

BUCKET FILL-OSOPHY 101

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*Bucket Nuggets from Carol McCloud,
The Bucket Lady*

You make the difference

Every week the Bucket Fillers Team hears inspirational stories from dedicated teachers who, in spite of budget cuts, fewer resources, and more demands, *continue to make a difference.*

I know that we will all continue to work together throughout the coming year as we do our best to be bucket fillers in our workplaces, our homes, and our communities. I believe that understanding the bucketfilling concept and working to keep everyone's bucket filled will help us meet the challenges of 2010.

But, before I say goodbye to 2009, I would like to share a third-grade teacher's wonderful story of the difference her bucket filling has made in the life of one child:

"I have used your book, Have You Filled a Bucket Today?, since it was first published and I love it! I have a bulletin board permanently set up in my room that allows children and adults to fill buckets by writing a Post-it note with comments on it and placing it on their buckets.

At the beginning of October, I received a new student who had many behavioral issues in previous schools; severe issues with pages upon pages of meetings, interventions, and documentation.

On the second day of school, he inquired about my bucket board. I explained it to him and within 20 minutes he was busy writing a post-it note to each child in the class. He wrote 'You are cool' over and over and made a point to fill everyone's bucket. This was interesting to me because positive peer relations were something he struggled with in the past.

He did it once again three days later, writing something else like, 'You rock.' He was very excited to get notes in return and stuck them on the inside of his desktop.

The Bucket Filler Board was a very important part of his day.

Just last week he left to go to his third school this year. He had made amazing progress and I was so sad to see him go. With only a night to prepare for his good-bye, my coworker reminded me how much Bucket Filling meant to him, so she suggested I get him the book. I bought it and had all the kids write messages to him.

It was such a great keepsake and a message I hope he continues to believe in no matter how many schools he will attend in his career. I had lunch with him and a friend after giving it to him and he told me that he would like to pass it down to his kids and maybe they could pass it down to their kids.

I replied, 'Wow! You'll be a big bucketfilling family!'

He smiled.

He got the message and I hope he hangs onto it for life!

Thanks so much!"

Wishing you a happy, healthy, bucketfilling New Year!

The Bucket Fillers Team

This week's winner

Congratulations!

Deena Leider of Garfield Schools, Elmwood Park, New Jersey is our bucket filler of the week. Congratulations Deena! 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

"Each difficult moment has the potential to open my eyes and open my heart." Myla Kabat-Zinn

Making a Difference Over my shoulder

As owner and president of Bucket Fillers, Inc., I'm very proud of what our dedicated and talented Bucket Fillers Team accomplished in 2009:

- 520 presentations given in 200 new schools
- 200 cities visited in 17 states
- 35 round-trip airline flights and thousands of road miles logged
- The National Braille Press chose *Have You Filled a Bucket Today?* as their November 2009 Book of the Month. 600 books were donated and reprinted in braille for distribution across the U.S. through the Children's Braille Book Club. What an honor!
- In 3½ years, our team has given 1,500 presentations.
- 500 schools and organizations in 27 states have benefited from our on-site presentations.

Looking Ahead to 2010

Good news for Florida Schools and School Districts! You can take advantage of lower in-state rates for Bucket Filler presentations for January and February 2010. I will be in southwest Florida with part of our team for these two months.

We still have a few openings on our calendar.

We're looking forward to 2010 and another great bucketfilling year.

Carol

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