

Lady Trucker Cruise 2019



presented by

REAL
Women
IN Trucking

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Home of the Sunset

Welcome to the Third Annual Lady Truck Driver Cruise and "Queen of the Road" Awards

Presented by the
REAL Women in Trucking, Inc.
a 501 (c)(6) Driver Membership Organization



April 2019

THE MISSION:

Awareness is the First Step Toward Accountability

Since 2009 we have provided thousands of women comfort and guidance when they contact us in distress following an unsafe truck driver training experience. Some of these women have been raped by a trainer or co-driver, some badgered for sex until they abandoned their training fleet, only to find the carrier placed a negative mark on their driver file making them un-hirable elsewhere.

Annually, numerous women report to RWIT that substandard truck driver training put them in jeopardy, some report being misled into lease truck programs and discovered that they were paying more for the truck than they were making in their paycheck.

The turnover rate remains staggering in truck driver training which in turn has a direct impact on the retention of qualified drivers. Women being lured into the industry continue to lack proper preparation to become successful and transparency in recruiting remains absent.

In 2018, RWIT was successful in a Motion to Intervene in the CRST sex harassment case in order to unseal court documents. Unfortunately, it was widely ignored by mainstream trucking trade publications who have the power to educate drivers and newcomers to the industry.

Instead of a demand for accountability, we saw an increase of "Tokenism" at major truck driver training fleets and from establishment industry organizations.

"Enabling : To make something possible, practical or easy, for someone **to do, or be** that often perpetuates a **problem** rather than solves it."

While the world around us is changing since the #MeToo & #TimesUp Movement, remember that RWIT was ahead of the pack in trying to expose this issue in the truck driver training fleets but sadly we've only seen the monetization of these terms by other organizations.

No one is "working" with carriers, no one doing anything significant except for silencing victims, ignoring complaints, censoring remarks and giving awards and accolades to offensive carriers to help them manage bad PR.

Rank does not confer privilege or give power. It imposes responsibility. ~ Peter Drucker

Enabling is real in the trucking industry and as we move forward into 2020, we ask each person to start digging deeper to understand that we all have a role in raising the standards in our industry. Be informed! Do not accept lip service that solutions are taking place when they are not.

RWIT asks for your help to identify shippers and receivers who contract with offensive carriers in order to begin educating end retailers and the consumer in order to ask them to reconsider who they use in their supply chain rotation so that we can bring more attention to this area that is being ignored in the trucking industry.

www.realwomenintrucking.org

ORGANIZATION MISSION:

To Deliver Highway Safety Through Leadership, Mentorship, Education, and Advocacy



QUEEN OF THE ROAD AWARDS

Friday, April 12th at 6:30 p.m.



Join us for an evening of delicious hors d'oeuvre's and delightful beverages as we celebrate the remarkable women who work as truck drivers during the 3rd Annual Queen of the Road and Trucking Industry Trailblazer Award Ceremony. **RSVP is required , Food and Drink Coupons are complimentary**

Location: Brio Tuscan Grille - Tampa International Plaza
2223 N. West Shore Blvd. Tampa, FL 33607

*This event will be streamed on Facebook Live
at 6:30 pm Eastern time zone*



QUEEN OF THE ROAD AWARDS CEREMOY SPONSORED BY



FAMILY OF BRANDS



Brita Nowak and Joanne Fatta, members of the RoadPro Pro Driver Council, will be presenting at the awards ceremony.



Brita Nowak

Brita lives in Jupiter, Florida where she is an owner-operator of Brat Cat Express and has been in trucking for over 16 years. She hauls frozen and refrigerated food. She was born in Berlin and worked as a model and actress in Hollywood before starting her trucking career. She is multilingual and has an economics degree that she says has helped her operate her business profitably. She has been outspoken in the industry on trucking issues and candid with her battle with cancer.



Joanne Fatta

Joanne came out of trucking school in March 2000 and landed her first trucking position with Four Seasons Produce/Sunrise Transport in central Pennsylvania. She started training drivers for her company 9 years ago and also works part time at a local truck driving school helping to develop student drivers and assist them in obtaining their CDL. She is a single mom who has raised a beautiful daughter all while trucking every day and putting in over 60 hours a week.



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ITINERARY

Make sure to download the Carnival app and connect with other RWIT members by cabin number to stay connected once we leave Port and lose phone service.



