

Update!



Buckets
for Hunger, Inc.

THE BUCKETS FOR HUNGER NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 1 NUMBER 2

JANUARY 2004

Wiping Away the Tears of Hunger

In my favorite classic Christmas movie, "It's a Wonderful Life", a young George Bailey tells his father that he does not want to stay in Bedford Falls. He explains that he wants "to do something really important". George's extremely wise father responds by stating that he believes that "in our own small way, we ARE doing something really important."

That is exactly how each of you should feel about yourselves and about the goals that we have, together, accomplished with Buckets for Hunger, Incorporated. I do not pretend to think for a moment that the auctions, dinners, basketball contests and fund-raisers that we operate are anything worthy of "hero" status. We do not risk our lives. We do not spend months or years away from our families. We do not venture into uncharted territories. We do not donate our kidneys. We simply work together to find enjoyable and effective

methods for raising money to fight hunger. Yet, in our own simple way, we really are doing something quite important. Together, we have helped raise enough money to purchase nearly 3,000,000 pounds of food for the needy! We have touched the lives of thousands and thousands of families in nine different states. We have genuinely helped to "wipe away the tears of hunger, and to replace them with a glimmer of hope in the eyes" of those families and individuals.

If you really want to understand the value of our efforts, then I will present you with this simple experiment. Spend one meal at a soup kitchen, or one afternoon at a food pantry. Come face-to-face with someone walking a different path in life. View for yourself the look of a family that absolutely appreciates every morsel of food in front of them. Witness with your own eyes the newfound hope that you have just handed to an out-of-work mother or father. Allow a hungry child the simple pleasure of meeting someone who truly cares about her. I guarantee that you will experience a wonderful sense of joy that comes from a random act of kindness.

We can now all look back on this year with a great sense of accomplishment. Back on February 13, 2003, Buckets held its biggest ever dinner and auction. We sold out all 175 tickets for the wonderful meal and entertainment for the evening at Maple

Bluff Country Club's beautiful facilities. In addition, an auction of over fifty items brought in bids from \$200 to over \$2,100. Mark Tauscher, Brooks Bollinger, Ron Dayne, Casey FitzRandolph and Tamara Moore were the sports celebrities that attended the soiree. Alliant Energy, Inc., served as the host for the evening, and members of its staff helped in providing the planning, the literature and the work staff for the gathering.



Casey FitzRandolph, Wayne Bisek, Ron Dayne, Mark Tauscher, Tamara Moore, Brooks Bollinger

The grand total for the efforts of the program came to over \$37,000 of proceeds to fight hunger in Wisconsin.

Then the buckets crew and all of its associates around the State of Wisconsin began to work on the second annual "Michael Finley's Buckets for Hunger Basketball Shooting Contest". The event grew from thirteen sites and one hundred ninety-two participants in 2002 to twenty-three sites and over four hundred contestants in 2003. The contests were held as far north as Pulaski, east to Fond du Lac, west to Eau Claire and south to Argyle. The Watertown contingent, led

Year	Dollars Raised
1995	\$3,500
1996	\$7,000
1997	\$12,000
1998	\$22,000
1999	\$52,000
2000	\$73,000
2001	\$93,000
2002	\$102,000
2003	\$143,000

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by the American Express Financial Advisors group of Mike Williams and company, brought in nearly \$3,000 in donations and participant fees to lead the state in revenue. In McFarland, the girls' basketball program coaches and players helped to bring in fifty participants to lead the state in that category.



Men's Bracket Winners Basketball Shooting Contest

Once again, American Express Financial Advisors came through with flying colors for this event. AEFA contributed \$15,000 to the program and sixteen of the twenty-three sites were run by volunteers led by AEFA financial advisors. In fact, Wendy Folkers of the Eau Claire office of AEFA, ran four sites by herself. For the second year, Michael Finley allowed Buckets to use his name to promote the event. The grand total for the second annual event was over \$17,000 of net proceeds to fight hunger throughout the State of Wisconsin.

