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**Office of the Inspector General
Miami-Dade County**

Memorandum

To: The Honorable Carlos Alvarez, Mayor

The Honorable Chairperson Joe Martinez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: Christopher Mazzella,
Inspector General

Date: December 7, 2004

Re: Arrest of Dale Simpson, Former Executive Director of Camillus House

Attached is a news release relating to the arrest of the former Executive Director of Camillus House, Dale Simpson (Simpson), on charges of Grand Theft, Fraudulent Sales Tax Exemption Claims and Petit Theft.

Camillus House was founded in 1960 by the Little Brothers of the Good Shepherd to provide food, shelter and counseling to the poor and homeless of South Florida. In 2003, Camillus House received approximately twenty-five percent (25%) of its funding from various Miami-Dade County funding sources, totaling over two million dollars. Simpson, hired in 1998 to run the day to day operations of Camillus House, abused his power and authority by directing various Camillus House employees to perform his personal tasks during the employee's working hours. Simpson directed Camillus House employees to make 55 separate purchases of personal and home improvement items using tax exempt credit cards provided for official Camillus House business. Simpson's fraud was not limited to evading the State of Florida's sales tax; he also directed Camillus House employees to perform various home improvement projects for his personal benefit. The projects included building a new wood deck at one of his homes, re-wiring the electricity of a garage apartment he owned, and picking up, delivering and setting up furniture at his beachfront apartment.

The OIG is committed to investigating fraud and corruption, especially if it targets those in our community that need the most help.

cc: Mr. George Burgess, County Manager
Mr. Tony Crapp, Assistant County Manager
Mr. David Raymond, Director, Homeless Trust
Mr. Bryan Finnie, Director, Office of Community and Economic Development
Ms. Cathy Jackson, Director Audit & Management Services

Clerk of the Board (Copy Filed)



OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CAMILLUS HOUSE ARRESTED FOR DEFRAUDING THE HOMELESS MINISTRY

The former Executive Director of Camillus House, a non-profit organization founded by the Little Brothers of the Good Shepherd, was charged with defrauding the organization in an elaborate scheme to obtain goods and services for his own personal benefit, following a joint investigation by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) and the State Attorney's Office.

Dale Simpson (Simpson), age 58, of Stuart, Florida, the former Executive Director of Camillus House, surrendered today and was charged with three (3) counts of Fraudulent Claim of Exemption, two (2) counts of Grand Theft, and one (1) count of Petit Theft.

Simpson was hired by Camillus House in 1998 and installed as Executive Director to run the day to day operations of Camillus House. The Brothers of the Good Shepherd, a Roman Catholic association of religious brothers, established Camillus House in 1960 as a non-profit organization to provide food, clothing, shelter, and counseling services to the poor and homeless of South Florida. Last year, Camillus House received approximately twenty-five percent (25%) of its funding from various Miami-Dade County funding sources totaling millions of dollars. Simpson was responsible for the overall administrative operations of Camillus House. Directly reporting to him were eleven department directors and a total staff of one hundred thirty (130) employees.

According to an affidavit filed by a Special Agent of the OIG, Simpson abused the power entrusted to him and directed Camillus House employees to complete numerous personal tasks and home improvement projects for properties he owned. Further, Simpson directed Camillus House employees to purchase materials for his personal projects with Camillus House funds, using the non-profit's credit cards and taking advantage of the tax-exempt status enjoyed by Camillus House as a non-profit organization.

The affidavit alleges that Simpson directed Camillus House employees to make 55 separate purchases at Home Depot, Shell Lumber, Ace Hardware and Budget Hardware, all stores located in the Miami area, using the tax exempt status of Camillus House, thereby evading a total of \$194.25 in sales tax to the State of Florida. The purchases ranged from nuts and bolts to barbecue grills. The items purchased were then used by Camillus House employees during their scheduled working hours to complete over 20 separate tasks and home improvement projects for Simpson's personal properties. The projects ranged in nature from building a wood deck and electrical wiring of a garage apartment, to having his dog transported to Broward County for grooming.

In March 2002, Simpson purchased furniture from City Furniture for his beachside residence in Stuart, Florida. The purchase was made in the name of Camillus House. Simpson directed Camillus House employees to pick up and deliver the furniture to his residence in Stuart, Florida. Camillus House paid the employees, including overtime pay of a non-salaried employee, for the time they spent picking up, delivering and arranging Simpson's furniture. In connection with that purchase Simpson specifically directed the Chief Financial Officer of Camillus House to issue him a check in the amount of \$660.00, claiming that City Furniture had erroneously issued a discount/refund check to Camillus House instead of to him personally. The Chief Financial Officer complied with Simpson's directive and issued him the check.

Simpson used his authority as Executive Director to commit Grand Theft, and to obtain fraudulent tax-exemptions and free labor. Unbeknownst to the Brothers of the Good Shepherd, their employees were being paid by Camillus House during their labors for Simpson. In total, Camillus House paid \$5,508.57 for labor and costs performed by Camillus House employees on the various projects for Simpson's benefit.

Inspector General Christopher R. Mazzella, in commenting on the arrest, expressed his dismay at the blatant abuse of trust displayed by Simpson. He stressed that the OIG would not tolerate any conduct that exploited funds targeted for the needy. State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle, stated that charities are always a public trust. Contributors expect those running a charity to have the good of the needy, not their own self-interest, in mind when they make decisions. Unfortunately, while he was Executive Director of Camillus House, Dale Simpson appeared to have forgotten this basic concept. His use of Camillus House employees to complete personal tasks and home improvement projects at residences he owned using materials purchased with Camillus House accounts were not errors or oversights. Under Florida law, these actions were crimes.

Copies of the arrest affidavit are available at the Office of the Inspector General, 19 West Flagler Street, Suite 220, Miami, Florida, telephone number 305-375-1946, or at the State Attorney's Office, c/o Ed Griffith, 1350 NW 12 Avenue, Miami, Florida, telephone number 305-547-0535. Inspector General Mazzella will be available at the OIG for a media opportunity today from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.