Saturday, April 13
Tampa, FL Depart 4:00 PM

Enjoy the Complimentary Champagne & Chocolate Covered Strawberries sent to your cabin, courtesy of our Diamond Sponsor



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Meet RWIT Group Members in the Dining Room at 6:00 PM

Please Check Ship Schedule for Dress Code



April 14 Sunday Key West, FL
12:00 PM-6:00 PM

Rather than paying for an excursion in Key West, we hope you will join RWIT members for the Ernest Hemingway Home Tour and Mini Shopping / Pub Crawl on Duval. Contact Desiree for details!



April 15 Monday Havana, Cuba 7:00 AM to Tuesday 6:00 AM
Havana, Cuba

Do not miss the tender boat for your prescheduled excursion or you may not be able to leave the ship. Most RWIT members are scheduled for the 10:00 AM Modern Havana Tour that ends in Revolution Square.

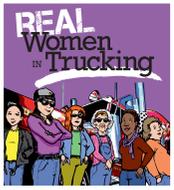


ITINERARY



April 16 Tuesday, Fun Day At Sea

Chillax , Play, Spa, Swim, Enjoy!



Meet RWIT Members for an informal meeting at 2:00 PM

(Location TBA at 1st Dinner Night) to discuss RWIT Strategic Objectives for 2019 and beyond , Learn how you can become more involved, give your input and help plan future events!



Meet RWIT Group Members in the Dining Room at 6:00 PM

Please Check Ship Schedule for Dress Code

****Karaoke? Sing Along? Dancing? Movies? ****

Each evening there are numerous shipboard activities we either attend as a group or you may choose to wander about solo. Either way we want you to enjoy your cruise so let's communicate through the Carnival HUB app to check the daily ship board events and suggest evening group activity get together to one another!



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Chillax , Play, Spa, Swim, Enjoy!



Meet RWIT Group Members in the Dining Room at 6:00 PM

Please Check Ship Schedule for Dress Code

****Karaoke? Sing Along? Dancing? Movies? ****

**April 18 Thursday Tampa, FL
8:00 AM - Disembark**

2018 ANNUAL REPORT AND OUR SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS

We provided comfort to countless women entering trucking who called and emailed us in distress who were experiencing obstacles in their training fleet.

We attended most every truck parking coalition meeting hosted by the Federal Highway Administration.

We hosted our 2nd annual lady truck driver cruise with learning workshops.

We won a motion to intervene in the CRST sex harassment case to unseal documents so that journalists, lawyers, and the public could educate themselves on the decades old abuse that has been enabled by trucking industry leaders in training fleets.

We provided testimony to the New Prime v Oliveira case related the Arbitration that was heard and won in the Supreme Court.

We had our 2nd year booth at the "Great American Truck Show" (GATS) in Dallas, Texas and hosted an Ice Cream Social with Top Law Firms to educate drivers on the California Meal and Rest Break issue, wage theft, misclassification, sexual harassment and STAA truck driver whistleblower protections.

We produced a coloring book of actual truck drivers that gave an authentic representation of the kaleidoscope of individuals who are our fellow drivers that deserve recognition and do not fit the stereotypes.

We did all of this while working full time ourselves as truck drivers. Your support through membership and sponsorship helps us continue these initiatives and plan for future activities. We wish to thank our corporate sponsors and paid members for keeping this movement growing.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

REAL Women in Trucking, Inc.

2018

2017 - 2018

REVENUES	BUSINESS EXPENSES	TOTAL DONATIONS	ADVERTISING INCOME	ADMINISTRATIVE HOURS
\$47,377	\$36,258	\$43,709	\$2,400	\$1,190
↑ 77%	↑ 96%	↑ 70%	↑ 140%	→ 0%

METRIC	REPORT YEAR (2018)	PREVIOUS YEAR (2017)	% CHANGE	5 YEAR TREND
REVENUES	\$47,377.47	\$26,774.37	↑ 77%	
WEBSITE MAINTENANCE	\$674.06	\$791.57	↓ -15%	
TRAVEL EXPENSES	\$7,628.27	\$7,483.69	↑ 2%	
BUSINESS EXPENSES	\$36,258.36	\$18,499.11	↑ 96%	
NET PROFIT	\$2,816.78	-\$4,958.21	↓ -157%	
CORPORATE DONATIONS	\$38,842.17	\$18,961.00	↑ 105%	
INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS	\$4,867.27	\$6,790.98	↓ -28%	
TOTAL DONATIONS	\$43,709.44	\$25,751.98	↑ 70%	
ADVERTISING INCOME	\$2,400.00	\$1,000.00	↑ 140%	
ADMINISTRATIVE HOURS	1268.03	22.39	↑ 5563%	

If you are not already a paying member or would like to learn more. Please visit our website at www.realwomenintrucking.org and look under the "JOIN" tab.

