



CONNECTION

During the holidays, enjoy time with family, friends



A family picture of the Crawfords, including Judith (top left), brother Ewan (top right), father Tom (sitting, right), and mother Ann. PHOTO SUBMITTED BY JUDITH CRAWFORD

I hope everyone is looking forward to a well-deserved lull in business, as we move into the December holiday season.

Over that time, schools will mainly be on vacation, with paratransit services running at lower volumes and lighter schedules.

We hope that during this time, that you enjoy spending quality time with family and friends.

I am looking forward to taking a trip back to Scotland. What I am not looking forward to, though, is the inevitable rain!!

To each and every employee of Beacon Mobility, I want to offer a sincere thank you for everything that you have done over the last year.

I truly believe that we have the best team in the industry, and I am proud to be part of it. Happy Holidays!!

Hudith

Employee survey participation exceeds goal

Beacon Mobility's second employee opinion survey of 2022 surpassed leadership expectations and proved that feedback really does make a difference.

The participation goal of 25 percent across the company was almost doubled (48 percent!), providing an incredible turnout across all partner companies.

Our spring survey provided baseline scores, and our recently-wrapped up fall survey showed some exciting results.

We're making progress! The biggest increases in employee engagement were seen at WE Transport, Leesel Transportation and across our New England Region.

We are now currently hard at work identifying opportunities to make your employee experience the best it can be at a location and company level, as well as at a higher level across all of Beacon Mobility. A sincere thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts and opinions.



SAFETY MESSAGE

Timothy Tibbs, regional director of safety, Mid-Atlantic offered up a short intro for the holiday season, with the Beacon safety team offering up best wishes for the holidays.

Just remember in all of your travels, to be safe, take care of your loved ones, and have a great holiday.

Holiday Safety Tips

- **Candles:** Avoid using burning candles for holiday decorations, whether you are planning on lighting window sills or Christmas trees.
- **Cooking:** With all the holiday cooking planned, pay close attention to what you're doing when cooking. Also ensure you have a fire extinguisher or smoke detectors nearby.
- **Shopping:** During the holiday season, holiday shoppers are often distracted, both on the road and as pedestrians. Stay alert, don't drive tired and take your time.

CLICK TO SEE THE VIDEO →



Recognition of A Job Well Done, with *Gratitude*

Transit Team driver noted for 'heroic actions'

Minneapolis driver Jamie Paulson was recognized for her heroic actions on October 26, relating to an accident on that day. Paulson was honored with the Driver of the Month award at the location for October.

As detailed by Transit Team safety manager Nate Anderson, "Jamie is a prime example of what we are striving for at Transit



Transit Team Jamie Paulson shows off her Driver of the Month award for the Transit Team, Minneapolis location, presented to her by safety manager Nate Anderson. SUBMITTED PHOTO BY STACIE RICHTER

Team! She has an excellent Lytx record, a perfect attendance record and is adored by her students and their parents.

New WE Transport employee touts training

Recently, the Chief Operations Officer for WE Transport, Robert Quinn, received a nice letter from a new employee, who previously had worked as a driver for another company, and found the training offered by WE Transport to be exemplary.

Upon completing the CDL program's training, the new employee wrote the letter to the company's COO, and how the training offers to those who come on board to begin driving for WE Transport.

October 19, 2022

Mr. Robert Quinn, CEO
WE Transportation Inc.
75 Commercial Street
Plainville, NY 11801

Dear Mr. Quinn:

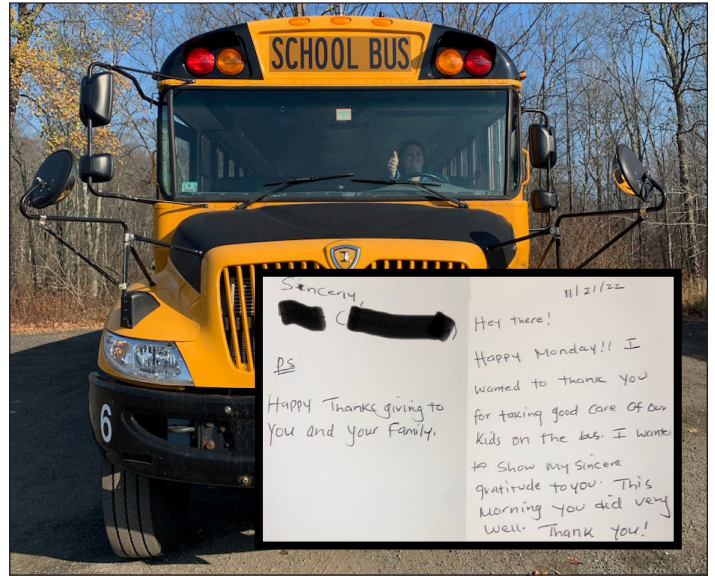
I am one of your new bus driver employees and I want to compliment the training I received as a new driver. Let me preface by stating I was a qualified school bus driver prior to joining WE Transport. I was employed by a bus company located in eastern Suffolk County a few years ago when I lived out there. As such, I thought the training was going to be unnecessary. However, I was pleasantly surprised since I did need a thorough refresher plus there were new requirements and governmental mandates.

All of the instructors were interesting and knowledgeable, plus they include the students into the lessons which made a more lively training. I found one of the instructors very good; Chad Schroeter was engaging and knowledgeable for both classroom and driver training. Also, Chad was the reviewer for my bus operation review with an empty and passenger filled bus.

Another thing I like about my new company is how friendly and accommodating all are to me as a new employee. There is camaraderie that makes it much easier to become part of the organization.

Sincerely yours,
James W. McDonald
James W. McDonald

Above is a screenshot of the letter submitted by a recently trained driver for WE Transport, commending the training he received. SUBMITTED PHOTO BY ROBERT QUINN



Parents for one of the students being driven by a Salter Transportation driver sent a card along to show their appreciation [inset] with driver Kaitlin Greene showing her use of a thumbs up. SUBMITTED PHOTO BY MARYANN KOCUR

Salter driver recognized for watchful eye in keeping kids safe

For Thanksgiving, Salter Transportation driver Kaitlin Greene received a nice card, to show their gratitude for all that the driver does for the family.

An additional note read:
Hi there. I wanted to let you know that Bresnahan Bus 6 driver Kaitlin is truly incredible. She is a true gem and her care for the kids is really something special. Every day she is welcoming and comforting, and today she amazed me with her fast and live-saving response. She was stopped on Spofford St., with the stop sign out, and my daughter

was waiting to cross, when a car decided to blow right by her. She saw her coming, and blasted her horn, making sure my daughter knew that it was unsafe. Cars frequently speed on this street, but this is the first I have seen a driver so brazen as to intentionally speed by a stopped bus.

Kaitlin has trained the kids to always wait for the thumbs up, and everything came together to keep my daughter safe today.

I am so grateful to her and I would love for all to know how amazing she is. Please share with her and her supervisors.

Field hockey team offers appreciation to Salter driver

A few days before Thanksgiving, the athletic director for Manchester Essex Regional Middle High School, Cam Molinare, passed along a note of gratitude, regarding driver James Maurer.

The note read:

Our field hockey team wanted to send a quick note of appreciation to their amazing bus driver last night. They said their driver was respectful, supportive, and an all-around great driver!

Please pass their thank you along to their drive. They really enjoyed their trip. As always, we really appreciate all of the hard work you have been putting in to provide our athletic teams' transportation to all their away games/events.

Thank you.



Well done!

Beacon Grows Green Bus Fleet, Partners with MA District

ANDOVER, Mass. — In less than a month, a second Massachusetts school district announced benefiting from the EPA's Clean School Bus Program.

The national program, funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, will cover \$5 billion over five years, through fiscal year 2026. On Monday, the Andover district announced the addition of five new electric buses to its fleet, replacing aging diesel-powered buses. Last month, the Lawrence schools announced their NRT fleet will switch to 25 electric buses in 2024, via the program.