The third major event of the year took place in Dallas, Texas, on November 25, 2003. The third annual "Michael Finley's Buckets for Hunger Thanksgiving Challenge" took place at the American Airlines Center at a Dallas Mavericks NBA game against the Chicago Bulls. Michael convinced several of his teammates, Antoine Walker and Antawn Jamison, to match his commitment of \$10,000 for the evening. The fans of Michael, the

Mavericks and Buckets for Hunger donated over \$79,000 to the event. American Express Financial Advisors was the lone corporate sponsor of this event, with a \$10,000 donation to the cause.

In an absolutely perfect display of cooperation, collaboration and commitment, the Dallas Mavericks organization (led by owner Mark Cuban and by Dawn Holgate, Director of Corporate Communications/Community Relations), the North Texas Food Pantry (led by Executive Director Jan Pruitt and Amy Fauss, Events Manager) and Buckets volunteers worked together to set a one-night fundraising record for both Buckets and for the North Texas Food Bank. A grand total of \$109,649.70 was donated or pledged that night.



*Back - Antawn Jamison, Antoine Walker, Michael Finley
Front - Wayne Bosch, Dawn Holgate, Jan Pruitt*

As of December 31, Buckets for Hunger, Inc., had established a new annual record of dollars raised and grants distributed. Thanks to your wonderful generosity, Buckets has set a new record each and every year of our existence. This year alone, Buckets has given out over \$148,000 grants to food pantries in seven different states. That brings our grand total of grants distributed to just over \$457,000. In other words, Buckets and all of you have helped to purchase over 3,000,000 pounds of food for the needy. Once again, American Express Financial

Advisors led the way in cash donations for corporate sponsors by making major contributions to the Wisconsin and Texas programs. Alliant Energy, Inc., came through with a major cash contribution and with a major in-kind commitment for all of our literature and sales pieces. Clear Channel Communications, once again, played a major role as our leading media sponsor. Both ESPN radio 1070AM Madison and WIBA FM 101.5 promoted all Buckets events throughout the year. Charter Communications provided fantastic coverage all across the State of Wisconsin for our television needs concerning the "Michael Finley's Buckets for Hunger Basketball Shooting Contest". And, as always, Brian Anderson, owner of Deck the Walls at East Towne in Madison, provided the framing and matting of over seventy-five pictures and other memorabilia for our auction items.

A special thank you goes out to all of those athletes, agents and teams who continue to share of their time, talent and treasures, so that we, Buckets, can help to "wipe away the tears of hunger". Without their concern and care, we would not exist or succeed. And, a very special thank you goes out to Michael Finley, his agent, Henry Thomas, and his teammates, Antawn Jamison and Antoine Walker, Mark Cuban and the Dallas Mavericks fans for their roles in establishing the unbelievable single event record of \$109,000 on November 25 in Dallas.

Thank you all for helping to touch so many lives in a small, but very important way.

May God be with you always.

THE BUCKETS FOR HUNGER THANK YOU'S

I would like to take this space to give special thanks to all those board members and volunteers that have given so much of your time and energy to make this another successful year. Without your efforts, none of this would have been possible.

Buckets for Hunger, Inc.

President
Wayne D. Bisek
Buckets for Hunger, Inc.

Honorary Board Members

Michael Bennet
NFL Player - 2002 ProBowl

Ron Dayne
NFL Player - 1999 Heisman Trophy Winner

Michael Finley
NBA Player - Two time All-star

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

Tamara Moore
WNBA Player

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

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

Jerry Wunsch
NFL Player

Corporate Partners

Alliant Energy
American Express Financial Advisors, Inc.
Charter Communications
Madison's ESPN Radio 1070 AM

Corporate Sponsors

Deck the Walls - Madison



Front - Don Schultz, Mike Williams, Bonnie Lynde
2nd - Wayne Bisek, Michael Finley, Antoine Walker, Antawn Jamison, Paul Lynde
Last - Tim Scott