QUEEN OF THE ROAD AWARDS



Purpose

To create a dignified recognition award for women who work as truck drivers that have overcome personal challenges and demonstrate a "Pay it Forward" approach to help others with gratitude.

Must be either a past or present Commercial Driver's License holder. Must have hands-on experience to operate a tractor-trailer without assistance and ability to deliver freight. Must fit the R.E.A.L. criteria.

- R. Reaching Out
- E. Encouraging Others
- A. Achieving Personal Success
- L. Leadership

TRUCKING INDUSTRY TRAILBLAZER AWARD



President's Choice Award to recognize outstanding individuals that have served the trucking industry with distinction, dedication and professionalism.

Please Join Us for the

QUEEN OF THE ROAD AWARD CEREMONY

sponsored by



FAMILY OF BRANDS

Friday, 4/12/2019 from 6:30 PM to 9 PM at
BRIO TUSCAN GRILLE INTERNATIONAL PLAZA
2223 N West Shore Blvd, Tampa, FL 33607
(813) 877-3939

2019 QUEEN OF THE ROAD AWARD RECIPIENTS

Ramona Hogue



She has been in trucking for 18 years and currently drives for YRC Freight out of California. In her career she has driven all 48 states and Canada. She has won numerous safety and driving skill awards including the California State Truck Driving Championship where she was the first women in Southern California to win that award. She also is a cancer survivor, being diagnosed in 2010 with stage 4 Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma she was back to work in less than a year though she was told she had an inoperable brain tumor. In 2018, by sheer miracle, the brain tumor began to shrink. During the same period, she became the lead Plaintiff in a major class action meal and rest break wage lawsuit against YRC in California for the purpose of fighting for fair pay for all work time of her fellow drivers. The case was recently settled.

Audrey White



She lost the father of her son a few years back and has been raising her son on her own. She makes incredible sacrifices to ensure he gets a college education and is well cared for. Not only does she finance his education, pays for a house and the monthly bills for that, she also takes care of her sister whom lives at the residence and helps take care of day to day responsibilities in her absence. She is the hardest working, most dedicated driver I've had the pleasure of working with in my 8 years of trucking. Her accountability and professionalism are second to NONE! Since the first of the year, she has driven over 100K SAFE miles without a single late delivery! She is a great resource for our new drivers and is always willing to answer questions or share her wealth of knowledge with her fellow drivers.

Michelle Scolari



My first thoughts of her that come to mind is that when she drove tankers back in the day, a co-worker said she could not stay clean in a dress delivering her load, the challenge was accepted. They both were dressed nicely. She hooked, booked and delivered her oil, and then when they met back at the yard, he had oil splatters all over his suit, she had one oil spot on her nylons. She was told she could not drive truck and raise her kids to be good kids. Well she and her kids proved everyone wrong. She can back her truck-trailer in to spots that other people decline or take forever to get into. She is always there for her co-workers and they call her and ask how she does this or that and she walks them through the issue. She has helped fellow drivers with getting their axles correct or bought them food when she thought they needed it.

HONORABLE MENTIONS

The following nominees were all tied for Third Place for the Queen of the Road Awards. This Honorable Mentions category was created to honor their achievements.



Michelle Corson

She is currently operating with an almost career ending knee injury, and shoulder injury. She sacrifices being away from her four daughters. During her injury she was denied workers comp from being misclassified and had to rely on friends to help put food on the table and to help with monthly household bills. Despite her hardships, she has inspired some to eventually go for their Commercial Drivers License. One of these individuals wrote: "SHE is my hero"! A lot of new people to the industry talk to her about tips that will help them on the road. She has shown expertise in handling heavy and multiple loads in reasonable time of delivery. She has gone out of her way to help others. She not only does her checks and maintenance, she reports anything that might be wrong or needs checking in to her superiors. She handles sudden changes in weather conditions and road hazards. She has shown great pride in her driving skills. She volunteers to help anyone who asks, if she can help. She shows a happy and great work streak, even under pressure. She is ALWAYS going above and beyond to help animals through her rescue work that she also does.



