

10440 Pioneer Blvd Suite 5,
Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670

ALL CITY MANAGEMENT SERVICES

CROSSTALK

ACMS



START WITH
PURPOSE



WELCOME

Wow, what an interesting start to the New Year. January has been full of unpredictable and historical events - the fires in California, an extreme cold front that swept across the US, snow in Florida!! Even with the never-seen-before events, ACMS Crossing Guards are still out there fulfilling our purpose. It is a constant reminder to me of your dedication and enduring effort to support your local communities and mostly your presence to show that "it's all about the kids" as a part of your purpose.

Purpose aides us in creating a life course - to feel so strongly about something that we have to take action (definitely what it takes to go out in sub-zero weather). To know more, I looked up purpose on the internet and got this message, "Purpose can be defined as an overarching intention that is personally meaningful to you and of consequence to the world beyond yourself."

The last phrase of this really sticks with me as I witness guards in action across America providing our service to the kids - "to the world beyond yourself". In this edition, there are stories directly about that - individuals acting in meaningful ways. The header at the top of the page under "All Around All City" also says it perfectly, "ACMS Crossing Guards continue to show us what it means to live a life of service."

Demonstrate purpose: Create an intention to interact with the kids - your smile and hello might be the difference in their day. Thank you for making the ACMS mission and serving as a Crossing Guard part of your purpose.



By Brian Brooks, COO

WINTER IS HERE

Winter has hit hard across the Midwest, Northeastern, Central, and Southeastern States. We are reminded of the inclement weather that can make our daily routines more challenging. Winter typically begins in November and can last through April, depending on the weather pattern. Despite these conditions, schools remain in session, and we continue to carry on with our work.

HIGH RISK

However, the season does bring its share of risks, particularly when it comes to slip, trip, and fall incidents. These often occur while walking through crosswalks during wet, icy, or snowy conditions. The streets, especially in areas with crosswalk markings, can become particularly slippery after rain or snow, contributing to these frequent and potentially serious claims.

To address this concern, we are taking a two-fold approach to enhance safety for our employees:

Winter Gear:

This year, along with the parkas and gloves, we have issued new winter hats designed to protect employees from the harsh elements. These hats not only shield the head but also feature a strap under the chin and an integrated mask, ensuring additional protection against cold and wind. A warm, well-fitted hat also helps to prevent heat loss from the head, keeping employees safer and more comfortable in frigid temperatures.

Ice Traction Devices (Winter Trax):

For employees working in areas affected by winter weather, we are providing "Winter Trax"—ice traction devices for shoes. These devices provide enhanced grip and predictable traction on icy surfaces, reducing the risk of slips and falls while walking through crosswalks and on streets during winter conditions.

By offering these winter safety measures, we hope to reduce the risk of injury and ensure that employees can navigate winter weather with confidence and safety.

CARMEN SJELIN

WORKERS COMPENSATION & SAFETY MANAGER

ACMS Crossing Guards continue to show us what it means to live a life of service.
We are privileged to share stories of our Crossing Guards that truly represent what it means to selflessly "go above and beyond."

"EAST END COMMUNITY SCHOOL HONORS STUDENTS WITH ANNUAL CELEBRATION IN PORTLAND, MAINE"

Who wouldn't love having a day dedicated just to them? Sure, we all have birthdays, but imagine a second day—a day when everyone celebrates you. Sounds amazing, right?

For Danny Lowe of Portland, Maine, that dream became a reality. Danny, a remarkable young man working as an ACMS Crossing Guard, has shown that autism is no barrier to living a life full of purpose. Danny's dedication to the children in his care has made him a beloved figure in his community.

Since 2014, Danny has been a friendly and dependable presence at the corner of North and Walnut, leaving a lasting impact on everyone who passes by.

His warmth and commitment inspired Lauren Ostis, the community coordinator at East End Community School, to take action. She teamed up with grateful teachers and students to organize a heartfelt surprise for Danny—a celebration in his honor, dubbed Danny Day.

