

BUCKET FILL-OSOPHY 101™

Weekly words of wisdom to keep your bucket filled

Week of January 6, 2008 • Volume 2, Issue 1

Making a Difference



—December 2007—

PRESENTATION UPDATE

Sessions: **27**

Attendance: **4,000**

- Blair-Moody Elementary, Taylor, MI
- Books-A-Million, Venice, FL
- Cleveland Elementary, Livonia, MI
- Davisburg Elementary, Davisburg, MI
- Dunlap Elementary, Battle Creek, MI
- Leadership Livingston, Howell, MI
- Meadow Brook Elementary, Rochester Hills, MI
- Milan Elementary, Milan, IN
- Oakland Counseling Association, Pontiac, MI
- Spring Mills Elementary, Highland, MI
- Springfield Plains Elementary, Clarkston, MI
- Way Elementary, Bloomfield Hills, MI

Total Bucketfilling Sessions
taught through

December 31, 2007:

543

Attendance:

54,650

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Bucket Nuggets from Carol McCloud, The Bucket Lady

A Story to Remember

I was shopping one day in late December, when a young mother came up to me. "Are you the Bucket Lady?" she asked. "Yes, I am," I replied.

She then told me that at the beginning of the school year her son attended one of our Bucketfilling assemblies and asked if I had a few minutes to hear a wonderful story.

"Of course, I love wonderful stories," I said.

I was totally unprepared for what she was about to tell me.

On assembly day her son, Zachary, who is in the third grade, came home from school and told her all about bucket filling. He said that he had taken a pledge to fill a bucket every day by doing something nice for someone and asked her what he could do.

She thought a moment and then suggested that Zachary help their next-door neighbor, an elderly gentleman who was recovering from a recent hip replacement. She suggested that every morning Zachary could take their neighbor's newspaper from its tube on the street and put it inside his door and that, after school, he could do the same with his mail.

Zachary was excited about this bucket filling opportunity and over the following weeks he never failed to deliver his neighbor's newspaper and mail.

Thanksgiving Day arrived and their neighbor, now recovered from his surgery, walked over to Zachary's house. He asked if he was disturbing the family's dinner. They assured him that he was not and welcomed him into their family room. Introducing himself to the group gathered for the holiday, he told them that his Thanksgiving would not be complete without personally thanking Zachary for bringing his newspaper and mail to him every day while he recovered from surgery.

He explained how much the "Hope you are feeling better" notes, Zachary sometimes wrote, meant to him. He shook Zachary's hand and thanked him once more for remembering him every day.

Zachary told him that it was no trouble at all and reached up and gave his neighbor a hug.

The neighbor then turned to Zachary's mother and handed her an envelope containing a \$1,000 check for her son's college fund.

We both had tears in our eyes as she finished her story.

Zachary had no idea that this kindness would result in a \$1,000 check for his future education. A third-grade child really has no concept of one thousand dollars.

No, this child simply wanted to fill his neighbor's bucket. Many times people appreciate our acts of kindness so much that they will often do something kind in return.

However, I think that you will agree that this story is not about the money, but rather about the buckets that were filled; Zachary's bucket was filled with pride and happiness in successfully filling someone's bucket, his family's bucket was collectively filled with pride and love for Zachary, and their neighbor's bucket was filled by knowing someone cared enough to help him as he recuperated.

Everyone wins with bucket filling.



This week's winners

Congratulations!



Robin Castetter of Loveland City Schools in Loveland, Ohio is our Bucket Filler of the Week. Congratulations, Robin! You have a book coming your way.

Every bucket filler is a winner! Encourage your friends to get their buckets filled every week by signing on for our newsletter at

www.bucketfillers101.com.

Quote of the Week

"What we do today, right now, will have an accumulated effect on all our tomorrows." —*Alexandra Stoddard*