

BUCKET FILL-OSOPHY 101

Weekly words of wisdom to keep your bucket filled

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Making a Difference

It's never too late

Theresa Applegate, of Pierceton, Indiana, sent us an e-mail in which she described her visit to one of our presentations along with her three sons, Zachery, Matthew and Nathan.

Theresa loved the program and said, "that evening and ever since Zachery has said, 'Mommy, 'so-and-so' is dipping into my bucket.'"

Theresa added that Zachery will often ask her if he is filling her bucket.

"Of course, he always is," she wrote.

She wanted to let us know that we are right to tell people that it is never too late to become a bucket filler.

A few years ago, Theresa ran into a former classmate who, she admits, was not always "the nicest person."

He wanted to tell her that he was sorry for the way he treated her in school and now that he has children of his own, he doesn't want them to act as he did.

BUCKET CHUCKLES

Out of the mouths...

Reading *The Three Little Pigs* to her class, a teacher came to the line, "and so the pig went up to the man with the wheelbarrow full of straw and said, 'Pardon me sir, but may I have some of that straw to build my house?'"

The teacher paused and asked the class, "And what do you think the man said?"

One little boy raised his hand and said emphatically, "I think the man said, 'Well, I'll be darned! A talking pig!'"



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Bucket Nuggets from Carol McCloud, *The Bucket Lady*

The best gifts of all



*The moon belongs to everyone,
the best things in life are free.*

*The stars belong to everyone,
they gleam there for you and me.*

*The flowers in spring, the robins that sing,
the moonbeams that shine, they're yours, they're mine.*

*And love can come to everyone,
the best things in life are free.*

BY GLENNY MERILLAT, EDITOR

Released in 1956 and recorded by Frank Sinatra, among others, I found myself humming this song the other day as I wrapped the gifts I plan to give this year. While I tied bows and taped paper, I thought about gifts that might be appreciated more and cost nothing but one's time and imagination.

Many of us have rushed around again this year looking for just the right gifts to show our love for family and friends; trying not to over-stress our nerves or our budgets during these troubled economic times.

However, as we distribute these brightly wrapped packages, many of us also know, deep in our hearts, that the best things in life do not come with a price tag.

I began to wonder how the world might change if we were to design our own bucket filling gift certificates that never expire.

- For the seniors on our list: A gift card that offers frequent afternoon teas with flowers from your garden and lots of loving conversation. Or, if the recipient is male, take along his favorite beverage and chat about subjects you know interest him.
- A good friend might enjoy a gift card promising a minimum of four lovely long walks during each season. Enjoy spring flowers, gardens in deep summer, the glory of fall and the fresh snows in winter. If you live where there are fewer seasons, create a card that includes favorite places anytime in the coming year.
- Children have wonderful imaginations, so why not create a card that entitles them to regular stories that will be told under a special tree, while snuggled under a warm blanket or in a surprise location?
- A teen might like a gift certificate for regular conversations under a moonlit sky or in a local park over a picnic lunch.

There are any number of ways to give your undivided attention to those you love, including the follow-up time it takes to make sure that your gift card is used.

Your bucketfilling gift certificate is sure to be remembered long after a shirt or the latest electronic toy has been replaced.



This week's winners

Congratulations!



Maribeth Spangenberg a preschool teacher in Wake Forest, North Carolina, is our Bucket Filler of the Week. Congratulations, Maribeth! 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

"Be silent as to services you have rendered, but speak of favours you have received."—Seneca (5 BC - 65 AD)