



**Buckets
for Hunger, Inc.**

1-888-351-9154 www.bucketsforhunger.com

10,000,000 reasons to be proud and to be humble

In 1995, a few local friends and I started Buckets for Hunger, Incorporated. We were joined by our original honorary board of directors members, former Green Bay Packers Jerry Kramer, Jim Taylor, John Brockington and former Badgers basketball legend, Michael Finley. Alliant Energy, Incorporated, stepped up as our first corporate sponsor back then and is still here with us.

Now, in our sixteenth year, we reached another great milestone. Our organization has sent out over \$1,500,000 in grants to food pantries in twelve different states. That equates to over 10,000,000 pounds of food that we helped purchase for thousands and thousands of hungry men, women and children. We stayed together and survived through difficult economic times. We never lost sight of our one goal- to provide food for those in need.

It is with great humility and sincere appreciation that I say thanks to all of you who have helped us in any way at all. None of this would have been possible without the athletes, the volunteers, the auction bidders and buyers, ticket purchasers and donors of cash and products. You should all smile widely because of your role in this singular achievement.

Bucky's Badgers Help Blast Hunger On May 13, "Badger Glory Days" was the theme of our annual dinner and auction. Held at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison, it was a big success. Heisman trophy winner, Ron Dayne, joined forces with Badger football legends including Dale Hackbart (Rose Bowl quarterback and NFL veteran), Rufus "The Roadrunner" Ferguson (1970s Badger running back star), Dennis Lick (All-American guard and NFL veteran), Al Toon (Badger star receiver and NFL Pro-bowler), Bill Marek (Badger running back star of the 70s), Anthony Davis (another Badger running back star) and Chris Chambers (Rose Bowl receiver and NFL veteran) to bring in over \$32,000 in proceeds to help fight hunger in Wisconsin.

Ironically, the biggest donor of the night was none other than Chris Chambers as he purchased several items for over \$5,700. His main purchase was a beautifully framed and matted large photo of Camp Randall filled to the brim with fans and signed by 28 former Badger football players and coaches. The photo was donated by Buckets' own corporate photographer, Dave Stluka.



More Badgers join the fun More great news for the year involved three other former Badger legends deciding to join our honorary board of directors. Tracy Webster, was an all Big Ten point guard in the nineties. He played alongside another former Badger star basketball player, Michael Finley, who is also on our honorary board of directors since our start in 1995. Tracy is currently an assistant men's basketball coach at the University of Nebraska. He and Michael are planning to do an annual silent auction event with Buckets at the Kohl Center during a men's basketball game. Buckets and the "dynamic duo" of 1995 Badger men's basketball are in the planning stages of that event as we speak.

Chris Chambers was so impressed by our organization when he attended our dinner/auction as a special guest, he decided to join our honorary board of directors. Chris was an All Big Ten receiver for the Badgers and was a Pro Bowl player in 2005. He led the Dolphins in receiving yards for four straight years. He will be a great addition to our roster.

Another new member of our honorary board is not just a former Badger star who was a two time All-American hockey player for the UW. He is also the current National Championship winning coach of the Badger men's hockey team, Mike Eaves. He has already been very supportive and involved in our annual "Adam Burish's Fight against Hunger" silent auction at the Kohl Center during a men's hockey game.



Dayne, Hackbart, Chambers, Lick, Davis, Ferguson and Toon with Chris' two framed auction buys

Our Honorary Board of Directors I would be remiss if I did not mention our other former Badger greats who are on our honorary Board of Directors. The list includes Joe Thomas, former Outland Trophy winner and current four time All-Pro NFL lineman for the Cleveland Browns. Mark Tauscher, former Rose Bowl tackle and current Green Bay Packers player, has been on our honorary board for over ten years. Adam Burish, former national championship captain for the men's hockey program and current Dallas Stars player, has been with us since 2006. Ron Dayne, former Heisman trophy winner joined our honorary board in 2000. Badger men's basketball coach Bo Ryan has been on the honorary board since 2003. Former Packers greats John Brockington, Jerry Kramer, Fuzzy Thurston, Antonio Freeman and Jim Taylor are the remaining members of that elite group of honorary board members.



Coach Mark Johnson and Adam Barnes at Burish's Fight Against Hunger

Adam Burish Fights Against Hunger This year's "Adam Burish's Fight Against Hunger" happened on November 27 and it included over thirty sports memorabilia items. A long list of former Badger hockey greats sent in autographed items to help us raise money, again. Jake Dowell and Jack Skille (now playing with the Chicago Blackhawks) kicked in jerseys and tickets to a Chicago Blackhawks game. Dany Heatley and Joe Pavelski (now playing for the San Jose Sharks) sent us sticks and a beautiful photo of themselves in their respective Olympic uniforms (for Canada and the U.S.) for the auction. Our contact with them is another former Badger hockey player (from the late sixties), Wayne Thomas, who is an assistant general manager with the Sharks. Brad Winchester of the St. Louis Blues sent us a stick. Adam, of course, sent multiple items and tickets to a Dallas Stars game and convinced his buddies to help us out. Brian Rafalski of the Detroit Red Wings helped with a puck and a photo while Blake Geoffrion was very generous with a jersey and a special Milwaukee Admirals package deal. Coach Eaves helped with Badger items and with a jersey donated by his son, Patrick, who plays for the Detroit Red Wings. Badger All-American and three-time national championship winning coach, Mark Johnson, donated multiple signatures and was available for photos with the high bidders. Even a former Minnesota Gopher (Verona's own hockey great), Phil Kessel donated a jersey to the cause. The grand total of proceeds for the evening came to nearly \$12,000.

Annual Food Pantry Challenge Once again, the Buckets for Hunger Food Pantry Challenge was our biggest success. Our letter that invites donors to send a check to Buckets for their local pantry in order to get our matching donation raised over \$125,000 at over twenty pantries throughout Wisconsin. Unfortunately, Buckets was unable to match those donations to the full extent of past efforts. We were only able to do thirty-five cents on the dollar due to the incredible response. Still, we sent out over \$41,000 in matching funds to those pantries. Together with the letter and the matching funds, Buckets sent checks out for over \$165,000.

Corporate sponsors/friends This year, Alliant Energy, Incorporated, was one of our major sponsors. They have been a valued partner with Buckets since 1995, our first year. Bill Harvey and his company are a vital part of our winning team. Dr. John Rogerson and Dr. Don Wackwitz continued for the second consecutive year as our other major sponsor through the support of their clinic in Madison. Each corporate sponsor donates \$5,000 toward the dinner/auction event that we hold annually. The Friends of Meriter organization became a corporate friend this year with their donation level at \$1,000. The Big 1070am radio continued as our major media partner by contributing valuable radio time to promote our various events.

THANKS AGAIN On behalf of Buckets and our Board of Directors, I send out a sincere thank you to all of you who volunteered for us, bid on our sports items and attended events and purchased tickets for our programs. I thank each and every athlete for your commitment to our cause. Thanks to our corporate sponsors and friends and our media partners. None of our success would have happened without each of you and the concern that you have for the issue of hunger in America.

Watch for our family event being planned with the Madison Mallards at Warner Park this summer. Also, watch for our upcoming dinner/auction event in which we hope to present "An Evening with Bart Starr".

May God be with you always.

Wayne D. Bisek



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& Don L. Wackwitz, M.D.
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