Jessica Graham

She is a top performing driver at Henderson Trucking , ranking extremely high in a fleet of over 330 trucks that is 90% male drivers in demographics. Not only is her performance regarding productivity, customer service, safety of the highest standard, her attitude is equally so! She displays a positive, helpful attitude regarding her colleagues out on the road, and every support person inside the office. She is without a doubt, the most humble, respectful, positive ROCK STAR out on the road! One example is her bling-filled permit book, which is so great, she has earned multiple clean DOT inspections in her career. She has been photographed with her book, tiara and DOT officer! She spreads love wherever she goes; and we're proud to have her in our family! She has granted us permission to give out her cell phone number to any driver who needs a mentor and has made herself available to answer questions to both male and female drivers. She is also the admin of a Facebook group aimed towards motivating and helping other female drivers. The group is called Henderson Lady Leaders.



HONORABLE MENTIONS



Tamara Brock

She has overcome numerous impediments and inspires others with her candid open discussions on her YouTube channel and Facebook posts. She goes the extra mile in helping females that are interested in the industry. She even mentors and recruits females in the industry. When she learns about issues female drivers are having, she will get right to work to help with such things as setting up donations for a driver whose truck has broken down or reaching out to families who have lost a loved one in the industry. In 2018 following the tragic death of Karmeshia Thomas, she contacted the family and kept concerned fellow drivers informed of developments, how donations could be made to the family and she organized a memorial herself where drivers took pictures with their headlights on in the daytime to remember Karmeshia. She goes out of her way to volunteer and she is a great listener even though she is trying to overcome her own heartbreaks and setbacks in her personal life. She is a true Queen and does all of this while still working full time as a lease owner operator at LTI Trucking Services.



Rebekah Meadows *"Beautiful in heart and mind"*

She is owner operator of her own heavy haul and oversized carrier JRM Specialized Transport. An amazing pint-sized woman in the extremely difficult oversized trucking industry sector. She has had to overcome many difficulties presented by the often, extreme prejudice and harassment that exists against women in a predominantly male industry and workplace. She has done so with dignity while excelling in her chosen profession. She is also a loving wife, mother, step mom and horse farm owner, who somehow successfully manages to keep all her responsibilities in balance. Her friends and family are proud of all she has accomplished including her participation in the rescue and rehabilitation of abused horses. She more than deserves to be recognized by her industry. She is always willing to help others and always encourages women drivers within flatbed and heavy haul. In addition, she is committed to paying it forward to the horse industry taking in starved and abused horses and rehabilitating them. She has impressed her colleagues with her skill and professionalism.

She is always pushing herself to be her absolute best. She has started from the ground up working for multiple companies over the years, and now starting her own trucking company in the last year. All while being an amazing mom! Nothing has stopped her; it's always one foot in front of another regardless of how trying things get for her. She's always trying to make a better life for her and her family, on top of the horses she rescues. She has trained many new truckers in previous jobs. Whether it's safety procedures or proper maneuvers with Wide Loads. Many times, she's stopped to aid fellow truckers stuck on the side of the road. She's rescued multiple loads when needed; looking out for others when possible.



NOTABLE NOMINEE'S



Kristy Mathews

She has been a solo driver for 15 years. From the time she was little she has taken bulls bigger than her by the horn and accomplished tasks alone and well. From almost every instrument in band to bus driving to truck driving. She handles herself all so well I'd say for being so tiny! I have witnessed her take loads from coast to coast in any shape form n fashion with a grand attitude. Less can learn a thing or two from her I promise that one. She is always willing and able to talk anyone through their problems.



Brita Nowak

In addition to being an owner operator, she has become an outspoken driver that has used her celebrity status to speak out against issues she feels strongly need exposure. She also overcame breast cancer without chemotherapy and opted for a double mastectomy. She is one if the bravest women I know.



