

Millionaire Ministers & Yahweh's Will

*(When quoting scriptures, from the Rotherham Emphasized Bible New Testament,
I will substitute the Hebrew word Yahshua for Jesus, Yahweh and Elohim for God and Anointed for Christ.)*

Kathryn Kuhlman, a famous minister who shared the Lord's love and power to an estimated 100,000,000 people during her 50-year ministry, died February 20, 1976 with an estate worth \$2,267,500, which is equivalent to \$6,000,000 in 2006. The money was not left to her ministry but to her friends. "All over the nation front-page newspaper stories read: Kathryn Kuhlman, the evangelist, who solicited millions of dollars in contributions from her followers, has left none of her estate to her foundation or the church."¹ (See Appendix A) Kathryn Kuhlman is an example of a multi-Millionaire Minister who received her wealth from solicited contributions from the Body of the Christ. We must ask ourselves, "Does Christ will His servants (ministers) to become millionaires by receiving and keeping the flock's contributions; would the Apostle Paul or the Prophet Elijah be millionaires because of their followers?" I do not believe so, according to the Word of Yahweh! Christian men and women can begin a ministry with a heart to serve Yahweh but end up being corrupted by the money they receive as were Solomon and Judas, who were both called servants. I believe the responsibility for this corruption lies, in part, at the feet of the people who give the money. These loving individual's error lies in the fact that they do not impose any accountability on the ministers or charities to whom they give their money. This lack of accountability can result in the ministers being tempted into sin. Paul warned Timothy, "But, they who are determined to be rich, fall into temptation, and a snare, and many foolish and hurtful covetings, the which, sink men into ruin and destruction,— For, a root of all the vices, is the love of money, which, some, being eager for, have been seduced from the faith, and have pierced, themselves, about with many pangs" (I Tim. 6:9-10). This article will not be discussing wolves among the flocks, which is another story, but it will be discussing good people, children of Yahweh, who may have been seduced into sin by an abundance of money being laid at their feet.

There are basically three avenues through which a minister can receive money; 1) They have money before they begin their ministry, they inherit money; 2) they receive money from a product they produce such as a book etc.; 3) they receive contributions. The latter is what we will discuss. It should be none of our business to know what money a minister has if he inherited it or he acquired it before he began his ministry. Also it should be none of our business to know how much a minister receives by producing a product, such as a book, that the public is willing to purchase; both parties in a purchase of a product receive a mutual benefit. When contributions are involved, then it should be our business to know where our money has been distributed. The President of the United States is an example of this last category. Our tax money is given to pay his salary, which is public information. George Bush is paid \$400,000 each year for being president, while Congress is paid

¹ Daughter of Destiny Kathryn Kuhlman by Jamie Buckingham; pg. 3

\$165,200 per person.² (See Appendix B) We know their salaries because they are public employees who are funded by our money. Likewise we should know the salaries of our servants (ministers), their family members and their friends, if they are paid by our contributions, and we should know where the rest of our money is distributed because we are good stewards of what Yahweh has given us. I am not concerned if a minister buys a \$5,000 Rolex watch with the money he has received from selling books or that he has inherited but I am concerned and outraged if he buys the watch with my money that I gave to his organization! That money was given to be distributed as directed by our Father's Word and not for his excessive living.

Ministers are to be Unaccusable & Not Fond of Money!

Ministers are not to get entangled with the affairs of this life as is instructed in II Timothy 2:4. Yahshua, John the Immerser and Paul's life style reflected this truth. Great material possessions in a minister's life, acquired from the flock, could make the flock stumble in their faith. Paul would rather labor with his hands than to receive money from the people he was instructing. Paul said, "The silver or gold or apparel of no one, did I covet: yourselves, acknowledge that, for my necessities and for those who were with me, hard wrought these hands! In all things, I gave you to understand, that, thus toiling, it behooves to be helping the weak, also to be keeping in mind the words of the Lord Yahshua, that, he himself, said—Happy is it, rather to give than to receive" (Acts 20:33-35)! Paul also said in I Thessalonians 2:9, "For ye remember, brethren, our toil and hardship: night and day, working, so as not to be a burden unto any of you, we proclaimed unto you the glad-message of Yahweh." In II Thessalonians 3:8 Paul says, "Nor, as a free-gift, did eat, bread, from anyone, but, with toil and hardship, night and day, working,—that we might not burden any of you; Not because we have not authority, but that, ourselves, as an ensample, we might hold forth unto you,—to the end ye might be imitating us" (II Thess. 3:8). There are ministers today who are millionaires, not because of the labor of their hands but because of their Church contributors.

