

United States Women of Today  
Buckets of Sunshine Project

Table of Contents

USWT History and Development .....	1
HOW TO Conduct Buckets of Sunshine Project .....	3
Ideas for Donation Locations .....	4
Bucket Content Ideas.....	5
Sample Press Release .....	7
USWT Buckets of Sunshine Report Form.....	9
National Buckets of Sunshine Report Form .....	10
Internal Project Report Form .....	11
Sample of completed Internal Project Report Form.....	12

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## **USWT HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT NATIONAL “BUCKETS OF SUNSHINE” PROJECT**

The United States Women of Today was formed in 1985 as a leadership training, community service, and personal enrichment organization. Since its inception the organization has raised thousands of dollars for the communities, states and health foundations (i.e. March of Dimes, Arthritis, Leukemia, Breast Cancer Awareness, and Multiple Sclerosis) it serves. There were 18 member states in the United States Women of Today with approximately 4000 members.

At the 1996 Annual meeting the Future Directions Committee made a decision to create a project that would bring name recognition for the organization through public relations. After much brainstorming and idea sharing, the “Buckets of Sunshine” project was selected. At the business meeting the proceeding day, the project was adopted and approved by the membership.

The goal of the program is to provide “buckets” filled with products to local crisis centers (particularly focused toward women and children). The buckets to benefit person(s) leaving the center would be able to take these “buckets” with them to help defray expenses with starting over in a new home or apartment. People staying at the centers could also use the “buckets”.

The idea of the project is to have a donation campaign that the public can align to the United States Women of Today. It will allow every chapter in the United States to work towards a common goal, but will also have the flexibility to adapt to each community’s individual needs. Each chapter is encouraged to participate by providing Buckets of Sunshine in their community as well as in the Buckets of Sunshine for the Annual Meeting.

At the June 2002 Annual Meeting, the Marketing Committee decided not to associate the Buckets of Sunshine project with “Make a Difference Day”. It was felt that if the two are kept separate, our communities would benefit from them both. It seems to be confusing to our members along with people in the community and it was felt that the Buckets of Sunshine was lost in the media hype of Make a Difference Day.

The “Buckets of Sunshine” project for the Annual Meeting will be coordinated by the USWT Public Relations Director, with the approval of the Marketing Committee, USWT President, and USWT Membership Vice President. A specific program must be promoted early and especially at mid-year convention with a complete information packet to be provided for the members to make this project a huge national success and obtain national recognition that is so well deserved. This project makes a difference in the community that our annual convention is held and to the local communities that receive these bucket(s) as well.

Each year we will help chapters meet our challenge to make “Buckets of Sunshine” a WOMEN OF TODAY nationally recognized program. Be sure to use the information to hold a successful campaign of collecting the items that will be badly needed in another community across the United States.

Remember our creed really says what we want to accomplish

*We the United States Women of Today are dedicated to serving our community and nation, committed to strengthening our individual talents, and stand united in our friendship and belief in our future.*

Not just our future but also the future of everyone! May we leave the world a better place because we lived and served within it. This is the program that can do it. So rise to the challenges each year and let's help raise our numbers by participating in worthwhile projects such as the "Buckets of Sunshine"!

## HOW TO CONDUCT A LOCAL “BUCKETS OF SUNSHINE” PROJECT

1. Appoint a project chairperson and committee.
2. Choose an organization in your community where families in crisis seek help (a suggested list of possible locations is included in this manual).
3. Decide on “bucket(s) (containers for your donation items) and the contents of the “bucket(s)”. Bucket ideas are included in this manual. If you are unsure, contact the agency to determine what items they suggest.
4. How will you acquire the necessary items? Some suggestions
  - a. Seek donations from local merchants and manufacturers
  - b. Hold a special fund raiser with money raised designated to purchase items
  - c. Have chapter members donate the items
  - d. Use funds from chapter treasury to purchase items (set a budget)
5. Finalize plans for purchasing/picking up items, assembling buckets and donating buckets to the facility.
6. Report updates to chapter by newsletter and/or chapter meeting.
7. Purchase/pick up items and assemble buckets.
8. Prepare a press release (sample press release is included in manual)
9. Contact the organization and local media to schedule a convenient time to deliver the buckets to the facility. Have a photo taken if possible to accompany the press release.
10. Complete USWT “Buckets of Sunshine” Report form and mail to appropriate program managers (always include the newspaper articles when possible).
11. Complete the Internal Project Recognition form to be kept with chapter records (blank form is on pages 10-11, sample completed form is on pages 12-13).
12. Send thank you notes to any person/business who donated items to be included in the buckets.



