

Thanksgiving Blessings

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From Carol McCloud, *The Bucket Lady*

Thanksgiving is a wonderful holiday; it's a time to be thankful for all the things that fill our buckets.

As I travel around our great nation and visit schools filled with dedicated educators and staff, I am awed by how blessed our Bucket Fillers team is. It is a privilege to support you with the bucketfilling concept.

Here are three e-mail messages we received this year that were too lengthy for the Making a Difference column.

They beautifully illustrate why we are so thankful for you, one of the many people who teach and practice bucket filling:

From Rebecca Hart, speech and language therapist, Armenia Elementary School in Armenia, New York:

Rebecca is a delightfully exuberant advocate of bucket filling.

She was so enthused after reading *Have You Filled a Bucket Today?* that she shared the book with the entire school staff, who unanimously agreed to adopt it for a school-wide program.

Books for each classroom were purchased along with the posters now hanging in the halls.

Rebecca also wrote letters to the parents of her students explaining bucket filling and bucket dipping.

She reports that many of the parents are now making bucket filling part of their children's home life.



From Hannah Teague, kindergarten teacher, Ida Elementary School, Ida, Michigan:

"We recently had a family lose a child and the father was laid off of work so we had all of the kindergartners bring in change. We called it "Pennies for Popsicles."

We talked about how helping the family would fill their buckets and for several weeks the kids brought in change from their piggy banks, did odd jobs around the house, etc.

We also had several families donate money even though they had lost jobs.

The kids put their change in metal buckets as they came into school.

In the end, we loaded up the buckets and took them to a bank that has a coin-counting machine.

We collected \$800 dollars and bought gift cards from local grocery stores.

We celebrated with a bucketfilling popsicle party."

From Genie Beck, K-5 literacy teacher, Windsor Elementary School, Arlington Heights, Illinois:

"A colleague shared the book, *Have You Filled A Bucket Today?* with me.

That very afternoon, my first-grade students entered my room bickering about who was first in line. I knew immediately that I needed to read the book to them.

When I finished my literacy lesson, I gathered my students together. I read the story to them then asked, "When you entered my room today were you being bucket fillers or bucket dippers?" My students sadly responded In unison, "Dippers!" I then asked, "What should we be?" Again in unison and with great enthusiasm they said, "Fillers!"

Since that day, if a student demonstrates inappropriate classroom behavior, I simply ask them if they are being a bucket filler or a bucket dipper and after responding, their behavior changes. Amazing!

Throughout the year, I have shared the book with my other students, even my fifth graders, and it has been powerful.

My students and I created a bulletin board for Open House entitled: *Be A Bucket Filler!* We have written notes to staff members in our building thanking them for their hard work and filled more buckets! I'm thankful for the message in this book."



We wish you a very

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Thank you for helping us spread the bucketfilling message and make a positive difference in the lives of children and adults.

The Bucket Fillers Team



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