Candy Bass

She is 79 years young still driving. She is the most kindhearted woman you will ever meet, and her work ethic is outstanding. She has lived through an accident that should have her down, but she has a smile on her face and in her heart every day. She will help anyone she can and is always involved in many charities for truckers. I wish I could do half of what she does.



Phylisia Compton

The thought of being alone was hard for her to handle but with lots of help and learning from other seasoned drivers she has done it. She is professional every day and always has a smile on her face. She takes all questions seriously and helps younger people that want to get into the industry with the same fears she had.



NOTABLE NOMINEE'S



Teri Nycum

Even though I just met her I can see that her shyness and quietness does not impede her commanding 21 years of experience that she has under her belt. She mentors and inspires other females to get into trucking. She shows up to work with a sense of pride that has showed me that 21 years will be easier to achieve than one would expect.



Natalie Jassopadilla

Some of the obstacles she has overcome were from a difficult childhood. She was raised by her grandmother because her father was addicted to drugs and her mother was mentally & physically abusive. Despite these hardships she found a way to release her trauma by taking off into the open road. She set out on her own and found a trucking school and despite all the negativity around becoming a female truck operator she persevered. She has truly grabbed life by the horns and has risen into a self-sufficient, bad ass, inspiring other women to step out of their comfort zones to truly chase down their own dreams. She has worked hard for what she has now. She is very stubborn and loyal. She would not give up on a company that was bad for her, but because of the chance, they provided she did not want to leave and move on to a better place. She worked hard to learn the truck as an Intermodal driver for a local company in Los Angeles, California. She was given the chance to work for them and set off on a truck not having much training from the company. She eventually overcame the hardships of learning the truck by herself. While being stubborn, she finally decided to go over the road as a team with her husband. Finally, having accomplished a life goal by purchasing a home. Now that they would like to start a family, it has made her sad to think that she might have to leave the trucking industry while being pregnant. To resolve this, together she and her Husband have decided that the best solution is to start a trucking company and become owner operators. Currently they are searching for the best possible way to achieve this goal. She exhibits her generosity and kindness by making homeless care packages to handout when she is on the road. She volunteers her time whenever possible to help others wanting more information about trucking. She also tries to encourage other drivers to be more festive during the holidays by having several contests during these times which are difficult for all drivers. Holding annual raffles to encourage her followers to donate to her charitable causes. She is described as "...a beautiful person who donates to the needy and shares her life on the road on the internet...".



NOTABLE NOMINEE'S



Ikea Coley

She has been a driver at New Prime, Inc. for 4 years. she has been a trainer 2 years. She is a free hearted person and she loves what she does. She has trained many women entering the trucking profession. Teaching her students about being successful on the road. She takes every opportunity to support other women in the industry and she is a valuable safe driver. Her attitude and the way she can handle situations on the road while training her students is commendable. She is very enthusiastic and one of the youngest mentors in the industry. She pays it forward by training other female drivers in the industry. She loves the open road and enjoys sharing this with new people in this industry to show them how it's done.

She says: "... to see my students upgrade to their own truck is like your child going off to college for the first time, words can't really explain. I remember when I first decided to get my Class A CDL and leave home. No one thought I was going to go on with it until the day came that I got my bus ticket. I packed my bags and left everything behind. Out here on the road we do sacrifice a lot and being away from our families is the hardest part but Hey, I say someone must do it. Only the strong survive. We are feeding America one load at a time. This job is not as easy as it looks, and it is a lifestyle that you must adapt to. Trucking has changed my life and I do not regret it one bit. I was working at Wendy's before I came out on the road and ends just wasn't meeting for me. I had nothing to lose so I said why not? Trucking runs in my family so I already had a head start on things. It was not easy. It took me six times to pass my backing and a guy told me if I didn't get it then it wasn't for me. Well you only get three times to test but I went to the office with my trainer and I told them "I didn't come from Georgia to go home empty handed, I came for a CDL and I will leave with one. I am not giving up." The guy in the office told me "young lady I like your attitude now you go show them how it's done" and he gave me those other three times. When I passed my test, it was with the same guy that told me I wasn't going to get my CDL. I tell him every time I see him with a smile on my face "Hey I got my CDL." My ambition is so strong I am a survivor and I will never give up on anything. When someone tells me I can't, I tell them "you can spell can before you spell cannot." It just makes me go harder.