Women of Today  
Buckets of Sunshine

## IDEAS FOR DONATION LOCATIONS

Food Pantries

Crisis Centers

Red Cross

Salvation Army

Ministerial Alliances / Churches

Schools

Family Violence Centers / Women's Shelters

Halfway Houses

AIDS Centers

Homeless Shelters

Foster Homes

Adult Daycare Centers

Homes for Unwed Mothers

Veteran's Centers

Ronald McDonald Houses

Shelter Homes

Hospitals

Pregnancy Assistance Centers

Prisons and Jails

Counseling Centers



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## **BUCKET CONTENT IDEAS**

### **Clothes Hamper or Laundry Basket**

Towels  
Wash Clothes  
Sheets  
Detergent  
Fabric Softener  
Clothespins  
Hangers  
Iron  
Spray starch

### **Toy Bag or Plastic Cube**

Crayons  
Coloring books  
Teddy bears  
Balls  
Dolls  
Stickers  
Books  
Cars

### **Diaper Bag or Tote Bag**

Baby bottles  
Pacifier  
Formula  
Diapers  
Toys  
Baby sleepers  
Bibs  
Baby Wipes  
Powder  
Diaper rash ointment  
Baby Food

### **Storage Container or Trash Can**

Peanut Butter  
Canned Fruits & vegetables  
Pancake mix  
Powdered milk  
Flour / Sugar  
Spices  
Canned meats  
Pasta  
Juices  
Soup  
Baby food  
Condiments  
Coffee / Tea

### **Shaving Kit or Shower Caddy**

Shaving crème / After Shave  
Razors  
Shampoo / Conditioner  
Hairspray  
Soap / Washcloths  
Sponge  
Hairbrush / Comb  
Hair dryer  
Curling Iron  
Toothpaste / Toothbrush  
Mouthwash  
Personal hygiene items

### **Picnic Basket or Dish Drainer**

Plates / Silverware  
Glasses  
Place mats  
Coasters  
Napkins  
Paper towels  
Salt & Pepper shakers  
Ice cube trays  
Potholders  
Kitchen towels  
Dishwashing detergent  
Sponge

## BUCKET CONTENT IDEAS continued

### Backpack or School Supply Box

Pencils  
Crayons  
Glue  
Tissues  
Scissors  
Pens  
Notebooks  
Paper  
Ruler

### Mop Bucket

Mop / Broom / Dust pan  
Carpet cleaner  
Floor Cleaner  
Disinfectant / Bleach  
Garbage bags  
Toilet bowl brush / Toilet cleaner  
Bathroom cleaner  
Toilet paper / Paper towels  
Steel wool pads  
Sponge  
Scrub Brush  
Cleaning rags

### Bathroom Wastebasket or First Aid Kit

Aspirin  
Cold medication  
Cortisone cream  
Ace bandage  
Upset Stomach medicine  
Antacid  
Band – Aids  
Anti-bacterial spray  
Cotton balls and swabs  
Children's pain reliever

### Large Bowl or Canister

-Spices  
Coffee  
Tea  
Mugs  
2 or 4 cup measuring cups  
Measuring spoons  
Measuring cups  
Spatulas  
Wooden spoons  
Whisk  
Hand mixer  
Oil  
Non-stick spray  
Salt & Pepper  
Flour  
Sugar

### Duffel Bag or Purse

Cosmetics  
Perfumes  
Powders  
Deodorants  
Earrings  
Watches  
Self-esteem or job interview books  
Pocket calendars  
Panty hose  
Personal hygiene items  
Wallets  
Pocket size mirrors



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Sample Press Release

CONTACT: YOUR NAME  
Address  
City, State, Zip  
Phone number (include area code)  
[www.uswt.org](http://www.uswt.org)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BUCKETS OF SUNSHINE

The (Chapter Name) in (City) has initiated a project to collect items for (Name of Recipient) (Name and City). This chapter will join together with other chapters across the United States to distribute “Buckets of Sunshine” donations to deserving organizations in their community.

The focus on the “Buckets of Sunshine” project is to provide donations to organizations within communities to help replenish supplies to shelters and crisis centers and to assist residents who leave the facilities to begin a new life. The donations are either monetary or items requested by the facility. The (Chapter) Women of Today are donating (include specific information about the contents of your donation, the recipient, and donations of bucket contents received (if applicable) and any other pertinent facts).