Among those on hand Monday were Andover schools and Beacon officials, along with students from the high school's environmental club. Beyond just getting a close look at the buses, attendees were given a short ride on a new bus. In a couple of minutes, it offered a sense of how different an electric bus is from its gas engine predecessor.

During the drive, Andover school bus driver Ken Cunha noted he'd driven an electric bus earlier to pick up students. Among the unexpected benefits he highlighted - with the bus being battery-run, how quiet they run compared to diesel-powered buses. As a result, he found the students weren't as loud, without needing to be heard over the engine noise.

To offer some details on the buses Monday, on features like air brakes, air conditioning and LED lights, was Bill Griffiths, Beacon Mobility's SVP of Fleet & Facilities.

The buses showcased Monday at Andover High School, Griffiths noted, were constructed by Thomas Build Buses, the Jouley model. The model offers zero emissions, is fully electric and has about 140 miles in operational range.



A member of the Andover High School environmental club speaks to the media about the benefits that will be derived from the district purchasing five electric buses for its fleet. PHOTO BY ANDRES CAAMANO



Bill Griffiths, SVP of Fleet & Facilities, center, and Tim Sheehan, Senior VP of Operations, New England, both of Beacon Mobility, stand outside one of the two new electric buses on display at Andover (Massachusetts) High School on Monday, December 5. PHOTO BY ANDRES CAAMANO

New Buses Offer Notable Benefits

Among the most obvious benefits of using electric buses, Tim Sheehan, Senior Vice President of Operations, New England for Beacon Mobility cited, is in how they "contribute to reducing transportation emissions, which are one of the largest contributors to greenhouse gas pollution." The benefits for using electric buses in the district, though, go well beyond that, Griffiths added.

In terms of power usage, Griffiths detailed the new buses' ability to produce electricity. "These vehicles are capable of vehicle to grid, meaning it allows us to put energy back into the grid during peak demand," he said. With peak power demand often occurring during the evening, he noted, "When we come back at the end of the day, when the buses are plugged back in, they can supply power back to the grid."

Before hitting the road, Griffiths noted that for the bus' battery to be fully charged, it takes about two-and-a-half hours. To help extend the battery life, Griffiths explained planning to recharge the battery only when the power level has about 20 percent remaining. By keeping to such a schedule, he noted the

battery's life should extend to about eight years. From there, the life cycle of the bus would be slated to run another four years, about two years longer than a bus' typical life cycle.

With the latest additions to its electric bus fleet, Beacon Mobility continues to work toward, as Griffiths said, that "by 2024, NRT and Trombly Motor Coach will have the largest electric school bus fleet in Massachusetts."

The five new electric buses for Andover, though, are seen as just a start in the district. Already on the horizon are plans by the district to double its electric buses number in the near future. □



Attendees take a closer look under the hood of one of the two new Thomas Build Bus Jouley buses parked outside Andover (Massachusetts) High School on Monday, December 5, during the announcement that the school district had purchased five electric buses, to partially update its fleet. PHOTO BY ANDRES CAAMANO



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A Giving Season: Beacon Companies Help in Many Ways

During the holiday season, this is the perfect time to show how much “we care.”

Beyond providing gifts to our family and friends, across the companies that make up Beacon Mobility, are examples where employees have stepped up with a willingness to give to those less fortunate.

Among the various drives that have been coordinated at some of the various companies, range from toy drives to food drives to clothing drives, each to help make the holidays that much more enjoyable for those who are in need.

As displayed in the photo to the right, was a seven-week drive by Travel Kuz, called Busload of Blessings Holiday Giving Event.

The end result was a notably filled bus, as noted by Travel Kuz CEO Pam Reipold.

“We’ve filled a bus with boots, snow pants, mittens and gloves, toys and food and diapers for the United Way and Big Brothers/Big Sisters,” said Reipold.

