

THANKS AGAIN! On behalf of Buckets and our Board of Directors, I sent out a sincere thank you to all of you who volunteered for us, bid on our sports items, 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, 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.

May God be with you always,

Wayne D. Bisek



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**Buckets
for Hunger, Inc.**

4761 Coolidge Street
Oregon, WI 53575

**Combining a love for sports with
a passion to feed
the hungry**

**Raising money
for food pantries
across the nation
through:**

Sports Fans
Sports Events



Buckets for Hunger Incorporated

January 2013

Challenges Galore

Victories Abound

The year 2012 brought many challenges for our little organization. Buckets for Hunger was faced with the dilemma of attempting to continue our annual dinner/auction events in the face of rising costs for celebrity guests. We had to face the challenge of attempting to put on our annual silent auction of hockey and other sports memorabilia at the Kohl Center in spite of the National Hockey League being temporarily shut down for business. In addition, the organization had to face the challenge of a major health event for me as I suffered a heart attack on November 3, 2012.

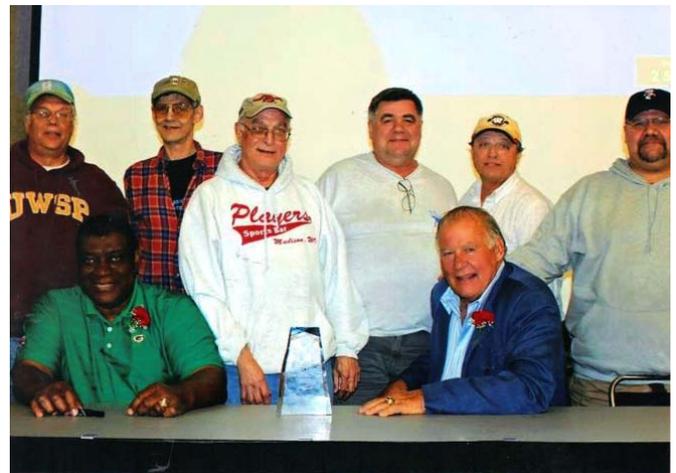
Somehow, both the organization and I have made it through the year and the future looks quite bright.

Our Board of Directors decided it was necessary to try another approach to raising money to fight hunger. In mid-October, Buckets put on our first ever "Trivia Challenge to Fight Hunger" at the Alliant Energy Center. It was hosted by former Packers stars, Jerry Kramer and Dave Robinson and 27 teams attended the event.



Picture: Second place team "We are missing Glee for this?" Packers: Dave Robinson and Jerry Kramer.

The night was a huge success as all attendees laughed and shouted throughout the evening. A series of 75 questions covering four basic categories (music/commercial jingles, sports, news and television/movies/books) were given to the participants over a two hour time period. All were multiple choice options. The highest score for the evening belonged to The Flying Zupan Brothers with 62 correct answers. Two teams tied for second place. One was a team named We Missed Glee for This? and the other was a group from WIBA 1310Am.



Picture: Winning Team: The Flying Zupan Brothers and Packers: Dave Robinson and Jerry Kramer.

The WIBA team decided to concede to the Glee team and that team then donated its second place prize money back to Buckets. It was great to hear the crowd teasing each other about answers and cheering and groaning every time an answer popped up on the screen. A great many attendees went out of their way to ask us to do this again next year. It is our plan to make this our signature event the first Thursday of every October. A special thanks goes to Wayne Harris of Glowac and Harris advertising agency, attorney Bob Gingras of Gingras, Cates and Luebke law offices for their help in making this first year a success. Next year we will also include a silent auction of sports memorabilia items.

Fortunately, Alliant Energy Foundation again served as a major corporate sponsor for the event. It has

done that for the entire existence of Buckets. Also, Dr. Rogerson and Dr. Wackwitz Orthopaedic Surgeons were major corporate sponsors for the fourth straight year. Alliant Energy and the doctors donated a total of \$10,000 to help cover the costs of the event. In addition, Mr. Gingras and Dr. Rogerson were the high bidders on the two live auction items that were sold during the evening. Thus, the net profit for the evening amounted to \$22,000. The Board of Directors considered it to be a rousing success for the first time out of the chute. Buckets is hoping to grow the challenge to at least fifty teams next year. If that happens, then we will be back on track for our annual fund-raising goals.



