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Share the Joy of Reading!

Embracing Our Differences Seeks Volunteer Readers for its “Bucket Fillers” Reading Initiative in November

The "Bucket Filler" series of books, written by the nationally acclaimed author and Venice resident, Carol McCloud, teach children the value of kindness. More than 8,200 students will read McCloud's books in 466 pre-kindergarten to third grade classes in Manatee and Sarasota counties on Tuesday, November 15.

Volunteer registration is open through October 1.

(September 9, 2022) If you love to share the joy of reading with young people, Embracing Our Differences hopes you will volunteer for its “Bucket Fillers” reading initiative, which will take place at 80 elementary schools and early learning centers throughout Manatee and Sarasota counties on Tuesday, November 15.

What is a Bucket Filler?

Since her first book, “Have You Filled a Bucket Today? A Guide to Daily Happiness for Kids,” was published in 2006, Carol McCloud, a nationally acclaimed author and Venice resident, has inspired millions of people of all ages to become daily “bucket fillers” through her books, seminars, and other publications. Her nine children’s books have sold three million copies worldwide and are used in schools around the world as their primary character development program. For the past five years, EOD has coordinated an annual Bucket Filler reading initiative—through a partnership with

Sarasota County Schools, the School District of Manatee County, and the Early Learning Coalitions of Sarasota County and Manatee County.

Ben Jewell-Plocher, EOD's learning and engagement director, explains it this way. "The 'Bucket Filler' books use the concept of an invisible bucket to encourage positive behavior and warm hearts. Each book shows children how rewarding it is to express kindness, appreciation, and love to others."

On November 15, EOD will coordinate hundreds of volunteers to read from "Bucket Filler" books to more than 8,200 students in pre-kindergarten through third grade classes in Sarasota County. **If you'd like to volunteer to read on November 15, visit <https://www.embracingourdifferences.org/bucket-fillers> by October 1.**

For 19 years, Embracing Our Differences has drawn on the passion and perception of artists, students, writers, and others to create powerful statements of diversity and acceptance in its annual outdoor public art exhibition consisting of 50 billboard-sized works of art and accompanying quotes. The scale and impact of this outdoor exhibition has continued to grow, attracting more than 4 million visitors since its inception. This exhibit is the heart of a year-round program of activities designed to use art as a catalyst to create awareness and promote diversity. **Next year's Bayfront Park exhibit runs January 18-March 12, 2023. In addition, for the first time, the exhibit will also be displayed at Butler Park in North Port, March 22-April 19, 2023; and at State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota, April 26-May 29, 2023.**

For more information about Embracing Our Differences, call 941-404-5710, or visit www.embracingourdifferences.org.

Photo Captions:

- *_01: Community volunteer Tamara Owens Logan reads to 2nd grade students during EOD's Bucket Fillers Reading Day event.*
- *_02: Bucket Fillers author Carol McCloud reads to 1st grade students at Venice Elementary during EOD's Bucket Fillers Reading Day event.*
- *_03: Barancik Foundation's John Annis reads to 2nd grade students at Fruitville Elementary during EOD's Bucket Fillers Reading Day event.*

About Embracing Our Differences

Embracing Our Differences is a not-for-profit organization that uses the transformational power of art and education to celebrate and promote the diversity of the human family. It accomplishes this through an annual, large-scale outdoor juried art exhibition and a comprehensive series of educational initiatives, programs and resources designed for teachers and students. Visit www.embracingourdifferences.org.