



BUCKET FILL-OSOPHY 101™

Weekly Words of Wisdom to Keep Your Bucket Filled

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Halloween 1942 & 2010

by Glenny Merrillat, Editor

It was October 31, 1942. Halloween night. Seven months earlier our nation had entered the second world war. It was also the night that my sister, Reney, dipped into my bucket.

I was six and she was seven and our personalities and appearance were as different as night and day. I was a cheery, mischievous little person with curly blonde hair. She had beautiful black ringlets and was quiet and shy.

When I discovered that this would be the first Halloween that we would go trick-or-treating, I was excited and a bit frightened. Anticipation conquered any qualms I may have had; as far as I was concerned anything that involved treats seemed too good to be true.

My mother had ordered miniature WAC uniforms from the catalog and we were going to march right up to our neighbors' doors and call out, "Trick-or-Treat!" I couldn't wait.

Mrs. Todd's house was our first stop. Sure enough, she arrived at her door with a big plate of her wonderful homemade cookies, but as I put a cookie in my bag, I heard my sister say, "Let's go home. This is dumb." Even as I argued in favor of marching on, I realized that I was too little to go on by myself in the dark and my mother, who had been waiting on the sidewalk explained she could not leave my sister home alone (my father was out of town doing defense work) and so this little weeping WAC surrendered.

I don't think we ever went trick-or-treating again.

Since that night I've had many lessons in resilience and bounced or struggled back from many other dips, which brings me to November 3, 2010. Bucket Fillers received from Kristin Wegner, who is an elementary school counselor in New Holstein, Wisconsin. Kristin's school is a TRIBES TLC® school. The goal of these schools is to assure the healthy development of every child so that each one has the knowledge, skills and resiliency to be successful in a rapidly changing world, far more challenging than the one in which I grew up.

We were pleased to learn from Kristin's email that she uses *Have You Filled a Bucket Today?* to teach "appreciations", which are an important part of the TRIBES process.

Kristin wrote: "At the beginning of every school year we have an assembly and read the book to the students and talk about the importance of filling buckets as a way to give appreciations.

The book has been a wonderful common language in our school and we often hear students saying that someone 'filled their bucket' or letting someone know that what they did emptied their bucket.

This year [2010] as part of our Red Ribbon Week celebration we had a 'Say Boo to Drugs' day and the students were able to dress in their Halloween costumes. I decided to dress up as the kindness bucket from your book.

I just wanted to share a picture of the costume and let you know the wonderful things that are happening at our school because of your book!"

Editor's note: Thank you, Kristin. I love editing stories like this for our newsletter and who knows? If children had known about bucket filling in 1942, I might have arrived home with a full bag of treats and a full bucket.



Making a Difference

The Bucket Fillers Team has visited **725 bucketfilling schools and organizations in 36 states and provinces** from September 2006 to September 2011

* Visit our website for a complete list of bucketfilling schools and organizations.

Congratulations Aurora!

Aurora Huerta, a teacher of Dixie Sun Elementary in St. George, Utah is our bucket filler of the week. You have a book coming your way. Every bucket filler is a winner. Encourage your friends to get their buckets filled by subscribing to our free e-newsletter at www.bucketfillers101.com

Words of Wisdom

"As we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same." — Nelson Mandela