

BUCKET FILL-OSOPHY 101™

Weekly words of wisdom to keep your bucket filled

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Bucket Nuggets—Little Gems of Joy

Everyday Bucket Filling by Donna DeWitt-Schnell

I believe that a normal everyday life can be extraordinary. My belief was reinforced recently on a mission to shop for a new bedcover at my local JC Penney store. As soon as I entered the Linen Department, I saw a sales assistant busy helping several customers. Although busy, she wasn't frazzled by details. When she had finished, she turned to me. Her name was Beth. Beth carefully looked at my color and rug samples and started to search for a complimentary bed cover. She found the perfect one. I could see that she was as happy as I was. I went home feeling that my bucket had been filled.

Several weeks later, I needed a second bed cover for another room. I went back to the same JC Penney store. I looked to see if Beth was working. She was! Once again Beth helped me find exactly what I was looking for. She checked the back for other pillow colors and textures, which weren't on the floor. She also checked online. Once again, and more importantly, Beth's upbeat, friendly personal service conveyed to me that she really wanted to do her best to help me find what I was looking for. She made my shopping experiences so enjoyable.

As I left, Beth said, "Good-bye, Donna." I knew she was sending me a message of good wishes. These brief interactions may seem insignificant but they make a big difference in our day. They put a smile on our face. They fill our bucket.

I was so touched by Beth's attitude and personal service that I decided to write a letter. I went online to JC Penney corporate headquarters and described my satisfying shopping experience. It didn't take me long. Almost immediately, the Vice President of Human Resources replied. He told me that my note would be forwarded to Beth's Regional and District Managers. He also said that Beth would receive recognition in her store. I realized again that bucket filling is all about reciprocity, the back and forth flow of good thoughts and feelings keeping our buckets full for each other.

Two weeks later, I happened to be in the area so I stopped by Beth's department. She recognized me right away. With a big hug and a huge smile, she told me of the many accolades she had received from her supervisor and others. She said that my letter had "spread like wildfire" throughout the store and the company. Imagine all those bucketfilling moments. It was a chain reaction of a most positive sort. Bucket filling is a conscious choice to pause for a moment in your busy life and show thoughtfulness and appreciation. Let's keep the momentum going!

Quote of the Week

"We must not, in trying to think about how we can make a big difference, ignore the small daily difference we can make."

- Marian Wright Edelman

Bucketfilling News

Last week, the Bucket Fillers Team visited a Montessori preschool. A mother, whose son is enrolled there, read about our work and asked if we would present our bucketfilling message as a gift to the school for her son's fifth birthday. What fun we had with these preschoolers, parents and teachers!

The mother, obviously a bucket filler, also wrote a follow-up note: *"...with all the negative messages, violence, and competition to be better, more powerful, bigger, etc., etc., it is nice to have a message about love, sharing, caring and being good individuals." "...it is my belief that schools should develop character and not just develop an 'A' student or focus on attaining a certain score on a test. Unfortunately, today many schools struggle to get by and the focus is shifted from thriving to just surviving as an institution." "...I hope that my son and his friends will carry this powerful message in their hearts and remember it long after today."*

Winners!

Gail Hicks of the Wilkshire Early Childhood Center in Haslett, Michigan is our **Bucket Filler of the Week**. She has won an autographed copy of *Have You Filled a Bucket Today?*. Congratulations Gail!! Every bucket filler is a winner. Encourage your friends to *Sign Up* to get their bucket filled every week at www.bucketfillers101.com.

Speaking of Winners...Amazon.com is now ranking books by sales category. Overall *Have You Filled a Bucket Today?* is ranked #6,380. **It is ranked #9** in the category of Children's Books, Social Situations, Values, Fiction. We are honored to be in the excellent company of *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein (#2), *The Rainbow Fish* by Marcus Pfister (#8) and other books that teach children important lessons in life.

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