I Timothy 6:8, written to ministers of the glad message, states, "if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that." This verse was written to Timothy, a prophet of Yahweh, and not to the Assembly. (Applying the instructions in the books of Timothy to members of the Body of the Christ who are not ministers has caused many errors.) The Assemblie's duty is to provide for the minister's needs, if he is meeting their spiritual needs. Chapter six of first Timothy warns Timothy that some individuals become ministers in order to gain personal wealth; "supposing godliness to be, a means of gain" (I Tim. 6:5). Yahweh's ministers are responsible for collecting money that is to be distributed to those who are in need (Acts 4:35, II Cor. 9, I Cor 16). The handling of money can be tempting to the Lord's ministers, as it was to Judas, who used the money for his purpose. Ministers can keep more money from their contributors than they need, which can cause

² www.senate.gov/reference/resources/pdf/98-53.pdf

them to “fall into temptation, and a snare, and many foolish and hurtful covetings, the which, sink men into ruin and destruction” (I Tim. 6:9).

Many of Yahweh’s servants were very wealthy but their wealth did not come from contributions from a Church but by Yahweh blessing their endeavors. Abraham and Sara’s life is an example of individuals being blessed by Yahweh.³ “Now, Abram, was very rich, in cattle, in silver, and in gold” (Gen. 13:2). They had three hundred men working for them. Abraham was a prophet but he did not have a flock contributing their money to his family. Ministers are called to serve our Lord, as their vocation. They are not to be concerned with the affairs of this life. Timothy was a prophet of Yahweh and his instructions were, “no one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs—he wants to please his commanding officer” (II Tim 2:4). The Levites were also full time servants of Yahweh. “And I, behold, I have taken the Levites from among the children of Israel instead of all the firstborn that opens the matrix among the children of Israel: therefore the Levites shall be mine” (Num. 3:12). Yahweh has chosen apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers to work full time for the Body of the Christ (Eph. 4:11). Yahweh has different instructions for ministers when it comes to money as seen in I Timothy 6:8.

Those who partake of spiritual food from a minister are required to provide for the minister’s needs. “For the scripture saith—A threshing ox, shalt thou not muzzle, and—Worthy, is the workman, of his hire” (I Tim. 5:18). The Levites received the tithe, which was 10%, from the other tribes. The priest also partook of the sacrifices presented at the altar. In the Old Testament the burnt and the sin and peace offerings, to name a few, served multi-functions as does giving today. The animals to be sacrificed to Yahweh had to be each individual’s best livestock. These animals represented their life’s work. To kill your best livestock showed a trust in Yahweh as your sufficiency. We gain spiritually, materially and physically when we obey the Word of Yahweh and give joyfully instead of seeing it as loss, as the world would indicate. After they killed the animal, a portion, if not all, went to the priest and his family. The sacrificed animal was a sweet smelling savor to Yahweh who issued a blessing upon completion, which met the needs of the giver and the priest’s household. All of this had to be done in faith because giving is contrary to the natural world. In Philippians 4:14-19, Paul, as the minister of our Father, partook of the sacrifice to our Father, which was money, which met his needs. The money given was a sweet smelling savor unto Yahweh as was the Levitical sacrifice. Father promises a blessing, “and my Elohim will meet all your needs...” when this kind of giving is done. As Noah left the ark he built an altar and offered a burnt sacrifice to Yahweh. This was a pleasing aroma unto Yahweh, who then blessed Noah and his sons (Gen. 8:20-9:1). The pleasing aroma however can turn foul as it did with Eli’s sons, Hophni and Phinehas, who were appointed priests of Yahweh by Eli.⁴

³ “Now, Abraham, was old, far gone in days,—and, Yahweh, had blessed Abraham, in all things” (Gen. 24:1).

⁴ 1Sa 2:12 Now, the sons of Eli, were abandoned men,—they knew not Yahweh.

