



# #ThankaTrucker Initiatives

a salute to those who contributed



## Truckers get thousands of free meals

As grocery stores face a rush of consumers emptying shelves of food, toilet paper and other goods, truckers rise to the occasion.

The Nebraska Trucking Association jumped into action to honor our road heroes with a long series of #ThankaTrucker meals. Partnering with NTA member travel centers and supporting sponsors, NTA staff stood outside diesel fuel pumps

to hand free certificates for a hot meals inside.

“Our efforts are touching the trucking industry in a profound way,” said Kent Grisham, NTA President & CEO. “Thousands of truckers have been making this country work for years and, for this strange period of time, we can honor their work with lunch while, at the same time, pulling press to these events so the impor-

tance of trucking is celebrated and leaves a lasting impression on our citizens and the government for years to come.”

Thousands of meals have been delivered as NTA visited travel centers and rest stops and scales. Since March, NTA has delivered appreciation and free meals to truckers passing through Fremont, Grand Island, Jackson, Lincoln, North Platte, Omaha and York.

Nebraska Trucking Association  
#ThankaTrucker Events

- Fremont
- Grand Island
- Jackson
- Lincoln
- North Platte
- Omaha
- Waverly
- York
- more to come...





Above: Raul Soria, Hill Bros Transportation Safety Director and Diana Garcia, Truck Services Inc Director speak to 5th Graders attending a Zoom class from Everett Elementary in Lincoln. Below: Tisha Gropp, Crete Carrier Safety Director and Heath Richards, Hunt Transportation Safety Director lead an NTA Virtual Truck Tour for a Kindergarten class, describing the horn.

# Bringing trucking to Zoom classes

NEBRASKA - As Covid-19 pandemic affects our society, the Nebraska Trucking Association found opportunity, by introducing virtual truck tours to Nebraska students.

“We loved our field trip of the Mack Truck,” said 5th grade teacher Liz Holdren of Everett Elementary School in Lincoln. “Diana and Raul were so great with answering all of our questions and meeting us at our grade level. This was such a fantastic opportunity for our kids.”

NTA enlisted members as presenters including Raul Soria, director of safety at Hill Bros. Transportation; and Diana

Garcia, director of Truck Services Inc. Also presenting were Heath Richards, safety manager at Hunt Transportation and Tisha Gropp, safety manager at Crete Carrier.

“We’ve developed a program that the kids love,” said Dave Zelnio, director operations & communication. “We always show a sleeper truck with the bunk beds and televisions. To the kids, it’s like a tiny home. We talk about how trucks deliver everything from groceries to toys. We talk safety and we talk about a great career.”

The NTA has already reached seven classrooms and more are planned for all grades. Future tours will be held with Boy



and Girl Scout groups in the future.

“There are a lot of heroes in the effort to get us beyond this pandemic crisis,” said Kent Grisham, NTA president & CEO. “The first responders, the health care workers, but

right along with those folks are the professional truck drivers. This is an opportunity to talk to the kids and give them an inside look with a tour of the truck.”

NTA members Truck Center Companies and RDO Truck Center both hosted tours. Other truck dealers plan to help as well, Zelnio said.

“My son, Logan, was one of the kindergartners in Mrs. Harman’s class this morning and we just wanted to say thank you SO much for taking the time to give them a tour and to Dave for organizing it,” said parent Kristin Knott. “Logan was entranced the whole time, and as a lover of all kinds of trucks, this just really made his whole week. Thank you also for everything you do, not just now, but always. We have always made it a point to tell our kids how hard you all work and how the trucks keep the country running. We are so grateful to you all. Loved the news segment, too!”

On March 16, Nebraska Gov. Pete Ricketts announced an official recommendation to close the state’s 244 school districts with 326,000 students leading to Zoom classes being held throughout the state.



**Danika, age 9**



# Nebraska kids deliver trucker thanks to billboards

So much attention has fallen towards the trucking heros through Nebraska media, the NTA recognized that children need a voice and truckers would love to hear it.

Therefore the association, with the help of the Nebraska State Patrol and member Raising Canes Chicken, launched a #ThankaTrucker poster initiative.

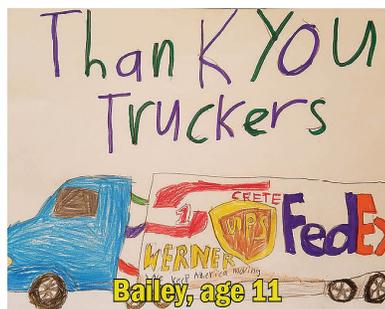
Nearly 100 kids from Ord to Omaha drew posters which were broadcast on billboards and social media throughout the Cornhusker state.