The event was organized by driver Sue Rosewarne, and was a huge success, as



Travel Kuz driver Sue Rosewarne shows stands in the aisle to show items given as part of the three-day Busload of Blessings Holiday Giving Event. The bus was filled with boots, snow pants, mittens, gloves, toys and other items. PHOTO SUBMITTED BY PAM REIPOOLD

shown by how much was collected to help.

Other drives were managed across Massachusetts, with the Chelmsford, Massachusetts location for NRT Bus and Van Pool Transportation managing a food drive. As noted by Lisa Jackson, “We collect food for the Merrimack Valley Food Bank. This year we collected over 500 pounds of food.”

In a similar fashion, both companies helped on a Salvation Army Angel Tree donation drive, with donations collected at the Framingham, Massachusetts location.

The drive, which began on Nov. 9 and will run through Friday, Dec. 16. Last year, the Framingham NRT and Van Pool offices donated clothing and toys for 60 Framingham children as part of the Angel Tree program. The picture (below left) shows the generosity of those who participated last year, with those gifts delivered to the Framingham Salvation Army.

In addition, the NRT locations of Lynn, North Reading and Wakefield, Massachusetts coordinated a toy drive for Toys for Tots. Helping to gather the toys were (pictured) two Lynn firefighters and Lynn CDL driver Sugier Mozart Leger (center).

PHOTO SUBMITTED BY KAYLA CLUNEY



At Van Pool, local NRT and Van Pool locations began the Salvation Army Angel Tree donation drive, including the Framingham, Massachusetts location (above center). PHOTO SUBMITTED BY KEITH FREELAND

WE Transport dispatch office. What’s been collected thus far (about 1,200 new toys) has been rather impressive, as shown in the picture immediately below. □



The toys so far collected for the WE Transport holiday toy drive so far this year. PHOTO SUBMITTED BY AYAH ABDELNABY



At the NRT and Van Pool location in Chelmsford, Massachusetts, driver recruiter Michelle Perez, monitors James Walsh and Sam Scanlon, CDL driver Rose Luna helped with the third annual food drive (above right) PHOTO SUBMITTED BY LISA JACKSON



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How Lytx DriveCam helped me become a better driver

Since September, Lytx DriveCam has been operational in SCR Medical Transportation vehicles. The system is designed to empower drivers to become safer while on the road. At SCR, two drivers, who thought they were safe drivers, found out that they were not (based on DriveCam scoring) and took on the challenge of improving themselves.

The safety team would like to recognize Ashley Burnett and Tashmeer Foster for improving their scores by 91% and 84%, respectively, in just 30 days.

These two embraced the Lytx system, took it upon themselves to learn what was happening around them, and made a truly remarkable transformation when it comes to their and their passengers' safety.

Beacon Mobility spoke with Ashley Burnett to discuss her reaction to Lytx being first installed, what she found out from the system, and what she would tell all Beacon Mobility drivers about Lytx DriveCam.

How long have you been with SCR and when did Lytx go live in your vehicle?

Ashley: "I've been with SCR since May of this year. It (Lytx) came in when the new school year started. So, when the school year started back, I kind of got a few infractions, but I got it together quickly because I don't like to get into trouble."

What were your first reactions to Lytx DriveCam and those in-cab alerts?

Ashley: "When I first started I kind of thought I was a great driver, so I was just like, 'yeah ...' I knew what I was supposed to do. But then I quickly figured out that I'm not the best driver. I didn't like getting in trouble, and with me getting those constant little infractions, it put a damper on me. I was like, 'no, no, oh my God! I didn't do anything.' Then I'm looking, and I'm like, 'OK, well maybe I'm not far enough back. Let me brake a little more.' At first, you're like, 'it can't be me, it can't be me.' Then if you step back, you will learn it's you, since you still have to take a bunch of precautions with other drivers. I'm like, 'OK, I'm an adult, I can get this together.'"

Who helped you grow? What motivated you to become a safer driver?

