



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Helping Children Come to School, for almost 50-years – Tri-County Head Start

Each year, Tri-County Head Start's fleet of buses travel almost 100,000 miles to bring children to school. Please help them in honoring and recognizing those who helped to keep our children safe on the journey this year.

Transportation services is one of the many unique services Tri-County Head Start (TCHS) provides to the children and families of Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren counties. Students are transported safely from 40 different communities to 19 sites, with only a small fleet of 20 buses.

Bus drivers and monitors are highly trained both in safety regulations but also classroom priorities, and the bus rides are not just bus rides, but truly an extension of the classroom where the learning continues.



In the past two years, TCHS has been fortunate enough to purchase 9 new buses to upgrade the fleet that will have lasting impact into the reliability of services and safety as they move into the future.

The transportation team consists of an Operations Director, two Transportation Coordinators, 20 bus drivers, and 20 bus monitors, who each show dedication and joy in their roles on a daily basis. Many of these staff members have been with TCHS for more than 20 years, including Randy Meyers, bus driver for the Paw Paw site. Randy has been with TCHS since 1992, has driven for various locations in the past 29 years, and even met his wife in his early years with the program. His wife was a parent volunteer that rode the bus on occasion with

him. They have now been married for 25 years and have three children. Another stand out transportation employee is Kayla Sowers, bus monitor for Marcellus, who joined TCHS in November of 2020. She states, "Since beginning my journey with TCHS, I've completely changed my chosen career path. With the help of my coordinator, I've blazed a trail into teaching and will hopefully become a teacher with TCHS in the very near future!"

Thank you to all of the TCHS Transportation Team, for your dedication and commitment to provide safe, fun, and education experience for the children they serve.

About Tri-County Head Start

Tri-County Head Start has served more than 40,000 children and families in Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren counties since 1972. They serve both the children and their families by providing a preschool program for children to be able to begin Kindergarten school ready but also connect families with needed resources, educational, and leadership opportunities. Services are free for eligible families. Head Start provides hope and helps dreams come true. For more information, please visit www.tricityhs.org.

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