



Everyone's life touches so many other lives that when you are gone a big hole is left.

Clarence, the star-crossed angel-to-be delivers a similar line of dialogue to George Bailey near the end of the Christmas classic, *It's a Wonderful Life*.

It dramatically drives home the entire point of the tear-jerking film. All the while that we are traveling through our lives, we are having an impact on the men, women and children that surround us. As we affect them, they, in turn, affect the other people who exist in their circles. And so it goes on and on and on. Every one of us is spreading our attitudes and our efforts to countless numbers of people that we may or may not ever meet face-to-face.



Mike Eaves, Adam Burish, Bruce Nevinsner, Nikki Burish

In 2007, each and every one of you reading this particular newsletter has proven that you have a decent amount of the "George Bailey" attitude in yourselves. I am sure that you all know the basic story of George, but I will remind you a little about who he was.

George is the kind of person who moves slowly ahead in life with his profession and with his family. He does all that he can to reach out to others to assist them in their efforts to move ahead in their own lives. He almost instinctively puts the needs of others ahead of his own needs and interests in both large

and small ways. George Bailey always optimistically sees that good things will happen when he lends a hand to others.

Because of your unselfish attitudes and efforts, Buckets for Hunger, Incorporated, has just ended another wonderfully successful year of raising money to fight hunger.

After long months of planning and strategizing, our annual dinner and auction took place on June 8 at the Monona Terrace Convention Center. Our "Wisconsin's Best" theme brought out some of the biggest sports names in the history of our great state. Fresh off of matching collegiate national championship-winning seasons with the UW men's and women's hockey teams respectively, Adam and Nikki Burish helped us all to witness that sports can bring out the best in families when done right. Clyde Gaines, the former Badger basketball star, was a great example of an athlete who has gone on to a successful career. University of Wisconsin head coaches, Mike Eaves of the men's hockey program and Bret Bielema of the football team, each demonstrated that they are committed not only to winning seasons, but to developing players of good character. Terrell Fletcher, a former Badger great running back, came back to tell us about his NFL career and his new life as a minister.

Al Toon, the legendary former Badger wide receiver and NFL great, showed everyone in the room that quiet dignity and sincere humility are never out of fashion. Former UW athletic director, Badger football All-American and NFL star Pat Richter showed why he is, and will always be, one of Madison's all-time favorite sons with the quality of his personality.



Jerry Kramer, A.J. Biesch, Cole Biesch

Former Green Bay Packers great, Jerry Kramer, did what he always does for our organization. He reminds us that the glory and greatness of the Lombardi Packers did not start nor stop on a football field. For ten years, Jerry has worked side by side with our group to tirelessly do whatever he can to "...wipe away the tears of hunger..."

Lastly, the leading scorer in the history of the NBA and arguably the greatest basketball player of all-time and all levels of competition, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar was the keynote speaker. He was genuinely articulate, intelligent, humorous and absolutely honest with his presentation.



Jon McGlocklin, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

Kareem did anything and everything that we asked of him in order to make the night successful. He was a genuine pleasure the entire evening.

Once again, Jack Kapinus of Strategic

Board Members

Brian Anderson, Vickie Carroll, Jack Kapinus, Bonnie Lynde, Paul Lynde, Pat McMahan, Tim Scott, Mike Williams, Kim Zuhlke

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Wealth Management Group, and Kim Zuhlke, of Alliant Energy, Incorporated, played major roles as corporate sponsors of the event. As usual, they sold tickets by the tables and inspired people to come to the event and to spend money for the cause.

Our top bidder of the night was Bruce Neviasser of Continuum Investment Partners as he helped to purchase over 126,000 pounds of food with his generous bidding. Scott Lewis, of Cameron Management, Inc., also made his benevolence known through his willingness to help buy almost 63,000 pounds of food for hungry people with his bids.

