Week of September 12, 2010 • Volume 4, Issue 15

Making a Difference

August 15-31, 2010 PRESENTATION UPDATE

Sessions: 22 Attendance: 4,200

- Cardinal Elementary, South Sioux City, NE
- Covington Elementary, South Sioux City, NE
- Dakota City Elementary, South Sioux City, NE
- E.N. Swett Elementary, South Sioux City, NE
- Greater Lansing Islamic School, East Lansing, MI
- Harney Elementary, South Sioux City, NE
- Heritage Elementary, Lima, OH
- Joshua Butler Elementary, Westwego, LA
- Lewis & Clark Elementary, South Sioux City, NE
- Meridian Elementary, Broomfield, CO
- North Central Schools, Pioneer, OH
- Riverside Early Learning Center, Monroe. MI
- Waterville Primary School, Waterville, OH

Total Bucketfilling sessions taught through August 31, 2010

Sessions: 1,734
Attendance: 248,000



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From Michigan to Tennessee

A bucketfilling blog

By Donna DeWitt-Schnell, Bucket Fillers team member

Think 500. Like 500 days or 500 miles. That's long.

Think 500 bucketfilling acts of kindness. That's strong.

This past school year, my computer students from Waldon Middle School in Lake Orion, Michigan, took



bucket filling beyond the boundaries of their classroom and community. In the process, they discovered two important principles: Bucket filling has no boundaries and that when you fill someone else's bucket, you fill your own.

I told my students about Billie Jean Grinder and Marcus Alford, two soldiers in my son-in-law Trevor's unit who were killed in Iraq last February. Both soldiers left behind young children, other family members, and friends. The students wanted to honor the memory of these two soldiers who had lost their lives in the service of their country.

They decided to create an online blog as a memorial to Billie Jean and Marcus and set a group goal to fill 500 buckets with individual acts of kindness. The blog would become a gift to help the families heal.

The students used the blog to record what they did to fill buckets. Sarah, an 8th grader wrote: "Last night my mom was really busy because she got home from work late, so I helped her make dinner. That made my mom really happy. That made me happy, too. (That was for you, Billie Jean and Marcus)."

As the blog grew, the students' enthusiasm grew along with it. They were inspired by each other's comments and began to realize how much their acts of kindness were changing their own lives.

At the end of their project, Spencer, a 7th grader, wrote, "Blogging on the Billie Jean and Marcus page has greatly affected the way I want to treat people around me. I am now more aware of how I act. I enjoy being kind more, and I like the feeling of knowing that I made someone's day. I am aiming to show more kindness toward people, not because I have to, but because I want to."

To view the entire class blog, go to www.bucketfillingatwaldon.blogspot.com

This week's winner

Congratulations! \(\)

Amy Luczak a teacher in Chuluota, Florida, is our bucket filler of the week. Congratulations Amy! You have a book coming your way. Every bucket filler is a winner! Encourage your friends to get their buckets filled by ordering our free e-newsletter at

www.bucketfillers101.com.

Quote of the Week

"If you want to be happy, practice compassion."— Dalai Lama