1Sa 2:22 Now, Eli, was very old,—but he used to hear all that his sons did unto all Israel, and how they even lay with the women who did service, at the opening of the tent of meeting.

Many Good Christian Ministries have fallen by the way side because they did not heed the warning given in I Timothy 6:9.⁵ Financial accountability is necessary for all ministers of the glad message. Why? Paul said that ministers should be, “Giving, no single, occasion of stumbling, in anything, that the ministry be not blamed; But, in everything, commending ourselves as Yahweh’s ministers [diakonos = servant⁶]” (II Cor. 6:3-4). A minister’s salary should be public information, as is the salary of the President of the United States and Congress. These organizations should also provide audited financial statements. These measures would restrain the temptation that comes with money management. Some of the organizations that monitor the finances of charities and churches are Ministry Watch, Charity Navigator, Forbes and Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability.⁷ These organizations can be found on the Internet. A minister of the glad message cannot be fond of money and he or she must be unaccusable.⁸ The Greek word translated, ‘unacusable,’ is ‘anegkletos,’ which is defined as someone “that cannot be called into account, unproveable, unaccused, blameless.” Anegkletos is composed of ‘an,’ which is a negative particle and ‘egkaleo,’ which means to accuse. Egkaleo is used in Acts 26:2; “Concerning all things of which I am accused [egkaleo] by Jews, King Agrippa, I have been counting myself happy, that, before thee, am I about, this day, to be making my defense.” The financial affairs of a Christian organization, which receives contributions, must be completely transparent to the contributors in order to be unaccusable! Christ was the perfect example of being unaccusable because he kept everything out into the open. He said, “I, openly, have spoken, unto the world,—I, ever, taught, in synagogue, and in the temple, where all the Jews gather together; and, in secret, spake nothing” (Jn. 18:20). There are many Christian organizations, which operate their financial affairs in secret!

1Sa 2:24 Nay, my sons! for it is no good report that I do hear: leading into transgression the people of Yahweh.

1Sa 2:29 Wherefore have ye been kicking at my sacrifices, and my presents, which I commanded, to serve for a home,—and shouldst have honoured thy sons more than me: fattening yourselves, with the first of every present of Israel, before me?

1Sa 2:34 And, this, for thee is the sign, which shall come upon thy two sons, upon Hophni and Phinehas,—In one day, shall they, both of them, die;

⁵ Now it is a great means of gain—godliness, with a sufficiency of one’s own; For, nothing, brought we into the world, neither, to take anything out, are we able; — And, having sustenance and covering, we shall be content; But, they who are determined to be rich, fall into temptation, and a snare, and many foolish and hurtful covetings, the which, sink men into ruin and destruction,— For, a root of all the vices, is the love of money, which, some, being eager for, have been seduced from the faith, and have pierced, themselves, about with many pangs. But, thou, O man of God! from these things, flee! and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, meekness; (I Tim. 6:6-11)

⁶ 1249 διακονος diakonos *dee-ak’-on-os* 1) one who executes the commands of another, esp. of a master, a servant, attendant, minister

⁷ <http://ecfa.org/ContentEngine.aspx?PageType=Control&PageName=MemberProfile&MemberID=5152>

http://ministrywatch.com/mw2.1/H_Home.asp

<http://charitynavigator.org/>

http://www.forbes.com/2005/11/18/largest-charities-ratings_05charities_land.html

⁸ 1Ti 3:3 Not given to wine, not ready to wound, but considerate, averse to contention, not fond of money

1Ti 3:10 But let, these also, be proved first, then, let them be ministering, being, unaccusable:

Tit 1:6 ¶ If anyone is unaccusable, a husband of, one wife, having children that believe, who are not charged with riotous excess, nor insubordinate;

Tit 1:7 For it is needful that the overseer be—unaccusable, as Yahweh’s steward, not self-willed, not soon angry, not given to wine, not ready to wound, not seeking gain by base means,