Ashley: "Ms. (Carmolita) Curry called me into the office and explained my flaws. I felt like a kid getting into trouble. I've got kids and my kids are a big motivation for me. I figured let me go about the way they (SCR) want me to go about it, and there I



SCR Medical Transportation driver Ashley Burnett stands in front of one of the company vehicles. Burnett was recently recognized by the SCR safety team for a significant improvement in their Lytx DriveCam scores over a span of just 30 days. SUBMITTED PHOTO

went. And it kind of worked. I figured after getting so many write-ups or constantly coming into the office you kind of make a reputation or name for yourself, and I didn't want to do that.

What's your reputation now?

Ashley: "Ms. Lita called me in and told me how big a deal dropping my score was. She also told me how proud she was of me, which made me feel really good. Now, I feel like I accomplished something. I am very proud of myself."

What do you want to say to other drivers about Lytx?

Ashley: "The camera is there to help you literally become a better driver. Don't think it's there to get you in trouble, because it's not. It's to become a better driver. If you follow the rules, you can't go wrong. That camera is going to help you do everything you need to do."

Also, don't rush and take your time doing the job. Don't rush, because rushing is like time, when it's gone it's gone. It's like

if a raindrop falls in the river, it's gone, and you can't get that raindrop back. Once that time has gone, it's gone. I was once told, 'don't rush because you never know you could be rushing to your death.'

The crazy part, I'm literally on time now. Even with being a safe driver and driving the way they want me, I'm always on time. Plus, you'll always be able to go home to your kids or loved ones, as long as you're driving safely. □



SCR Medical Transportation driver Ashley Burnett sits inside an SCR vehicle prior to heading out on a route. Burnett was recently recognized by the SCR safety team for a significant improvement in their Lytx DriveCam scores over a span of just 30 days. SUBMITTED PHOTO



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Scenes from the *Field*

Off to the Races



Team members from Beacon Mobility participate in the Spartan Stadion race at Fenway Park in Boston on November 12. Beacon Mobility participants included vice president of operations Scott Sheridan (above left, second right) and VP of Safety, Driver Development, Roger Bourassa, (above left, far right). Posing for a picture included (center, left to right) chief safety officer Kevin Kilner, Pete Delani, vice president of operations Franco Indomenico and Mike Frambach; New England regional director of safety Stephen Scott, vice presidents of operation Maryann Kocur, David Lathbury and Lisa Alterisio, COO Westley Richters; VP of Finance, Midwest, Diane Micola; director of facilities Dave Stephens, chief of staff Sam Hayes, CEO Judith Crawford, Sheridan; Dave Stephens' wife, Jill; director of communications Alice Marks; regional VP of finance, New England, Corie Mangano; and Bourassa. PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY ALICE MARKS



'Tis the Season to Decorate A Vehicle



Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority, or SEPTA, coordinates a holiday bus decorating contest. Among the different locations that participated, the Easton Coach location of Bristol finished second place at the event, with different views of their decorated vehicles, earning the location a trophy (above, far right). PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY PAMELA GELESKI



A Prize Is Within Reach



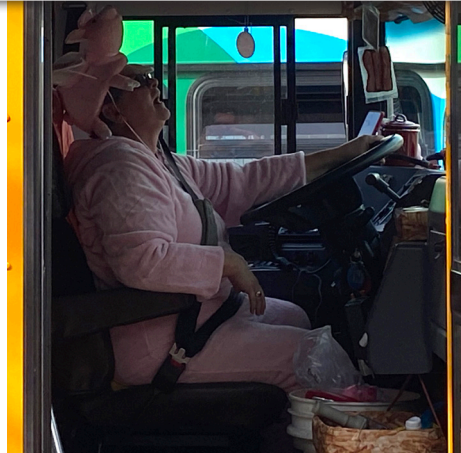
At the Duxbury, Massachusetts location for Van Pool Transportation, the game "Pluck the Feather From the Turkey" recently hung on the wall, to give employees a chance at winning a prize. Among those who take part were driver Mike McAuliffe (above left), driver Nicole Tango (above second left), monitor Val Mallers (above second right), along with driver Terry Jones (above right, left) and Pam Rigney (above right, right), each of whom are looking at what they won for prizes. PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY CHERI GOVONI



