



THE BUCKETS FOR HUNGER NEWSLETTER

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Wiping Away the Tears of Hunger

A ray of hope

No matter how desperate the situation is for us, we don't collapse. No matter what the odds against us are, we don't surrender. No matter how dark and dire the circumstances seem to be at the time, we fight on and upward. No matter how many times we get knocked down, we always pick ourselves up one more time. As long as there is even a solitary ray of hope, we find a way to continue.

Imagine how many times that your willingness to help provide a decent meal to a stranger has actually been the solitary ray of hope for that person. Consider all the lives that you have touched with your commitment to help us fight hunger. Picture the countless number of needy people that you have inspired with your anonymous generosity. Think about the number of undernourished men, women and children to whom you have been a genuine blessing. Think about the number of times that you have helped "to wipe away the tears of hunger" and replaced "them with a glimmer of hope..."

Now, consider this fact. Over the last nine years you have helped Buckets for Hunger, Incorporated, to distribute nearly \$600,000 in grants to food pantries. You have helped to purchase over 4,000,000 pounds for thousands of families in nine different states. You should feel absolutely great about yourself and the good you have done for others.

The year 2004 was the ninth for Buckets and it was filled with exciting events and door opening opportunities.

The Badgerland Bar and Grille in Madison was the site for our first event of the year. It was one of our patented sports memorabilia auctions and we held it on Sunday, February 24. This was a new strategy for us, since in the past we only had auctions inside the Kohl Center on the day of a game. We sold thirty items for just under \$4,000 that day.

Then on April 15, we put together a gourmet dinner and auction extravaganza that offered over sixty items for sale. It was held at Tuscany's Mediterranean Grill in Fitchburg, Wisconsin. Nearly two hundred attendees were treated

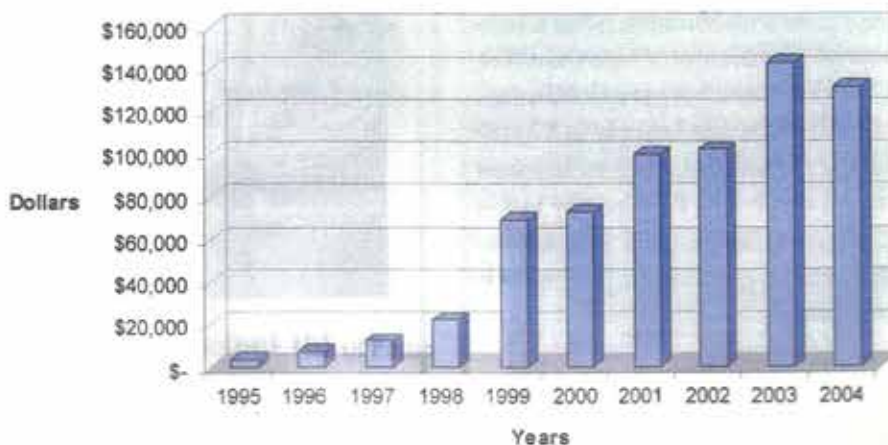
to scrumptious food and fine wine.

Three former Packers players were the guests of honor that night and regaled the audience with their storytelling skills. Jerry Kramer, John Brockington and Bob Jeter did a great job of sharing their tales of professional football with the crowd of Packer fans.



Jerry Kramer, Mrs. Dave Schuetz, Bob Jeter

Buckets for Hunger Net Revenue



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The evening was filled with numerous raffles and spirited bidding on the sports memorabilia. Item after item brought in larger and larger bids during the live auction. A satin Packers jacket signed by Jerry Kramer, John Brockington, Bob Jeter, Bart Starr, Paul Hornung and Jim Taylor brought in a bid of \$875 from David Schuetz. The top auction item of the night was a framed speed bag signed by Muhammad Ali for which John Aspinwal generously paid \$3,500. All told the evening resulted in nearly \$30,000 of proceeds.

Thanks to a request by Mark Tauscher, a member of our honorary board, Buckets was introduced to a group called Annual Charity Softball. The group is led by Janice Romine and her family. They raise money through a slow-pitch softball tournament held in DeForest on Father's Day weekend. As a result of their generous efforts, they sent Buckets a check for over \$5,000 in the name of Mark Tauscher to help fight hunger.

Early in July, Buckets received a phone call from the GET R.E.A.L. organization out of Chicago. They wanted to run a fund-raising event and split the proceeds with Buckets. After a substantial commitment of time and effort, Cheryl Arts and her group held a successful event that brought in \$7,000 for our organization. Buckets then sent the proceeds to a food pantry in the Chicago suburbs. GET R.E.A.L. is dedicated to growing the program for next year.