All told, Buckets had net proceeds of nearly \$54,000 for the one night.

memorabilia from the two Packers greats. This event brought in a tidy sum of \$10,000 of net proceeds.

Also in early October, Buckets kicked off its fourth annual "Food Pantry Challenge". Friends, associates and acquaintances assisted us to raise dollars for their local food pantries. As is our tradition, we offered to match dollar for dollar all monies raised by those people. One place did our old basketball-shooting contest, while another held a Christmas concert to raise money.

Still others ran craft fairs and bake sales. Wendy Folkers of the Eau Claire area worked with fifteen different food pantries to raise a total of approximately \$28,000 through a simple letter mailing campaign. Sun Prairie's

and Madison Pre-hung Doors, Incorporated, all of Oregon, Wisconsin. In total, the event brought in over \$57,000 in local contributions for food pantries in twenty-three communities in Wisconsin. Buckets then matched that for a total of \$114,000 in checks to those sites.

In addition to all of this great news, there were two other very pleasant windfalls. Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance presented Buckets for Hunger Incorporated, with a check for \$10,000 through its Community Service Award. Buckets also received an award for \$2,500 from Exxon Mobil Corporation as a result of a request from Michael Roche of Oregon, Wisconsin. Alliant Energy also contributed another \$3,100 from the "Cows on Parade" auction.

Once again, Brian Anderson, owner of www.officialbrettfavre.com in Sun Prairie, brought tremendous added value to all of our auction items through his generous gift of professional matting and framing of all photos and his willingness to help us gather sports autographs for auction.

As is the case with any successful organization, we are only as good as our volunteers. Whether they are members of our Board of Directors, our athletes/celebrities, the local chairpersons or the attendees/bidders of our events, everyone plays a vital role in our effectiveness. We would be nothing without the generosity of time, talent and treasure that we receive from all of you.

At this time, I would like to announce the changing of the guard on our Board of Directors. Roe Parker, Secretary of the Board, has resigned after eight years of service for personal reasons. On behalf of the other Board members, I sincerely thank Roe for all of his generosity of time and talent throughout the years. We are a better organization



Wayne Blsek (green shirt), Vickie Carroll (Lavender top), Wendy Folkers-Lead Coordinator (bottom left corner) appear with other coordinators for the Eau Claire Area

On October 2, Jerry Kramer and Fuzzy Thurston came to Valentine's in Oregon, Wisconsin, to join with fans to watch Monday Night Football as the Packers took on the Philadelphia Eagles. Approximately one hundred attendees took part in an auction, bought raffle tickets and purchased autographs and

Mark Thompson brought in \$10,000 in donations for their food pantry and Karl Wunderlich, from the Neenah area, worked with his church to bring in nearly \$8,000 of contributions. The top individual corporate donors for the program included Oregon Community Bank and Trust, Mid-Central Electric

Officers

Wayne Bisek - President Bruce Neviasser - Vice President Tony Crook - Treasurer Don Schultz - Secretary

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because of his efforts. Trent Jackson also left the board after several years of service due to a job change.

In addition, I would like to welcome a new member to our Board of Directors, Bruce Neviasser of Continuum Investment Partners. His company has decided to join Strategic Wealth Management Group and Alliant Energy, Incorporated, as a corporate sponsor. He is now our Vice-President.

In closing, I would remind you all that you have touched the lives of thousands of hungry men, women and children over the years. You have helped us to provide over 5,700,000 pounds of food through the \$820,000 in grants we have sent to food pantries. You have truly

helped us to "...wipe away the tears of hunger and to replace them with a glimmer of hope in the eyes of the needy."

There appears to be more than a little George Bailey in all of you.

I extend a sincere thank you to all of you.

May God be with you always.

President

Wayne D. Bisek
Buckets for Hunger, Inc.

Honorary Board Members

Darrell Bevell
NFL Assistant Coach

Jon Brockington
NFL Player, Retired - 1971 ROY

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

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 - Three times All-Pro