Molly Walker Bulger

Her Husband died about 1 year ago, she drove team with him. She shares her Faith in Jesus to keep driving and seems she had overcome much but keeps a positive encouraging attitude. She always shares her trials personal and trucking to encourage others.



NOTABLE NOMINEE'S



Shannon "Shay" Palmer

She has been advocating for women in the industry by putting herself and her story out. She is also a breast Cancer survivor and now has a truck that is wrapped and goes to different events representing women in the trucking industry. She is also a trainer at Werner Enterprises and does live videos to help women on the road. She goes above and beyond in trucking! She started driving a truck and quickly knew this is what she was meant to do. She encourages and reaches out to communities, helping as she can when in devastation. When the hurricane hit last year the woman, she was training had nowhere to go with her family, so she opened her home without a second thought. She goes out and talks to women and supports them with breast cancer, as she is a survivor herself. She shares all her scary times to other women to help encourage them and be there for them. She is more than a truck driver. She is a trainer, a sister, a wife, mother and friend to anyone if you need a shirt, she will make sure you get one, and pants? She'll take care of that too! She is the most caring women I know who has reached for the stars in trucking then shares it with the rest of the industry. I believe she deserves this award.

For more information on our finalists please visit www.realwomenintrucking.com



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TRUCKING INDUSTRY TRAILBLAZER AWARD WINNERS



Michelle Kitchen

She has been driving for 30 years. She has done tanker, has been an owner operator and currently hauls time sensitive produce for Van Eerden Trucking on a dedicated route that takes her weekly through some of the worst regions during the winter weather season. A tiny woman who is tough as nails and who has a big heart. She is someone who always helping other people and never asks for nothing in return. She is often helping on the sidelines without notice on different projects. She is a loyal person who is valued and appreciated as a truck driver, a sister, daughter, friend. She was instrumental in keeping the REAL Women in Trucking organization on course during a difficult period and continues to volunteer help fellow drivers one on one with just about anything. She is a wealth of knowledge, she is generous and often she is the voice of reason in difficult times.



Alta Brown

She has overcome a childhood that included incest, sexual assault in addition to racial prejudice, difficulty learning and being publicly ridiculed. As a young woman she battled addiction and later had to learn how to reinvent her life after incarceration. As a woman of color with few resources, she found truck driving like so many other similarly situated women have done. Being vulnerable without much knowledge of the industry, she ended up doing her truck driver training at CRST van expedited but had to abandon the carrier when her trainer told her she would have to have sex with him to pass. Though she refused him and had to abandon her training, she did not give up trucking. Finally, in 2017 she was able to realize a dream to become an owner operator with Jim Lawrence trucking bringing over a decade of experience as a truck driver. She has overcome many challenges with determination, endurance and grace. However, now she is fighting the battle of her life after taking a load across I-70 through Colorado in the Spring of 2018 where she was affected by the altitude and had to be rushed to the hospital. They found not only fluid in her lungs but also that she had a 6 lb. malignant tumor and needed to come off the road to go through radiation and chemotherapy treatments immediately. Despite her battle with cancer, she always has a big smile on her face and a positive attitude. She is truly a survivor, an inspiration, a true Queen of the Road. Her positive outlook and encouraging words to others set a strong example to all women that they can overcome anything life throws at them. She completed her treatments in January 2019 and is currently waiting for clearance in February to return to trucking.



TRUCKERS EMERGENCY



ASSITANCE RESPONDERS
WE STEP UP, WHEN THEY STEP BACK

877-CDL-TEAR

COMING WINTER 2019
501 (c)(3) pending

A non-denominational nationwide charity relief fund to help truck drivers in distress that require immediate assistance due to carrier abandonment, wage theft, carrier retaliation, accident, weather, illness or injury.

TEAR is not a hand out, but rather a hand up to help a fellow truck driver in distress get back to work after a traumatic event.

Services to Include:

- Small cash assistance for immediate transportation to a safe place following carrier abandonment
- Short Term Temporary Food Assistance during transitional periods and wage theft from carriers
- Temporary Emergency Assistance to maintain Health Insurance Premiums and Medications
- Lawyer Referral
- Citation and DOT Assistance (eligibility requirements)
- Rehire Assistance with Mentoring (eligibility requirements)



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