James Dobson, the founder of Focus on the Family, would be an example of a minister who is unaccusable concerning his ministrie's financial affairs; he hasn't taken a salary for twenty years. He might be receiving all of his money from his books, which is fine with me. If I give his organization my money I know it will not be used to support a hefty salary as must be done when given to Billy Graham's organization. Billy Graham is paid, by contributions, \$451,000, which would require 1,880 partners giving just him their \$20 per month. Billy Graham is probably a multi-millionaire who doesn't need \$451,000 per year. Timothy was told by Paul, "For, nothing, brought we into the world, neither, to take anything out, are we able; — And, having sustenance and covering, we shall be content" (I Tim. 6:7-8). Although Billy Graham makes a six-figure income, at least his income is made known to the contributors and not hidden as it is with Kenneth Copeland, Benny Hinn, Kenneth Hagin Jr. and many, many others who could be getting paid a seven or eight-figure income. Samuel, an unaccusable prophet of Yahweh, said at the end of his ministry of judging Israel, "Now, therefore, lo! the king going to and fro before you, But, I, am old and grey-headed, and, my sons [who were accusable as were Eli's sons]⁹, lo! they are with you,—But, I, have gone to and fro before you from my youth until this day. Behold me! testify against me, before Yahweh, and before his Anointed—Whose, ox, have I taken? or whose, ass, have I taken? or whom have I oppressed? Whom have I crushed? or at whose, hands, have I taken a bribe, to cover up mine eyes therewith? and I will restore it unto you. And they said, Thou hast not oppressed us, neither hast thou crushed us,—neither hast thou taken, at the hand of any man, any thing. And he said unto them—Witness, is Yahweh against you, and, witness, is his Anointed, this day, that ye have not found in my hand, any thing! And they said: Witness" (I Sam. 12:2-5)! Samuel was Unaccusable!

Churches, religious organizations and charities are usually a 501(c)(3) organization in order to be tax exempt. Religious organizations and charities that are 501(c)(3), must file a form 990 each year to the IRS. The information on the form is public information. The United Way, Focus on the Family and Billy Graham will be used as our examples of these organizations:¹⁰

⁹ Now, the sons of Eli, were abandoned men,—they knew not Yahweh. I Sam. 2:12

And it came to pass, when Samuel was old, that he appointed his sons judges to Israel...Howbeit his sons walked not in his ways, but stooped to extortion,—and took bribes, and perverted judgment. I Sam. 8:1-3

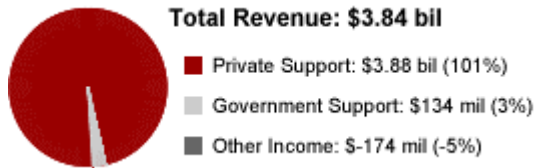
¹⁰ http://www.forbes.com/lists/2005/14/Name_4.html

United Way

Civic causes
Alexandria, VA

Top Person: Brian A. Gallagher
Top Salary:* \$ 629,950

FY ending 12/31/04

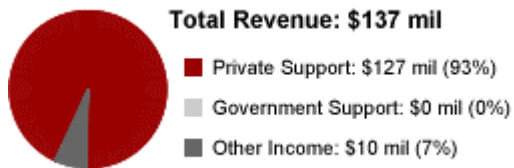


Focus on the Family

Promotes family values
Colorado Springs, CO
<http://www.family.org>

Top Person: Don Hodel
Top Salary:* \$ 113,255

FY ending 09/30/04



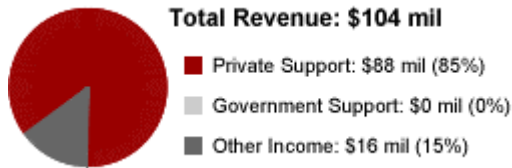
Transparency Grade A

Billy Graham Evangelistic Association

Evangelistic crusades
 Charlotte, NC
<http://www.billygraham.org>

Top Person: Billy Graham
Top Salary:* \$ 451,707

FY ending 12/31/04



Transparency Grade A

Churches are exempt from filing a form 990 even though many still make public their financial information such as the Salvation Army and Joyce Meyer. Joyce Meyer’s organization will be used as our example:¹¹

Joyce Meyer/ Enjoying Every Day Life/ Life in the Word

Revenue & Expenses	2004	2003	2002	2001
<u>Total Contributions</u>	\$92,532	\$80,936	\$71,748	\$58,188
<u>Total Other Revenue</u>	\$5,065	\$7,650	\$8,794	\$16,119
<u>TOTAL REVENUE</u>	\$97,597	\$88,587	\$80,542	\$74,307
<u>Program Services</u>	\$74,535	\$74,947	\$59,015	\$51,179
<u>Management & General</u>	\$14,170	\$12,144	\$10,864	\$10,683
<u>Fundraising</u>	\$7,697	\$5,096	\$3,715	\$2,823
<u>TOTAL EXPENSES</u>	\$96,403	\$92,188	\$73,595	\$64,685
<u>SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</u>	\$1,194	(\$3,600)	\$6,946	\$9,621