The goals of the United State Women of Today are threefold to promote community service and involvement; to provide personal growth and development opportunities; and to offer leadership training to our members. Individuals who wish to share their talents and abilities will find that the Women of Today is a community-focused and leadership oriented organization. Together we can make a difference. Membership is open to all persons 18 years of age interested in making their community a better place to live and grow.

The (Chapter) Women of Today have been serving this community for \_\_ years. The (Chapter) Women of Today meet (list meeting date, time and location). To obtain more information about the Women of Today or the “Buckets of Sunshine” project, please contact: (list contact person; phone number, website) etc.



Women of Today  
Buckets of Sunshine

**BUCKETS OF SUNSHINE REPORT FORM**

*Please submit this form upon completion of your Buckets of Sunshine program.*

Chapter/State: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter President: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Chair/Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of members participating / members \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter members assisting at time of project \_\_\_\_\_

Name, address, type of organization receiving donation:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Briefly describe bucket contents:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cash value of donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total hours worked: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of buckets donated: \_\_\_\_\_

Source of bucket contents (i.e. member donations, outside donations, purchased with chapter resources, special project held to raise funds, etc):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date of project: \_\_\_\_\_

**SEND A COPY OF THIS FORM TO:**

State Public Relations Program Manager, National Public Relations Director  
retain a copy for the Local Chapter File

***Deadline: April 30 for Year End Recognition***

***BUCKETS OF SUNSHINE***

***Internal Project Report Form***

Project Chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_

Committee Members: \_\_\_\_\_

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Date and location of first committee meeting: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation Facility chosen for project: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact person (name and telephone number) \_\_\_\_\_

Address and telephone number of facility: \_\_\_\_\_

Bucket(s) \_\_\_\_\_

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Source of bucket(s) and contents: \_\_\_\_\_

Media contacted (who and when) \_\_\_\_\_

Date and location of donation: \_\_\_\_\_

Budget (if any) \_\_\_\_\_



Women of Today  
Buckets of Sunshine

**BUCKETS OF SUNSHINE**  
**Internal Project Report Form continued**

Expenses: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Explain any changes you would make if you were to run this project again? Include any suggestions or problems encountered.

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***BUCKETS OF SUNSHINE***  
***Internal Project Report Form***

Project Chairperson: Sue Smith

Committee Members: Dee Howard, Mary Cttn, Eleanor James

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Date and location of first committee meeting: Tuesday, July 23, 1996, Sue Smith's house

Donation Facility chosen for project: Broward County Home for Unwed Mothers

Contact person (name and telephone number) Ellen Johnson, (888) 555-1212

Address and telephone number of facility: 444 Roswell road, same telephone #

Bucket(s) Diaper bags

Bucket contents: Baby bottles, pacifiers, rattles, formula, diapers, burp rags

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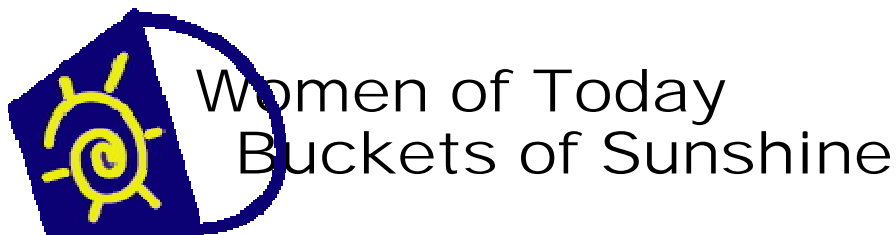
**Source of bucket(s) and contents:**

A babysitting clinic was held on 09/14/96 (see separate report) to raise money to purchase the necessary items. Additionally, Wal-Mart donated diaper bags.

Media contacted (who and when) News-Leader, Editor Murray Bishoff, 9/21/96

Date and location of donation Donation made a the facility on 10/26/96

Budget (if any) -\$25.00



**BUCKETS OF SUNSHINE**  
**Internal Project Report Form continued**

Income (including donations of items)

\$50 made from babysitting clinic to purchase items

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Wal-Mart donated 4 diaper bags

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Members donated additional items to complete "buckets"

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Expenses:

Spent \$75.00 at Wal-Mart to purchase contents for diaper bags

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Explain any changes you would make if you were to run this project again? Include any suggestions or problems encountered.

Expand the project. The Home indicated that they could use approximately 12-15 diaper bags.

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Find an alternative fund raiser to make more money, or solicit more donations.

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Make sure to start the project on time to meet the project deadlines.

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*LOGO PAGE – CAN BE FOUND ON THE WEBSITE*