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Scenes from the *Field*

It's Fair Season Everywhere You Turn



For the annual Bacon Fest, held in Easton, Pennsylvania on November 5-6, Palmeri Transportation provided shuttle services for those attending. As one of the top five 'Can't-Miss Bacon Festivals' according to Parade.com, attendees loaded onto buses for transportation (top left). Among those ready to go with the theme-perfect costume was driver Tandra McDanolds (top center). Not only was she outfitted perfectly for the event, the bus was too, with bacon-themed adornments hung from the inside of the bus. PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY PAMELA GELESKI The Newbury, Massachusetts location of NRT provided transportation at the Topsfield Fair recently. Among those to help were CDL driver Roxanne Short (above left) and drivers Steve Negri and Lisa Durand holding a sign (above center). PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY VICKI LAKE Easton Coach and driver Heather Dalfgard displayed LINK buses and provided info on their services at the Salsa Fair (above right). PHOTO SUBMITTED BY LOUIS END



Volunteering to Help Needy Families



DS Bus Lines and Midwest Bus Sales employees are shown collecting donations at the Shawnee, Kansas corporate office. The program is a hygiene hub, providing basic hygiene and cleaning products (above left). Employees are shown, having traveled to the Kansas City, Kansas warehouse of Giving the Basics, to volunteer (above center). Some of the volunteers recently visited the Harvesters Community Food Network warehouse, in Kansas City, Missouri, to help prepare food to be shipped to needy families. PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY TERRI PHILLIPS



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Scenes from the *Field*

Parades Are Too Much Fun

TCT



In Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, Tri Country Transportation participated in the annual Christmas parade. TCT's drivers and office staff entered a van (above right) and bus into the parade. The theme was Rudolph, as shown how the van was decorated, and a reindeer bus. The TCT staff from Punxsutawney earned a third place, with the children of the TCT staff proudly showing off the work (above center). PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY AMANDA HORVATH

Decked Out for the Parade



During the City of Lights parade on November 26 in Lowell, Massachusetts, NRT, Salter and Van Pool Transportation employees took part. Among those on hand were the daughter of Kerry Caldeira, Ashlynn (above left), with daughters Ashlynn and Gabriella Caldeira (above second left) smiling with driver/recruiter Rose Luna, dressed as "The Grinch." Among the parade's intriguing highlights were those dressed as carolers (above second right). As the parade transitioned to night, Kaitlyn Sharry, dressed as a reindeer and Betty Sharry, as a snowman, wave to the crowd. PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY KERRY CALDEIRA

Along for the Ride



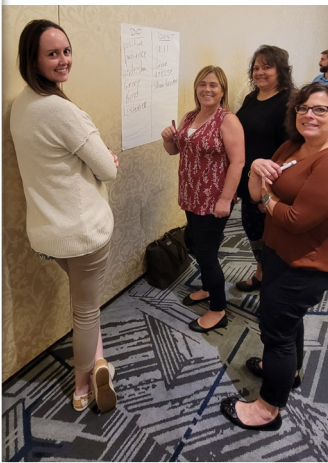
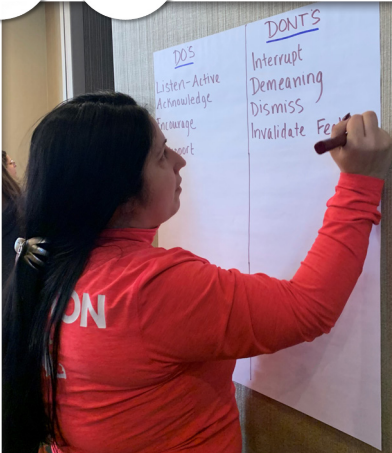
The Haverhill, Massachusetts location for NRT Bus participated in this year's Santa Parade held on Sunday, November 20. The 58th annual parade was held in memory of Ronald "Rollie" Plourde, who founded the parade. Among those who participated in the fun included Haverhill operations manager Susan Bellerose's dog, "Dude" (above left). Bellerose (above center) is seen driving a group, including NRT drivers Cherie Caron (far left), Jeanny Betances (second left) and Abigail Cobbett (seated with glasses), along with Darcy Bellerose (far right) during the parade. Getting one of the buses ready with a hung sign was among the preparations for the parade (above right). PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY MARYANN KOCUR