Balance Sheet	2004	2003	2002	2001
<u>TOTAL ASSETS</u>	\$70,893	\$68,076	\$72,180	\$64,169
<u>TOTAL LIABILITIES</u>	\$6,154	\$4,531	\$5,034	\$3,970
<u>NET ASSETS</u>	\$64,739	\$63,544	\$67,145	\$60,199

Transparency Grade C

JMM also has made a major change in the ministry’s compensation of Joyce Meyer recently. Previously, the ministry’s board, comprised at the time of mostly family members and others who were closely tied to the Meyer family, awarded salaries as large as \$900,000 as well as sizable bonuses to Joyce Meyer. Meyer’s husband was also handsomely compensated and children were on the payroll as well. At this time, it appears that many of the royalties that Joyce Meyer’s books earned were paid

¹¹ http://www.ministrywatch.com/mw2.1/F_SumRpt.asp?EIN=431382734

directly into the ministry. This approach was altered, however, to reduce Joyce Meyer's salary to a still hefty \$250,000 annually but to also remove her royalties from the ministry and instead pay them into a private company that Joyce Meyer controlled.

Other Churches do not disclose their financial affairs to the public, examples of these are Kenneth Copeland Ministries and Kenneth Hagin Ministries. The IRS and the people in charge of the ministry are the only ones privy to the organization's financial information. Ministry Watch rates these ministries from A to F on the transparency of their financial affairs. An A rating on financial transparency does not necessarily determine that the organization is where you should give your money but it does however, show that they are not hiding financial information from the public. An F rating means that the organization refuses to divulge any of their financial information. Examples of these are Kenneth Copeland Ministries and Kenneth Hagin Ministries:

Kenneth Copeland Ministries¹²

Transparency Grade F

Kenneth Hagin Ministries

Transparency Grade F

We should be excellent stewards of the money Father has given us. We should not give substantial amounts of money to organizations, which are not excellent stewards of Yahweh. Stewardship requires financial accountability and transparency. Yahshua told the parable about the three servants whose master gave them money to steward. Two were successful while the one who failed had excuses for his failure.¹³ Excuses are not acceptable to our Lord. Yahweh's money given to the wrong organizations can be wasteful, harmful and very displeasing to our Father, even though we had the right intentions. Jehoshaphat had the right intentions when he loved and helped his Hebrew brother, Ahab, but Yahweh was not pleased because He sent a prophet to give Jehoshaphat a message. "And there came out to meet him, Jehu son of Hanani, the seer, who said unto King Jehoshaphat, Unto the lawless, was it *right* to give help? and, on them who hate Yahweh, to bestow thy love? For this cause, therefore, is there wrath against thee, from before Yahweh" (II Chron. 19:2). We also may be giving money to a brother in Christ, a Christian or Charitable organization, who unknown to us, is consuming the money contrary to Yahweh's Word. Ministers are not immune to the temptations of the world, as was revealed by the prophet David, a man after Yahweh's heart. The coveting of the flesh, the coveting of the eyes, and the vain grandeur of life is all around us and we must help our ministers by making them accountable, as Nathan did to David. David began his ministry with a heart to serve Yahweh but in route he was detoured by the vain grandeur of life. Yahweh's prophet, Nathan, put David back on the road to success, as we should do to our ministers if they become detoured. Our responsibility is to open our eyes and ask questions before we give, in order that our offering may be well-pleasing to our Father and our Lord. Give Responsibly!

¹² http://ministrywatch.com/mw2.1/H_Home.asp

¹³ Mt. 25

Charity Evaluators Web sites:

Charity Navigator

<http://charitynavigator.org/>

Forbes

http://www.forbes.com/2005/11/18/largest-charities-ratings_05charities_land.html

Ministry Watch

http://ministrywatch.com/mw2.1/H_Home.asp

Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability

<http://ecfa.org/ContentEngine.aspx?PageType=Control&PageName=HomePage>

Appendix A

Dallas Morning Star

(4/17/1976 Section D Page 5)

Kuhlman will cites bequests

PITTSBURGH (AP)

The will of the late evangelist-healer Kathryn Kuhlman leaves \$267,500 of her estate to three family members and 20 employees, according to court records.