"I couldn't believe how many kids got involved," said David Zelnio, NTA Director Operations & Communication. "I think the message is getting out there. We just can have a successful society without of trucking heros."

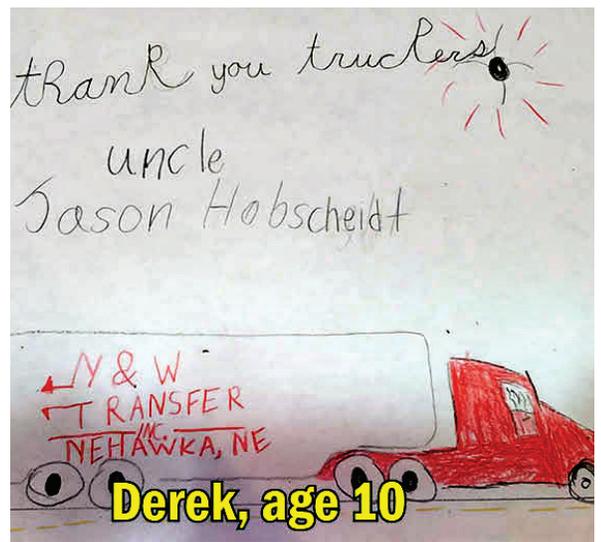
While the main goal was to honor our truckers, some of the young artists were rewarded with chicken dinner from Raising Canes Chicken to honor their work.



**Brooklynn, age 10**



**Bailey, age 11**



**Derek, age 10**



April Tilden, NTA Executive Assistant uses a grab stick to hand a trucker face masks. Inset, Nebraska State Patrol Carrier Enforcement Lt. Mike Maytum and FMCSA's Diane Podany, FMCSA State Program Manager.

# NTA helps deliver 100,000 face masks to truck drivers

Nebraska Trucking Association and Nebraska State Patrol troopers at weigh stations and rest areas armed with trash grabber tools began distributing 100,000 cloth face masks to truck drivers rolling through the state April 29-30.

At the eastbound Interstate 80 weigh station at the Cass County line, Sgt. Les Zimmerman and Trooper Kevin Kern began doling out the free masks at 7 a.m.

"Thank you so much," one trucker said as he rolled up to the duo.

Capt. Gerry Krolikowski, who heads the State Patrol's Carrier Enforcement Division, said by 8 a.m. the two had distributed more than 130 of the surgical masks.

Only a handful of truckers had declined the offer.

Weigh station operators planned to call all trucks without pre-clearance in for inspection, he said, and as they exit the scales they're handed a mask, via the improvised trash grabber tool.

Haulers serve as an important part of the supply chain and transport vital goods from the field to the processor or from the processor to the warehouse, Krolikowski said.

Weigh station operators in the state have begun to see more haulers donning personal protective equipment amid the COVID-19 outbreak, he said.

"But by far, a lot less than I've seen in the general community," he said.

Troopers across the state, along with members of the Nebraska Trucking As-



sociation and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, were handing out the face masks Wednesday.

"Our partners in the trucking industry have done heroic work over the last several weeks to keep Americans' grocery store shelves stocked and transport critical supplies all over the country to help in the fight against COVID-19," Krolikowski said. "Our troopers are proud to be part of this effort to keep those drivers safe."

Federal Emergency Management Agency and Department of Homeland Security officials provided the masks as part of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

(From Lincoln Journal Star)

# Trucking Industry Pulls The Effort

Without the support from Nebraska Trucking Association members and sponsors, all this outpouring of effort could not have happened. Here's a snapshot of our NTA community heroes:

Acuity Insurance  
 Bank of America  
 Bosselman Travel Centers  
 Caring Touch Services of Fremont  
 Comdata  
 Crete Carrier  
 FedEx Express - Lincoln  
 First Responders Foundation  
 FMCSA  
 GO Express  
 Great West Casualty  
 GrowNebraska

Hill Bros Transportation  
 Hunt Transportation  
 Jennifer Scranton (facemasks)  
 KeepTruckin  
 Lamar Outdoor Advertising  
 Neb Gov Pete Ricketts  
 Nebraska State Patrol  
 Nebraska Trucking Association  
 Patrick Enterprises  
 PrePass Safety Alliance  
 Raising Canes Chicken  
 RDO Truck Center

Sapp Bros Travel Centers  
 Shelley Goergen  
 Shoemakers Travel Center  
 Soldier Valley Spirits, Patriarch  
 Distillers  
 Timothy Terlson  
 Truck Center Companies  
 Walmart  
 ...and anonymous families  
 and retired truckers



Grand Island  
Tourism