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Scenes from the *Field*

Working Together to Manage Change



Beacon Mobility team members worked recently through Change Management training. With the training, it offered a way to focus on growing as an individual. Among those to participate included Amy LeBlanc, manager of talent acquisition for Van Pool Transportation (top left) writing down the do's and don'ts associated with dealing with change. During the training, Van Pool payroll manager Eneida Sanchez (top center, left) listens along with Framingham, Massachusetts operations manager Sara Watson and vice president of operations Scott Sheridan. Assistant operations manager Kerry Caldeira (above right, right) sits with NRT Bus regional maintenance supervisor Chris Sciuto (top right, center) and Van Pool regional operations manager Ryan King. Easton Coach assistant vice president of operations Jessa Collins, general manager Ann Collins, general manager Melissa Joyce, and Michelle Gerstenberg (above left, left to right) collaborate on the do's and don'ts on managing emotions about change. Easton Coach vice president of operations Matt Chasky and Dave Batchelor and operations manager Lou End (above center, left to right) work together in a role play session on how to communicate change within our workplace. Joyce and operations manager Aaron Best share ideas and smiles while working through various role play sessions (above right). PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY HEATHER PETTY

First Snow



With the first bit of snow having fallen this winter in Massachusetts on Dec. 11, JYL Transportation driver Matt Chryst stands outside his van prior to heading out on a route.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY KATIE RICHARDS



Team members from Beacon visited ADROIT for an in-depth finance and strategy session, with ADROIT CEO Emran Saidan (second left), along with SCR controller Chris Salvador (far left), SCR VP of finance Diane Micola (second right) and ADROIT office manager Kristen Garza sitting in. PHOTO SUBMITTED BY BRIA BRANON



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Scenes from the *Field*

A 1st Anniversary to Celebrate



Operations manager Ann Thomson recently celebrated her first anniversary at the NRT location in Haverhill, Massachusetts. The anniversary featured some celebration for the location's employees as well as a little cake to enjoy. PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY MARYANN KOCUR

Wanting to Drive Early



SALTER Transportation



Transportation coordinator Cindy Smith's grandson, Antonio, gets a view from the driver's seat (above left) at the NRT location in Wakefield, Massachusetts recently, wearing a Santa suit. PHOTO SUBMITTED BY MARITZA BAEZ Salter driver Laura Newcomb's daughter, Lillian, (above right) gets behind the wheel, aiming to become the youngest CDL driver (bus was off and secured). PHOTO SUBMITTED BY MARYANN KOCUR

More Than a Handful of Thanks



At the Alltown Bus Service location in Chicago, on South Dobson Ave., employees enjoyed being able to participate in a turkey handout at the base, totaling about 450 turkeys. Among those pictured included drivers Erick McDougale and Leon Sheriff (left to right, above left); drivers Nesean Robinson and Shirley Blair (second left, left to right); and driver Aaron Lewis (above second right). PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY KELLY HAJDUK At the Alltown Bus Service location in Decatur, Illinois, employees (left to right) monitor Brianna Hood and drivers Sandy Trevino, Julie Hott and Melissa Richards hold up turkeys they picked up at that location as part of the turkey handout benefiting all employees. PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY KELLY HAJDUK

Being Appreciated



Members of the Leesle Transportation team enjoy an appreciation dinner held in November, courtesy of Leesle senior vice president Albert Culler. PHOTO SUBMITTED BY ELIZABETH SHEPARD



Offering Hope

TROMBLY MOTOR COACH



During a friendship dinner this week, members of the Trombly Motor Coach team collected nonperishable items and dropped them off to the homeless shelter in Lowell, Massachusetts, House of Hope (inset). PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY LYNDIA GOMEZ

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