describes his main project now as seeking to restore the community's confidence in the Florida Blood Centers. "I have rolled up my sleeve and I ask you to roll up yours and donate blood."

**First job:** *Chicago Tribune* paperboy

**Winter Park's crown jewel:** Charles Hosmer Morse Museum of American Art

**meant to me:** The fulfillment of being a true servant-leader

**The foundation's biggest challenge:** Supporting community leaders for their vision of tomorrow during our economic morass

**My best business decision:** Funding the Crummer School Apartments, bringing international students to Rollins College and hoping they will create their businesses here

**My worst business decision:** Not knowing Sprint was the legacy of Winter Park Telephone Co. and buying an AT&T phone system. I almost got fired.

**Little-known fact:** There is a tennis player in me dying to get out.

**Favorite reward for myself:** Chocolate chip cookie dough ice cream and time off

**I've always wanted to learn:** To play a musical instrument. I conducted the Orlando Philharmonic once — they told me not to quit my day job.

**What makes me neurotic:** The 24/7 iPhone/e-mail/Facebook/Twitter world we live in

**My most annoying habit:** Checking my iPhone

**My best friend says I am:** A good husband and father, but I need to put down the iPhone, or at least not take it to bed with me

**I spend most of my disposable income at:** Etennisonline.com

— Anjali Fluker

# Power players

## Four Winter Park community leaders you should know

BY ANJALI FLUKER

Balancing history, culture and progress isn't an easy task.

But that's something the civic and business leaders of Winter Park do almost every day.

The city prides itself on celebrating its historic nature, being the home of the 125-year-old Rollins College and several other buildings and institutions that are more than a century old. In addition, Winter Park boasts the Charles Hosmer Morse Museum of American Art, which houses the largest collection of Tiffany glass on the planet. The city also is home to a host of other art galleries, museums and charitable groups.

It also has economic advantages, featuring progressive companies, a strong work force and opportunity for growth with a much-anticipated rail stop for SunRail, Central Florida's planned commuter rail, in the heart of the city.

This special report takes a look at four key community leaders you should know if you want to do business in Winter Park:

- Kenneth Bradley, mayor of the city and chief executive officer of Winter Park Memorial Hospital: His vision involves a more tolerant, healthier city for residents, businesses and dogs — "A place where our blood pressure is low, not because we don't care or don't have challenges, but because we have learned to handle our problems in support of each other."

### Largest private employers in Winter Park

Company	Address	Workers	Industry
Full Sail University	3300 University Blvd.	1,697	Higher education
Winter Park Memorial Hospital	200 N. Lakemont Ave.	1,175	Health care
DiPasqua Enterprises Inc. (Subway)	2277 Lee Road	750	Retail/restaurants
Palmer Electric	875 Jackson Ave.	253	Commercial real estate
DEI Services Corp.	7213 Sandscove Court	133	Simulation & training

Source: Orlando Business Journal research



**Bradley**



**Chapin**



**Blackwelder**



**Odahowski**

- Patrick Chapin, president and CEO of the Winter Park Chamber of Commerce: He takes pride in the fact that the chamber brings people together. It not only supports businesses and economic growth, but also provides a great place that allows people who otherwise might not come together with "an opportunity to visit, build friendships and, ultimately, build a strong community."

- Paige Blackwelder, co-owner of Tuni in Winter Park and president of the Park Avenue Area Association: She supports and leads her fellow merchants on Park Avenue,

but also said it's important to build unity with residents, city government and the business community to grow successfully. "We need to listen to each other and to all sides of an issue to determine what is the best

move for the community."

- David Odahowski, president and CEO of the Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation Inc.: He said his biggest contribution to the city has involved enhancing the 60-plus-year relationship and investment by the Bush family and foundation in Rollins College, plus the foundation's 50-year history with Winter Park Memorial Hospital. "Economic development leaders might refer to this as an 'eds and meds' strategy."

For more on the city's power players, see pages 26 and 28.

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