

BUCKET FILL-OSOPHY 101™

Weekly words of wisdom to keep your bucket filled

Week of MARCH 15, 2009 • Volume 3, Issue 6

Making a Difference Another Bucket Filling School

We received this enthusiastic email from Larry B. Jenne at the close of 2008:

As the elementary principal at Lawrence Avenue Elementary in Potsdam, New York I am so pleased with the impact your book, *Have you Filled a Bucket Today?*, has had on our school.

As a first year principal, I wanted to be sure students understood what I expected regarding behavior in our school.

I read the book to every classroom, grades UPK-Grade 4 and had a ball! The students started going home and "filling buckets". Their parents are so appreciative of the concept. Thank you for a great concept and a wonderful book for children. I am so excited to be able to call Lawrence Avenue Elementary a "bucketfilling" school!

BUCKET CHUCKLES

Kids, ya gotta love 'em

Teacher: Barry, your essay about your dog is exactly the same as your brothers. Did you copy his?
Barry: Ma'am. It's the same dog.

Teacher: "Donald, how do you spell crocodile?"

Donald: "K-R-O-K-O-D-I-A-L"

Teacher: "No, that's wrong."

Donald: "Maybe it is, but you asked me how I spell it."

Teacher: "Name one important thing that we have today which we didn't have ten years ago."

Wendy: "Me!"

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Bucket Nuggets from Carol McCloud, The Bucket Lady

I love to brag

Even though the dictionary definition of bragging is a negative one—*arrogant, boasting*, I believe bragging can be a good thing when it's done with love.



The other day, I told my five-year-old friend, Owen, that his parents had been bragging about him.

"What does 'bragging' mean?" he asked. I said it means that they told me how proud of him they were for working so hard in school and in his wrestling club. I asked him if hearing that made him feel good too. "Yes," he beamed.

Contrary to what Webster says, I think it's good to brag, whether it's about your staff, your family, a child or someone who is doing a great job in this life. Positive bragging makes everyone feel better about themselves.

I'd like to lovingly brag about our Bucket Fillers Team. I'm so proud of each one and how they live their daily lives as bucket fillers. I don't have enough space here to list all the things these wonderful people do, but, I'd like to give a few examples of how great they are.

During the coldest months of the year, our county Salvation Army enlists the aid of many area churches to provide three meals a day and a warm place to sleep for the homeless. Every year, **Peggy Johncox** and her husband **Gary** volunteer to join the visitors throughout the evening and night.

Caryn Piercy and husband **Charles** have prepared and delivered a dinner meal for the past five years.

Restaurants do not allow the homeless to stay inside unless they are eating. When **Kathy Dunham** is on her way to lunch and notices someone standing outside, she will stop, offer to buy them lunch and then sit and eat with them.

Brooke Johncox is part of a group that cooks meals for new moms and their families.

Kathy Martin volunteers counseling services at her church and is active in groups that clean up rivers and encourage kids to get outdoors.

Jan Merz helped rebuild homes destroyed in the Mississippi River flood last summer. In frigid December, with her husband, **John**, she rang bells to raise funds for the Salvation Army Red Kettle Program.

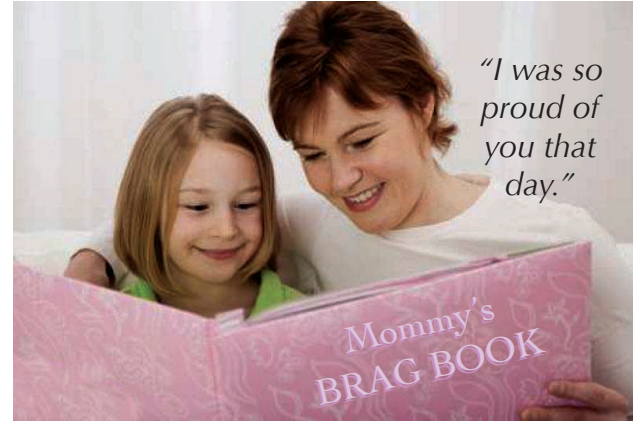
Karen Wells teaches vocational training to inmates at the county jail.

Donna DeWitt-Schell, a full-time middle-school teacher, personally delivers plates of homemade holiday cookies to the people she relies on throughout the year for things like auto service and office supplies.

Glenny Merillat provides non-profit organizations with graphic design.

These individuals know that when you give of your time, energy and love, your own bucket is filled. Just mentioning what my coworkers do for others fills my bucket.

Bragging, praising, appreciating — whatever you call it—two buckets will be filled when you sincerely call attention to the good deeds of others.



"I was so proud of you that day."

This week's winners

Congratulations!



Tiffany Brown, of Copper Hills Youth Center in West Jordan, Utah is our Bucket Filler of the Week. Congratulations, Tiffany! 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

"The best way to cheer yourself up is to try to cheer somebody else up."

— Mark Twain-1835-1910