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Child Passenger Safety Instructor of the Year Award Bestowed on an 'Angel'

Colorado Resident Known as Impactful Teacher and Guardian of Safe Journeys

ITASCA, IL – From time to time, Angel Giffin reflects on her role as a Child Passenger Safety Instructor and contemplates what it means to mold minds and shape hearts.

Giffin, a resident of rural Brush, Colo., finds joy in those moments.

"I recently worked with a gentleman and watched him throughout our Technician certification training class as he worked diligently to learn each concept and to identify ways to apply what he was learning in his community," she said. "It reminded me of the importance of our outreach efforts. He speaks six languages and will be a huge asset in our state."

Giffin has been an asset herself – for more than two decades. She first became a Child Passenger Safety Technician in September 2003 and later earned her credentials as an Instructor:

- In 2024 alone, she was the lead instructor for 11 Technician certification training courses with 132 participants
- Giffin teaches 10 classes each grant cycle and has trained more than 1,000 Technicians over the years

Her willingness to give the gift of knowledge is why she is saluted today as the National Child Passenger Safety Instructor of the Year. The award is presented by the [National Child Passenger Safety Board](#) and sponsored by [Toyota Motor North America](#).

"Good educators find a way to connect with their students and pass on their knowledge," National Child Passenger Safety Board Chair Scott Downing said. "We know Angel Giffin to be a passionate advocate for child passenger safety. Her love for this work trickles down. Children and families are safer because she reaches out to provide resources and services. Her students interact with caregivers every day."

Giffin works for the Colorado State Patrol on a child passenger safety grant from the Colorado Department of Transportation. Her office is in Golden, Colo., at the foothills of the Rocky Mountains, a distance of 98.7 miles from her home. She views distance not as an obstacle but, rather, as another hill to climb on her life's journey. She first was inspired to seek a career in child passenger safety by her husband, Burl Giffin, a Master Sergeant with the Colorado State Patrol.

"As a state trooper, he had experienced the reactive side of improperly restrained children involved in crashes," Angel Giffin said. "He was presented with an opportunity to become certified as a Technician when our children were little. It was then we learned we had made some mistakes with our children's car seats. I worked alongside him at checkup events. Then, I decided I wanted to become a resource in our local community to ensure other families weren't also unknowingly making mistakes."

Soon after, Angel and Burl became the first husband-and-wife Instructor team in Colorado. Together, they raised two children, Jacquelyn and David, and now have two grandkids. When she is not at work, Angel enjoys working on jigsaw puzzles but looks forward mostly to spending time with the family.

"They are my world," she said.

Angel describes her teaching style as accommodating.

"I prefer to use hands-on learning opportunities as much as possible as opposed to lecturing the class," she said. "I want them to understand the power they have to make impact in their communities and to protect our littlest passengers."

About the National Child Passenger Safety Board

The National Child Passenger Safety Board's mission is to save lives and prevent injuries by promoting child passenger safety through education, mentorship, engagement and innovation. The Board's work is managed by the National Safety Council. For more information about child passenger safety or the National CPS Board, please visit the Board's website:

www.cpsboard.org