Milwaukee County Transit System: Driver honored for helping little boy left out in the cold

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Contact: Brendan Conway
(414) 937-3250

Milwaukee, Wisconsin – Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS) Bus Driver Karen Martinez-Casper is being recognized for finding a lost and cold 5-year-old boy. County Executive Chris Abele and Milwaukee Alderman Cavalier "Chevy" Johnson will formally honor Karen on Wednesday, November 15th at 2pm at the MCTS Administration Building, 1942 N 17th Street.

Karen was driving on the Route 80 on a cold October morning when she saw a little boy standing outside all alone. Karen pulled over to make sure he was ok. Karen got out of the bus to talk to the boy and that is when she noticed he was not wearing any shoes or socks. Karen took the shivering boy onto her bus to warm up and call for help.

"Like so many MCTS and Milwaukee County employees, Karen is a shining example of public service and selflessness," said County Executive Abele. "We know every day, across Milwaukee County, MCTS drivers are performing acts of MCTS Excellence big and small. Thank you, Karen, and thank you to all the other employees at MCTS who put Excellence into action."

The video of Karen's heartwarming encounter has received local, national and international attention, and her story of kindness has been viewed on social media millions of times.

"Karen's actions kept a little boy in District 2 safe and that is something worthy of recognition," Milwaukee District 2 Alderman Johnson said. "In today's day and age, too many people have a cynical view of government, but we know that people like Karen and thousands of other City and County employees are making a real difference in the lives of people every single day."

This is the fifth time in a year that an MCTS driver has found lost or missing children.