

It's a Wonderful Life and *A Christmas Carol* are classic movies about the holiday season. They revolve around the theme that we all touch other people's lives in so many ways. Whether we know it or not, every little or large thing that we do affects others. In the Charles Dickens classic novel, *A Christmas Carol*, Ebenezer Scrooge has to be visited by ghosts in order to finally realize the true costs of his obsession to accumulate wealth.

Eventually, he sees the greater value in sharing his fortune with those truly in need. He learns, though, the joy in also sharing his time with his family. George Bailey has to be driven to the brink of suicide in *It's A Wonderful Life* before he understands that he is the richest man in Bedford Falls. It takes an out-of-body experience with Clarence, Angel Second Class, to show him how he has touched so many lives in so many positive ways.



In a small way, Buckets for Hunger has given each of you the opportunity to see how you can influence your friends, family and associates in a positive way. I can think of dozens of situations where you all have spread the joy of giving and sharing.

For example, Ron and Deborah Krantz persuade, cajole and convince thirty or more people to attend the Trivia Challenge to Fight Hunger. Scott and Misty Lewis and their son, Cameron, decide to invite friends to their home for a fund-raising event for Buckets and over seventy people arrive. Jeff Bartz mentions Buckets for Hunger to his associates at Neider and Boucher, S.C. and they respond by raising nearly \$8,000 for Buckets at a golf outing. Packers legend, Jerry Kramer, introduces Buckets to Packers legend, Dave Robinson, and Dave becomes another staunch and completely dedicated supporter of the program. For four straight years, Michael Finley inspires his teammates, Mark Cuban and his fans to donate a total of over \$250,000 to the North Texas Food Bank by working with Buckets for Hunger in Dallas. For five years, Buckets for Hunger helps a dozen or so food pantries in western Wisconsin with the Food Pantry Challenge program. Because of our letter offering to match donations, those pantries raise about \$500,000 extra to fight hunger. Then, three years ago, the folks in that area take over the program and find corporations to provide the seed money for that challenge. It is my understanding that it is still thriving. Our good friend, Fritz Kruger, discovers that Community Action Coalition of South Central Wisconsin (located in Madison and serving 33 food pantries in the area) needs to replace a truck and a van. He first takes it upon himself to donate a sizable sum. Then he challenges his friends to raise the other needed money by donating to Buckets for that particular effort.

I could go on for a such great stories of Buckets, but let one. Kathy Lone Rock area, three years ago pantry challenge a friend were the costs of a food many hungry area. Those first raised about a donations and two checks that \$8,000 to help there. This year, because she was so very she told about the matching pump at the time), wrote her up raising over \$2,000 in sent a check for over \$7000. I apologize for any and all of include. I simply don't have individually. Suffice to say, each and every story that I great about the impact that to have on the battle against

Buckets' efforts to wipe away replace them with a glimmer needy. It started out with a Kohl Center during the men's hockey game. The net in excess of \$7,000. In joined us at the home of a Packers game with about event brought in over \$6,000 due to their efforts and that of their son, Cameron (who organized and ran the event) and his friends.



long time with of the ripple effect me end with this Rossing, from the contacted me about the food program. She and covering a lot of pantry to help the children in their two years, she total of \$600 in Buckets sent her totaled about fight hunger out she called me

excited. The first person that program (she was at a gas a check for \$1,000. She ended donations this year and Buckets

you whose stories I did not space to acknowledge each that I am deeply touched by hear. All of you should feel you have and that you continue hunger. Thank you.

This was another great year for the tears of hunger and to of hope in the eyes of the successful silent auction at the Minnesota versus Wisconsin proceeds for the evening were September, Dave Robinson Scott and Misty Lewis to watch seventy of their friends. The

Our Trivia Challenge to received again as nearly for the gala. Thanks to bidding \$6,000 on the main night was a big success. Deborah Krantz purchased players. The entire brought in almost \$40,000 the Food Pantry Challenge different pantries raising donations through our match their donations.

As a result of all of these donations of about \$29,000 Buckets paid out just over food pantries and agencies you should all feel fantastic about helping this cause so effectively. A great many hungry people have been served by your generosity and kindness.



Fight Hunger was well forty teams showed up Scott and Misty live auction item the Once again, Ron and and filled six tables of evening's events in net proceeds. Then program resulted in six about \$31,000 in extra letter offering to

efforts and individual throughout the year, \$106,000 in grants to during 2016. Again,



As always, I want to acknowledge the members of our board of directors for all of their support and efforts in keeping this program alive and functioning. My sincere thanks to anyone and everyone who volunteered throughout the year, attended the events, bid on auction items, donated items or served us in any way. Lastly, a huge thank you to my three kids for always being with me in this effort and to my wife, Vickie Carroll, for being my right hand in all of this forever . None of our now nearly twenty-two year history of success happens without all of you. May God bless you and be with you always.

