



January 2018

## A Child's Eyes

A child's eyes see the whole world so differently. A child's eyes light up a room full of otherwise uninterested adults. A child's eyes portray the present and the future if we look deeply enough.

A child's eyes can quickly change from sadness and despair for now and for the years to come. The fears of frustration from lack of opportunities and the tears of hunger can suddenly disappear. The eyes of the needy children can be filled with the glimmer of hope with one simple act of kindness from even a total stranger.

On behalf of Buckets for Hunger, Incorporated and our Board of Directors, I thank you once again from the very depths of my soul for your repeated kindness and generosity in our battle to wipe away the tears of hunger and to replace them with a glimmer of hope in the eyes of the needy. You should feel absolutely wonderful about another year of accomplishing that simple dream. It is true that we have not eliminated hunger in Wisconsin or even in our local communities. But that was never our goal. We had a more realistic approach. Each year, we do the very best that we can to help as many people as we can to eat better and to eat more frequently. With your support, Buckets has done that again for 2017.

This year on Christmas Day, my twenty-eight-month-old granddaughter, Ivy Jane, reminded me so wonderfully of the world's view through a child's eyes. As our family members (about fourteen adults of various ages and one ten year old boy) gathered around the living room, Ivy handed out tiny jingle bells to one and all. Her eyes were filled with excitement as she anticipated the first words to that age-old tune "Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way..." She joined in immediately and started to jump up and down. Even the normally quiet members of the group at least shook the bells and mouthed the words. Everyone's spirits were lifted by Ivy's sheer joy and exuberance for this simple pleasure.



So it is in the homes of the less fortunate at Christmas time. Small gestures provide large returns. A gift of a turkey and some grocery items can inspire thoughts of hope, possibilities and even love. I know because I was that young boy so many years ago when Mr. Kostner (the grocer) delivered his bags of Christmas dinner goodies to my humble home. Over fifty years have passed since that Christmas Eve kindness, yet I remember it still.

Each of you can rest assured that you have helped to touch the lives of a great many men, women and children again this last year. You have been the backbone of this cause through Buckets for over twenty-two years now. That, in and of itself, is an absolute miracle for a core group of volunteers and a cast of hundreds of donors, attendees, celebrities, corporations and others. Together with all of you, Buckets has now paid out over \$2,240,000 to food pantries and food agencies and we have never had any paid staff at all.



The Trivia Challenge to Fight Hunger was another huge success thanks to a great many people. Ron and Debra Krantz brought in six tables of competitors again this year. The evening was filled with laughter and excitement from the many videos presented. I think everyone now knows the preamble to the Constitution thanks to Barney Fife and Andy Taylor. By now everyone should know to expect a question about Loreena Bobbit each year. The total for the night was a net profit of about \$40,000! Not bad for one evening of laughs.

The night was filled with celebrities, also, as various members of our honorary board of directors were in attendance. John Brockington, Dave Robinson and Tracy Webster all were able to attend this year. Each of them regaled the audience with their own stories about Buckets' role in their lives. Rod Rippley, a former Badger basketball player, was present also. He actually participated in the first ever Buckets celebrity basketball game twenty-two years ago along with Tracy Webster.

Thanks, again, to all of the volunteers, attendees, sponsors, donors, celebrities and bidders who made the evening so successful.

The Food Pantry Challenge involved nine food agencies this year. The grand total of money brought in from our challenge letter amounted to \$43,665. Buckets then sent checks that totaled \$85,665 to those participants. It is great to witness these food agencies learning "how to fish" for more donations from their benefactors by using our system.

Earlier in the year, Buckets paid out another \$30,000 to help Wisconsin Community Action Coalition purchase a van for distributing and transporting food in the Madison and Dane County area. This donation was largely due to our good friend, Fritz Kruger and his pals donating and Buckets matching that set of donations equally.



Tracy Webster, Dave Robinson, Wayne Bisek, John Brockington, Rod Rippley

All told, Buckets provided over \$97,000 in grants to wipe away the tears of hunger in 2017. All of that is the result of the generosity of each one of you reading this letter.

WOW! Nice work one and all.

Once, again, I say thank you to the members of the Board of Directors for hanging with me all of these years. I say a special thanks to Dave, John and Tracy for changing your plans to come to our event this year. Lastly, another thank you to my right-hand partner in all of this since day one-my wife Vickie Carroll. Her guidance and assistance is the lifeblood of the organization.

Happy New Year Everyone  
May God be with you always.

Wayne Bisek, President  
Buckets for Hunger, Incorporated





In early 2017 Buckets for Hunger purchased a new van for Community Action Coalition.



Max McGee, Bart Starr, Fuzzy Thurston, Jerry Kramer, Paul Hornung