On his special day, Danny arrived to find a scene straight out of his dreams: smiling faces, bubbles, Disney tunes, and colorful sidewalk chalk art. The joy on his face said it all—he felt truly appreciated by the community he serves so faithfully.

We're incredibly proud of Crossing Guards like Danny, whose dedication makes a huge difference in the lives of those around them. Congratulations, Danny, on your very own Danny Day!



[Check out the full celebration and article here!](#)

Written by: Rhonda Thompson
Area Supervisor



A HERO AMONG US: SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD GEOVONIA PARTEE'S REMARKABLE ACT OF BRAVERY IN GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN



In the midst of our busy lives, it's rare to witness something so extraordinary that it stops us in our tracks. But for Taylor Healy, a seemingly ordinary October day in Grand Rapids, Michigan, turned unforgettable. While passing through the Burton/Breton intersection, Taylor saw an act of courage that left her in awe.

Geovonia Partee, a Crossing Guard for ACMS, displayed extraordinary bravery that day. Though Taylor didn't have children attending the nearby school, she felt compelled to share what she witnessed in an email to Grand Rapids Christian Middle School. Geovonia, she wrote, "literally threw herself in harm's way" to protect the children crossing the street.

As a society, we often recognize bravery in our military, law enforcement, firefighters, and, more recently, healthcare workers. But many don't realize the daily heroism of more than 7,000 ACMS Crossing Guards across the country. These individuals step out every day, knowing they might need to risk their own safety to protect others.

Taylor's account serves as a powerful reminder of the everyday heroes among us. Her willingness to share this story highlights not only Geovonia's selflessness but also the importance of recognizing acts of kindness and bravery in our communities.

So today, let's strive to be a little braver, a little more selfless, and a lot more like Geovonia. And let's also acknowledge Taylor for taking the time to shine a light on this incredible act. Thank you both for reminding us that extraordinary acts of courage and kindness happen every day.

Way to go, ladies. You inspire us all.

Written by: Rhonda Thompson
Area Supervisor



BEHIND THE STOP SIGN: THE HEROES KEEPING KIDS SAFE EVERY DAY

USA Today recently spotlighted ACMS School Crossing Guards in an article titled, "STOP! Meet the Humble Heroes Keeping Kids Safe Every School Day." The piece highlighted the extraordinary dedication and bravery required to ensure children's safety at crosswalks and shed light on the remarkable people who stand behind the iconic octagon sign. If you were to ask Patricia Pohl, ACMS's Vice President of Operations, what's truly behind that sign, her answer is simple: highly dedicated, professionally trained Crossing Guards. And Patricia knows what she's talking about.



With over 30 years at All City Management Services, she's seen firsthand the incredible commitment these individuals bring to their roles. Across 22 states, more than 7,000 ACMS Crossing Guards brave what the MEL Institute has declared one of the most dangerous occupations in the country. With vehicle traffic increasing by 65% in recent years and pedestrian fatalities rising from 12% in 2020 to 17% in 2021, the need for these everyday heroes has never been greater.

A Growing Responsibility

As the country's population grows, so does the number of children who need to cross busy streets on their way to and from school. ACMS Crossing Guards play a crucial role in addressing public safety, allowing law enforcement to focus on other duties. Take Diane Richardson, for example, who serves in Las Vegas, Nevada. A former insurance investigator, Diane quickly realized that her role as a Crossing Guard is more than just a job—it's a mission. "This job takes on an entirely different purpose," Diane says. "It's harder than it looks. There's a lot involved, and the well-being of the children becomes your top priority."

On the other side of the country, in Westfield, New Jersey, Township Administrator James Gildea emphasizes the importance of partnerships between Crossing Guards and local police. These relationships ensure that information about reckless drivers or road hazards gets to the right people, improving safety for everyone.

A Job That's as Unique as the People Behind It

For Regina Smith of Kensington, Pennsylvania, the key to being an effective Crossing Guard lies in "finding your rhythm." Every crossing site is different, and a guard's ability to adapt and remain vigilant is essential. Whether it's a retiree staying active, a stay-at-home parent connecting with their community, or someone supplementing their income, ACMS Crossing Guards come from all walks of life. Yet they all share a common trait: a willingness to carry out an important task, rain, sleet, or shine.

