

Rehoboth Christian School

Transportation Campaign

It's been 73 years since **Rehoboth Christian School** started a student transportation department. In 1947, Sunday school students across the country raised over \$3,000 to provide the first bus for Rehoboth Christian School. There was much excitement when the bus arrived at Rehoboth (see story to the right).

In the past four decades, as Rehoboth has fully transitioned from a boarding school to a day school, transportation of our students to and from their homes in outlying communities has been a priority. We remain deeply committed to supporting families from the Navajo Nation and the Pueblo of Zuni who desire a Christian Education for their children.

Our supporting communities around the country have generously helped with our transportation needs. In just the past 10 years, we have received used yellow buses from Christian School communities in Hanford and Ripon, CA; Jenison, MI, and Hull and Sully, IA. Our local mechanic has worked diligently to keep our fleet of buses on the road, but the seemingly daily repairs have become a financial burden to operations at Rehoboth.

This school year we have experienced nine bus breakdowns. As we plan for the future we realize that the annual costs of repairing our school buses (\$50,000-\$60,000) has risen to the point that the purchase of new buses is a more stewardly use of the tuition and gift funds that we receive from our local families and supporters around the country.

As we researched the options for new buses, we learned that new propane fueled buses will save Rehoboth approximately \$.15/mile due to the lower cost of propane fuel and reduced maintenance needs. Our transportation department travels 180,000 miles annually, and we hope to save \$27,000 each year in fuel and maintenance costs alone.

Extra! Extra! The Rehoboth Bus

It was 2:15 p.m., December 19, 1947. All the children were in school except the seventh graders. The eighth graders were at the blackboard writing about the Constitution when one of them, Charles Damon, exclaimed, "The Bus!" The sixth graders dropped their pencils and paper, and all ran to the windows to see it. The bells rang and the siren blew.

The pupils were all excited. So was the teacher and she said, "You may go." The children from every school room ran out like a buffalo stampede. It was the center of attraction. The whole Rehoboth population was out to see it.

The new bus for Rehoboth had arrived!

Andrew Newman, 8th grade

Story pulled from "The Banner"
January 2, 1948



Curtis Long

Mr. Long has driven the Arizona bus to Fort Defiance and Window Rock for seventeen years and travels 150 miles a day for the route. Mr. Long's most memorable experience is being part of and witnessing the kindergarten classes growing from children into young adults, getting ready to graduate. His favorite thing about driving for the school is knowing he is contributing to Christian education by providing safe transportation. He puts forth the effort to have a positive impact on students by taking the time to brighten their day with an encouraging smile.