Of the largest single bequests, \$50,000 goes to her sister, Myrtle Parrott, and \$40,000 to the evangelist's long-time secretary, Marguerite Hamner, reports the evangelical fortnightly, Christianity Today.

It says smaller bequests go to 19 other employees and another sister out of an estate whose total value awaits an inventory, but which former employees say exceeds \$1 million.

Under the will dated last Dec. 17, she named Tulsa auto dealer Dana Barton Wilkerson Jr., and his wife, Sue, as residuary legatees - The ones to receive all property not specifically bequeathed.

The evangelical magazine, published in Washington, says sources inside the Kuhlman organization have expressed dismay that she did not leave most of her estate to the foundation as she had done under a previous 1974 will.

Appendix B

CRS Report for Congress

Received through the CRS Web

Salaries of Federal Officials: A Fact Sheet

Barbara L. Schwemle
 Analyst in American National Government
 Government and Finance Division
 CRS-2

Table 1. Salaries of Federal Officials

Position	Jan. 2003	Jan. 2004	Jan. 2005
Legislative Branch			
Vice President of the United States (President of the Senate)	\$198,600	\$203,000	\$208,100
Speaker of the House of Representatives	198,600	203,000	208,100
President Pro Tempore of the Senate	171,900	175,700	180,100
Majority and Minority Leaders — House and Senate	171,900	175,700	180,100
Senators, Representatives, Resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico, and Delegates	154,700	158,100	162,100
Judicial Branch			
Chief Justice of the United States	\$198,600	\$203,000	\$208,100
Associate Justices of the Supreme Court	190,100	194,300	199,200
Judges, U.S. Courts of Appeal	164,000	167,600	171,800
Judges, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Services	164,000	167,600	171,800
Judges, U.S. District Courts	154,700	158,100	162,100
Judges, United States Court of Federal Claims	154,700	158,100	162,100
Judges, United States Court of International Trade	154,700	158,100	162,100
Judges, Tax Court of the United States	154,700	158,100	162,100
Judges, U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims	154,700	158,100	162,100
Bankruptcy Judges	142,300	145,500	149,132
Magistrate Judges	142,300	145,500	149,132
Executive Branch			
President of the United States ^a	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$400,000
<i>Executive Schedule</i>			
Level I: Cabinet-level officials	\$171,900	\$175,700	\$180,100
Level II: Deputy secretaries of departments, secretaries of military departments, & heads of major agencies	154,700	158,100	162,100

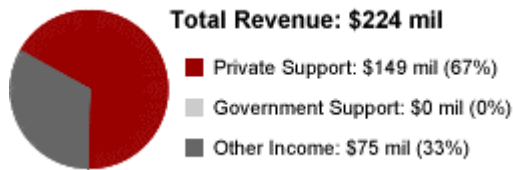
Appendix C

Christian Broadcasting Network

Religious programming
Virginia Beach, VA
<http://www.cbn.com>

Top Person: Marion G. (Pat) Robertson
Top Salary:* \$ 306,293

FY ending 03/31/05



Surplus/Loss	Net Assets	Charitable Commitment ¹	Fundraising Efficiency ²	Donor Dependency ³
\$28 mil	\$184 mil	78% —	83% ▼	81% ▼

Transparency Grade A

Oral Roberts Evangelistic Association¹⁴

INCOME STATEMENT

FYE 07/2003

Revenue

Primary Revenue	\$10,957,410
Other Revenue	\$121,629
Total Revenue:	\$11,079,039

Expenses

Program Expenses	\$9,701,077
Administrative Expenses	\$2,743,762
Fundraising Expenses	\$1,148,988
Total Functional Expenses:	\$13,593,827

Payments to Affiliates	\$0
Excess (or Deficit) for the Year	\$-2,514,788

Net Assets: \$-9,884,098

CEO Pay

Richard Roberts President, CEO Compensation: \$179,500

¹⁴ <http://charitynavigator.org/index.cfm/bay/search.summary/orgid/4272.htm>