



## Grateful for More Bucket Fillers!



As we continue spreading the message of bucket filling, we are so thankful for organizations that share our same mission—to promote kindness through bucket filling. One we are incredibly grateful for is Embracing Our Differences.

[Embracing Our Differences](#) (a/k/a/ EOD), based in Sarasota, Florida, is a not-for-profit organization that uses "the power of art and education to expand consciousness and open the heart to celebrate diversity of the human family," their website states. They accomplish this through a large art exhibition held annually and ongoing educational initiatives for teachers and students. One initiative, now in its fourth year, is EOD's "Bucket Fillers Reading Day."

The "Bucket Fillers Reading Day" began in 2018 when EOD partnered with Bucket Fillers, the Manatee and Sarasota County school districts, the Early Learning Coalition of Manatee County, and the Early Learning Coalition of Sarasota

County. The event is a "unique classroom reading opportunity promoting kindness through 'bucket filling' in early learning centers and pre-kindergarten through third-grade classrooms." Each year, volunteers visit the classrooms to read a selected bucketfilling book. At the end of the classroom reading, students are gifted their own bucketfilling book to keep.



EOD volunteers take a break from sorting books that are to be gifted to students

Even a pandemic couldn't stop EOD from holding their "Bucket Fillers Reading Day" in 2020. Instead, they could pivot and hold the event virtually with volunteers reading the books to students on camera. But, of course, the students still received a copy of their bucketfilling book after the virtual event.

This year, EOD added a virtual teacher workshop with Carol McCloud and co-author Karen Wells to help teachers learn more about filling their students' buckets and keeping their own buckets filled. More than 120 teachers attended this year's workshop.



Excited students receiving a copy of *Have You Filled a Bucket Today?*

For this year's "Bucket Fillers Reading Day," volunteers will read the bucketfilling books to 8,200 students in 454 classrooms, in 81 schools, in the Manatee

and Sarasota County school districts. In addition, each of the students participating will receive their own bucketfilling book.

As this event grows each year, we are amazed at the amount of time, effort, and support it receives. We have to thank Embracing Our Differences, the community partners, the educators, and the volunteers that put this program together, dedicated to creating a kinder and more inclusive world.

To creating more bucket fillers,

*Sandy*

Sandy Richardson, Office Coordinator



**Bucket Fillers**

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