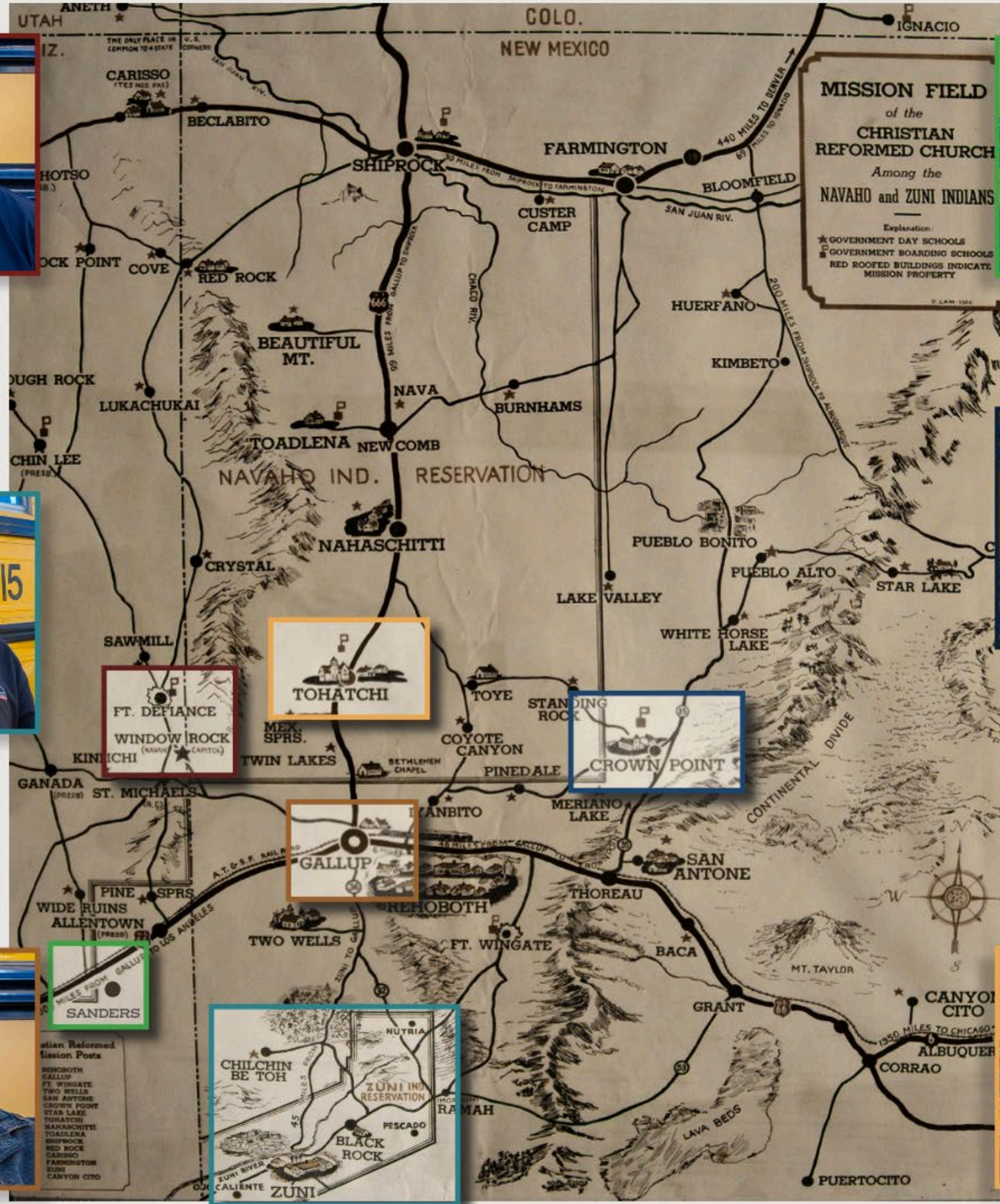
Fred Thomas

Mr. Thomas travels over 140 miles a day to transport students to and from Zuni, NM. Quoting Proverbs 22:6, "Direct your children into the right path, and when they are older they, will not leave it", Fred chooses to abide by this in his work in hopes that his testimony will reach the hearts of the students on his route. He is committed to the safety of his students.



Alfredo Gutierrez

Mr. Gutierrez travels 39 miles a day in the city of Gallup and has worked for Rehoboth for five years. His favorite part of the job is knowing that he has a hand in cultivating future generations by providing safe transportation for students to learn in a positive environment. In his duties, he acts with respect and responsibility in hopes that he can lead by example. Mr. Gutierrez has reflected that he enjoys the friendly atmosphere and is proud to be part of a wonderful team of drivers.



Eva Denetdale

Ms. Denetdale travels to and from Sanders, AZ and covers 170 miles daily. She likes that her fellow drivers communicate and work well together and they often pray for each other. She maintains a positive attitude daily and is committed to safe transportation for her students to receive their education.



John Lee

Mr. Lee has been with Rehoboth for over 30 years and has been a faithful sub for the transportation team. He enjoys whichever commute he needs to pick up and thinks of his students as family. He makes an effort to remember birthdays and greet students every morning with a warm smile.

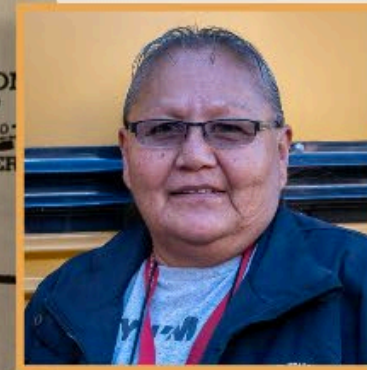


Maggie Billsie

Ms. Billsie travels 220 miles a day on the Crownpoint route and enjoys the quiet excursion of her route. She enjoys communicating with her students and takes the time to ask about their day and wish them well.

Esther Reed

Ms. Reed has driven for Rehoboth for 20 years. She transports students from Tohatchi to Rehoboth, traveling 130 miles a day. Her favorite thing about her route is seeing her students grow in respect and honesty. She has been praying continually that Rehoboth will be blessed with new buses and is hopeful for what God has in store for Rehoboth. She hopes that by being responsible in her duties and focusing on safety for students that she is positively impacting their lives.



At its January 2020 meeting, the Rehoboth Christian School Association approved a capital campaign to raise \$600,000 to cover the cost of six new propane fueled buses and a fueling station which includes a concrete pad, safety bollards and electrical service. Each new Blue Bird Vision 71 passenger bus has a cost of \$95,945.

The stretch goal for our transportation campaign includes raising an additional \$175,000 for a new Blue Bird All American Activities bus, which will be used not only for our field trips, music tours, and athletics needs, but also serve as a backup for our daily route buses.

Transportation Capital Campaign Components:

- Six Blue Bird Vision Propane Fueled Buses: \$575,670
- Fueling Station Preparation: \$24,330

Total: \$600,000

- *Stretch Goal for Rehoboth Activities Bus:* \$175,000

Grand Total: \$775,000

Over the approximate 12 year lifetime of the new propane buses, Rehoboth will reduce our Nitrogen Oxide pollution by 10.5 tons. We are excited to not only be better stewards of the funds provided to Rehoboth, but also to be better stewards of God's creation. *(Data calculated using the Argonne National Laboratory's Heavy-Duty Vehicle Emissions Calculator)*

Our hope is to have the funds for this campaign committed by **April 30, 2020** so that the buses can be purchased and delivered before the start of the new school year on August 12, 2020.

Will you continue the legacy of student transportation support begun 73 years ago so that we can continue providing a way for children to come to Rehoboth Christian School?