So, the next time you see someone standing behind that STOP sign, know this: they're not just controlling traffic. They're safeguarding the future. It's a powerful reminder that there are people who care deeply about their communities, ready to step up every single day.

[Check out the full article here!](#)

Written by: Rhonda Thompson
Area Supervisor



WINTER RECIPE

ONE BOWL CHOCOLATE CHIP BANANA BREAD



TOTAL TIME
1 HR 15 MIN



PREP TIME
10 MINUTES



COOK TIME
50 MINUTES

PREPARATION

- PREHEAT OVEN TO 350°F (180°C).
- IN A BOWL, ADD THE BANANAS AND MASH UNTIL SMOOTH. ADD IN THE MELTED BUTTER AND STIR UNTIL WELL COMBINED.
- ADD THE SUGAR, EGG, VANILLA, BAKING SODA, SALT, AND FLOUR, AND STIR UNTIL THE BATTER IS SMOOTH.
- ADD IN THE CHOCOLATE CHIPS AND POUR THE BATTER INTO A GREASED LOAF PAN. TOP WITH ADDITIONAL CHOCOLATE CHIPS.
- BAKE FOR 50 MINUTES TO AN HOUR, OR UNTIL A TOOTHPICK COMES OUT CLEAN.
- COOL COMPLETELY BEFORE SERVING.
- ENJOY!
- BUSY? PLAN YOUR MEALS FOR THE WEEK USING OUR EXCLUSIVE MEAL PLANNER TOOL IN THE TASTY APP. DOWNLOAD NOW AND GET ORGANIZED.

INGREDIENTS:

- FOR 6 SERVINGS
- 3 RIPE BANANAS
- ⅓ CUP BUTTER, MELTED
- ½ CUP SUGAR
- 1 EGG, BEATEN
- 1 TEASPOON VANILLA EXTRACT
- 1 TEASPOON BAKING SODA
- SALT, TO TASTE
- 1 ½ CUPS ALL-PURPOSE FLOUR
- ½ CUP MINI CHOCOLATE CHIPS



Recipe Approved by Amanda Cruz
Sales Associate

"OUR DESIGNATED OFFICE BAKER, WHO LOVES CREATING NEW TREATS, HAS SHARED A WINTER RECIPE FOR YOU TO ENJOY. WE HOPE YOU FIND WARMTH AND SWEETNESS IN EVERY BITE THROUGHOUT THE WINTER MONTHS."





ENTER TO WIN PRIZES

Grab your pencils Ladies and Gentlemen -- it's time to win some CASH. Look at the riddles below, and see if you can solve them. Submit your answers to enter the CASH GIVEAWAY.



- The first FOUR (4) submissions received with the correct answers will win \$250 each!
- All other correct submissions will be entered in a drawing to win one of the TEN (10) additional prizes worth \$150 each.

CONTEST RULES

- Answers must be submitted by email to Crosstalk@TheCrossingGuardCompany.com.
- You may either number your answers with the corresponding clue or scan in the completed picture with answers circled.
- Responses must be dated no later than February 14, 2025



To be eligible to win you must be a registered Crosstalk recipient and an active employee of ACMS
Winners will be notified by email no later than February 21, 2025

SOLVE THE RIDDLES

1. Riddle: I help you stay on track and make sure you're seen, whether it's day or night, I'm always keen. I keep you safe from harm and guide your way, ensuring you get through each and every day. What am I?
2. Riddle: I'm a signal of caution, red and bright, guiding you to safety with my visible light. When you're driving or walking at night, I'll help you avoid any fright. What am I?
3. Riddle: I'm a mark on the ground or on the wall, ensuring safety in case of a fall. Follow my instructions and you'll be fine, avoiding hazards with a clear sign. What am I?



Contact us

Phone: (800) 540-9290

Email: crosstalk@thecrossingguardcompany.com

Website: www.thecrossingguardcompany.com