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Who's your favorite super hero?

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Trucker Buddy has opened the eyes and expanded the imaginations of schoolchildren around the world since its humble beginnings in the early 1990s. Often called the No. 1 trucking image campaign in North America, Trucker Buddy's true value lies in the many children's lives it has touched in a very positive way.

In the early 1990s, truck driver and Trucker Buddy Founder Gary King asked his children's teacher if he could send postcards to their class in Williams Bay, Wisconsin, USA. The teacher agreed, and Mr. King began corresponding from his travels delivering freight.

Since 1992, Trucker Buddy has helped educate more than a million schoolchildren while introducing them to the caring, compassionate men and women who help drive the economy – professional truck drivers.

Trucker Buddy is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

Trucker Buddy
INTERNATIONAL

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Trucker Buddy
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BRINGING THE
OPEN ROAD
TO THE
CLASSROOM



BE A HERO!
BE A TRUCKER BUDDY!

What is Trucker Buddy?

What is Trucker Buddy International?

Trucker Buddy is the unique pen-pal program that helps truckers give back to the community by matching professional drivers with schoolteachers in a partnership for education and fun!

A Trucker Buddy gives students a look at the world through the eyes of a truck driver, who visits places and sees things they can share with the students to make learning more fun. They expand the students' horizons by giving them a personal look at places the children may never get to travel to.

Trucker Buddy drivers send postcards, letters, e-mails, and/or photos to the children in their assigned class each week so that the students can track the driver's travels on maps in the classroom. In return, all the students write individual letters to their Trucker Buddy at least once a month. Many students often send cards, drawings, and photos.



There is no charge to the schools, teachers, or students to participate in the Trucker Buddy program, thanks to the generosity of our sponsors. The program is utilized by public and private schools for

second through eighth grade and special needs classes, as well as home-schooled groups.

Through the Trucker Buddy program, some 3,500 professional drivers write to classrooms providing a valuable educational tool for more than 100,000 children!

Trucker = Rolling Geography Lesson

The Trucker Buddy driver becomes a rolling geography lesson for children, bringing states and, in some cases, other countries, alive for students. The Trucker Buddy program also helps students develop math, history, and of course, reading and writing skills.

Many Trucker Buddies say they enjoy volunteering for the program as much as the students enjoy the program. It also can take the stresses out of a typical day in the life of a truck driver: Drivers say they see the world

"Not only is the organization rewarding to the students, but for the driver as well."

David, Professional Driver

"Signing up for Trucker Buddy was one of the greatest things in my nearly 30 years of teaching."

Phyllis, Retired Teacher

"I just am excited as the 2nd grade students are when I write to them and get letters from them."

Matthew, Professional Driver

"On our standards of learning test in writing, our fifth graders had a 100% pass rate!!!! This is amazing. One very important factor in this accomplishment has been hearing the example for writing our Trucker Buddy set each week in his e-mails to them. On behalf of all of the teachers in fifth grade, thanks for all of your help. It made a difference."

Jeanne, School Teacher

"This has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. The children have made me see the country through entirely new eyes."

Rudy, Professional Driver

"Bill was the best Trucker Buddy in the world! He was always in touch with us. He visited us and we went to see his truck. We went inside. I even got to do the AIR HORN! He was fun to be with the whole year."

Brett, Student

"Trucker Buddy International is great because we make new friends and we learn US geography. We learn how to write letters."

Lindsay, Student



around them differently, always thinking about how they can take what they are seeing and turn it into information for the students. The wait at a dock won't seem as long if you are taking the extra time to write postcards to your class.

You will definitely get out of this program what you are willing to put in.

Who Can Become a Trucker Buddy

Any professional driver with a CDL who is willing to send postcards to a classroom once a week can be a Trucker Buddy. There is an application process, which includes a background check. Classes must be second through eighth grade (some exceptions are made) or special needs classes at a public or private school. Teachers retain full control of their class correspondence with their Trucker Buddy drivers by reviewing all mail before it is exchanged.

Recognition and Awards

Trucker Buddy has been featured on CNN and CBS's *The Early Show* and in *People Magazine*, *Readers Digest*, *Family Circle*, and countless other magazines, newspapers, and television broadcasts nationwide. Trucker Buddy was also the recipient of the Trucker Writers of North America's "A Most Significant Service Award" in 1994 and *rpm Magazine's* "Extra Mile Award" in 1997. In 2006, Trucker Buddy won the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE) 2006 Associations Advance America "Award of Excellence." Trucker Buddy received the award for its mentoring success and was one of just 16 organizations nationally to be honored.



Trucker Buddy
INTERNATIONAL