Then in early August, Buckets started work on the third annual Michael Finley's Buckets for Hunger Basketball Shooting Contest throughout the state. Interestingly, our number of sites across Wisconsin dropped, yet we took in \$4,000 more in sponsorship money compared to last year.

Mike Williams, Carol Hoppenrath and their crew at Watertown, took in just short of \$5,000 in participant fees and sponsorships. They have developed an excellent program in that community. Dan Subach and Scott Kelbel worked with local businesses in Oregon to raise funds for that food pantry. Oregon Community Bank and Trust along with Madison Prehung Doors, Incorporated, each contributed \$1,000 to the cause. All told, Oregon raised \$3,700 from this event. In Portage, Chuck Wartner and his Rotary group jumped from \$170 raised in 2003 to \$1,300 in 2004.



John Brockington and Tom Weber

The state final for the contest was held in Waunakee High School on November 7. A total of ninety participants showed up to demonstrate their basketball shooting prowess. Once again, everyone involved commented that the event is a great way to have fun, enjoy sports and provide money for those in need.

The major fund-raising event in 2004 was, once again, *Michael Finley's Buckets for Hunger Thanksgiving Challenge* in Dallas, Texas. Due in large part to Dawn Turner and Tiffany Farha, of the Dallas Mavericks organization, it was another huge success.

As he has done for all four years of the event, Michael matched all of the money donated by the fans. Those fans donated at the game the night of November 25 and through the North Texas Food Bank website for the two weeks prior to the game. In addition, he inspired his teammates Dirk Nowitzki, Eric Dampier, Jason Terry and Jerry Stackhouse to match the money donated by the Mavs fans. All five of them wrote out checks for \$10,000 each plus Dave and Buster's, Incorporated, joined them with another \$10,000 check. The total proceeds for the night amounted to \$80,000 for those needy and hungry folks in the Dallas area. Over four years, Buckets, Michael Finley, his friends and fans, the North Texas Food Bank, and the Dallas Mavericks organization have worked together to provide just short of a quarter of a million dollars in donations for the hungry people in that area.

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Back - Jerry Stackhouse, Erick Dampier, Michael Finley, Jason Terry, Dirk Nowitzke
Front - Christina McCarty, Unkown, Dawn Turner, Jan Pruitt, Aaron Horton, Wayne Bisek

After all is said and done, the year 2004 saw Buckets and its athletes, volunteers and its corporate donors bring in over \$164,000 in total funds (\$114,000) and pledges (\$50,000) in three different states. After all expenses were paid Buckets paid out \$92,000 from the collected donations and will be writing checks for the entire \$50,000 in pledges as soon as they are received. From a small beginning of \$3,000 in proceeds our first year to over \$100,000 in proceeds in each of the last three years is pretty impressive. That should make each and every one of you feel great about your role in this genuine team effort. Alliant Energy's seed money for the first four years of Buckets' incorporation has truly paid off in establishing Buckets as a viable entity in the fight against hunger.

Together, all of you and Buckets have provided enough rays of hope to light up several small cities and put a glimmer in the eyes of thousands of hungry people.

Buckets for Hunger Officers

President

Wayne D. Bisek

Vice President

Tony Crook

Secretary

Roe Parker

Honorary Board Members

John Brockington
NFL ROY 1971
NFL Player - Retired

Michael Finley
NBA Player - Two time All-star

Ron Dayne
NFL Player, 1999 Heisman Winner

Jerry Kramer
NFL Player, Retired - Five time All-pro

Darrell Bevell
NFL Assistant Coach

Bo Ryan
Head Coach - UW Madison Men's Basketball

Lisa Stone
Head Coach - UW Madison Women's Basketball

Mark Tauscher
NFL Player

Jim Taylor
NFL Player, Retired - NFL Hall of Fame

Honorary Board Members

Fuzzy Thurston
NFL Player, Retired - State of Wisconsin Sports Hall of Fame

Corporate Friends

Partners (Minimum donations of \$10,000 in-kind and/or cash)

ESPN Radio/WIBA Radio
UPN 14

Sponsors (Minimum donations of \$5,000 in-kind and/or cash)

Alliant Energy
MassMutual Financial Group/Strategic Wealth Management
Fan 4 Ever

Friends (Minimum donations of \$1,000 in-kind and/or cash)

Madison Pre Hung Doors
Mid Central Electric
NBA
Oregon Community Bank & Trust

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