Picture: Dave Robinson, Bob Gingras, Mike Luebke, and Jerry Kramer.

The Board also decided that we will still be looking to a sports celebrity dinner/auction event. We just need to be smart about which athletes we can afford to bring in to have a successful fundraiser.

It was only with a good deal of reluctance and persuasion that I, personally, decided not to have the silent auction during a Badger men's hockey game this year. The fact that the National Hockey League is still out of business at this writing had a big impact. It was impossible to gather up signed items from our NHL connections because there simply were no players around to sign the items. Rather than have an event with only a few hockey related items, we decided to wait till the Spring of 2013 to

reconsider the event. Obviously, if the whole NHL season is cancelled, then our event will not take place.

As a result of the lack of a dinner/auction along with the absence of the hockey silent auction, Buckets had fewer dollars to use for our annual matching donations program. Yet, the various food pantries from different locations throughout the state asked us to continue that program. They reported that even if the matching amount was less than last year, it would still be of great help to them in raising money. Therefore, we approved about a dozen pantries and they were very successful in acquiring donations from their patrons with our matching enticement. The grand total of dollars brought in through the letters amounted to approximately \$80,330. Buckets provided almost \$20,000 in matching funds because we paid out twenty-five cents on the dollar for every dollar raised with our challenge letter. The maximum we paid to any one pantry was \$3,000 in matching funds. Thus, the whole program resulted in nearly \$100,000 going out to eleven food pantries.

In addition, Buckets sent out another \$3,000 to three other Madison area pantries that were in need of money.

I think it is important for all of you who have and who continue to support our cause to understand that Buckets will be back stronger than ever next year. We are absolutely committed to doing all that we can to help to "wipe away the tears of hunger and to replace them with a glimmer of hope in the eyes of the needy."



Picture: Dave Robinson, Dr. Rogerson and Jerry Kramer.

Our diminished results this year were due to circumstances largely out of our control. We will, most definitely, find ways to grow our Trivia Challenge to become our signature event. We will, also, return to our hockey event silent auction next year. We will never stop trying to feed hungry people to the best of our abilities. That is our solemn promise.

Please allow me to share a very personal note with all of you. Unfortunately, on Saturday, November 3, I suffered a heart attack due to a blood clot. With the quick action of my wife, Vickie Carroll, (she is an emergency room registered nurse of twenty years experience) and the professional assistance of the emergency room staff at Stoughton Hospital, my situation was handled very effectively and efficiently. I was sent by Med Flight helicopter to Meriter Hospital where Dr. Wolf performed a procedure on me and saved my life. After over a month of rehab, I am back on track for the most part. I continue to fight through the mental aspects and repercussions of this severe incident. I will get stronger, I know. Yet, I know that I will get smarter also about the approach that I have taken to life. I will not ingest any medications without doing my own research. I will slow down, meditate and I will learn to relax and simply enjoy life every day. That is my promise to myself and to my beloved wife and children.

Those of you who truly know me are aware that I believe that God has played a tremendous role in my life*. There have been little and large miracles and divine interventions. God's presence has profoundly impacted my life. Now, I believe that, once again, God was at my side as I endured this horrible episode. I laid there in that emergency room bed and I begged him to let me live. I am here, so I truly believe that God wants me to continue this work to feed hungry people. But I will need your help more than ever to do this.

As always, thank you to all of you for another good year. Thanks to all of you who brought a team to our Trivia Challenge event. Thanks to all of you that made donations. Thank you to Jerry and Dave for, again, generously donating their time to us. Thanks to Alliant Energy Foundation and Drs. Rogerson and Wackwitz for their continued sponsorship of our event. Thanks to the Board members, the athletes who donate their signatures, the volunteers who helped run the trivia challenge and to all others who helped in any way possible.

Buckets is proud to announce that former Packers great, David Robinson, has agreed to join our honorary Board of Directors effective immediately. He has donated his time and autographs to our organization for over five years. He has made many appearances and has never charged us a dime. We are thrilled to have him officially join our group.

May God be with you always.

Wayne Bisek, President and Founder

Buckets for Hunger, Incorporated

Our website is www.bucketsforhunger.com

*My recently published book, *A Knock at the Door*, is available for sale at www.virtualbookworm.com or by contacting me at 888-351-9154. All proceeds go to Buckets for Hunger, Incorporated.