



## **Florida Studio Theatre – Help Write a Play**

As part of its on-going PEOPLE'S PROJECT (an initiative to find and tell the stories of our community BACK to our community), Florida Studio Theatre (FST) is developing new plays examining the virtues and challenges of aging in America, based on interviews with area residents. FST is seeking stories to create plays about what it really means to "age." They want to hear about your joys, your struggles, your losses, your discoveries.

Jason Cannon from FST would like to go-along on some iTN rides to listen to riders' and drivers' stories and experiences. These interviews would be audio-recorded to ensure accuracy in re-telling and any material used in possible future plays would be anonymous. If you are willing to share a ride and be interviewed by Jason for this project, please call Marissa or Susan in our office, 941-364-7530.

## **Age Friendly Sarasota – Let Your Voice Be Heard**

You are invited to participate in Age-Friendly Sarasota, Florida's first World Health Organization age-friendly community, which aims to promote Sarasota as a community for all ages! You can contribute your voice to Age-Friendly Sarasota by taking a survey distributed by Kathy Black, Ph.D., a gerontologist, professor, and leader of Age-Friendly Sarasota on behalf of The Patterson Foundation.

The survey is designed to assess the age-friendly "Assets" and "Aspirations" of Sarasota County residents age 50 and older. If you are willing to fill out the survey, please call the iTN office and we will get a copy of the survey to you. As an important stakeholder in our community, your input and connections to others to advance age-friendly efforts is greatly appreciated. More information about the Age Friendly Sarasota project may be found at its web site, [agefriendlysarasota.org](http://agefriendlysarasota.org).

## **Let Us Know Your Holiday Plans**

Believe it or not, we are on the doorstep of the holiday season. Out of our commitment to provide outstanding services, we are planning ahead. This is particularly important since the availability of our wonderful volunteers will be a bit different over the holidays than usual. In this spirit, please let us know as early as possible if you will need a ride over the Thanksgiving weekend and around Christmas and New Years. Just give Marissa or Susan in the office a call to let us know if you might need a ride.



## **Holiday Office Hours**

For your information, the iTNSunCoast office will be closed on the Friday after Thanksgiving (November 27th), Christmas and New Year's Day. The office will be open until noon on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. Even though the office will be closed at certain times around the holidays, you are welcome to make ride requests for any day over the holiday weekends and we will do our best to fulfill your requests.

## **Ride Cancellation Fee**

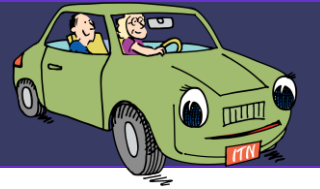
There are occasions when a ride request is cancelled. We understand that plans can change due to a wide variety of circumstances. At the same time, we want to remind you of our policy. There is no charge if a ride is cancelled by 1 pm the day before a ride is scheduled to take place. If a ride is cancelled after 1 pm the previous day and at least two hours before the pick-up time, there is a \$10 cancellation charge. If the driver shows up for a pick-up and the rider does not want the ride, the full cost of the ride and return ride, if one, will be charged. Please call the office if you have any questions.

## **Wanted: Board of Directors & Advisory Council Members**

We are looking to expand membership on our Board of Directors and our Advisory Council. This is a great opportunity to shape the direction of our efforts, help us improve the quality of our services and enhance our effectiveness in serving our communities. Riders, drivers, family members and any other interested community members are welcome. The Board of Directors meets once a month and the Advisory Council meets two times a year. If you are interested in serving or want more information, please contact Arthur at the iTNSunCoast office, 941-364-7530.

## **Aging Mastery Program**

The Aging in Paradise Resource Center on Longboat Key is one of only 3 organizations chosen in Florida to pilot a new program called the "Aging Mastery Program". Classes focus on ways to make and maintain changes in your health, financial well-being and life enrichment. The program begins on January 11, includes 10 sessions, and cost \$100. Transportation to the workshops will be provided free of charge by iTNSunCoast. For more information, call Donna Dunio at Aging in Paradise, 941-383-6493.



## **We Need More Volunteer Drivers**

The good news is that the number of people to whom we provide rides continues to grow. We feel terrific about this since this is our mission. At the same time, in order to meet this increase in ride requests, we need your help in finding more volunteer drivers. If someone you know has as little as an hour a month and is looking for a way to make a difference in a person's life, please have them call us at 941-364-7530. If someone you refer to us becomes a volunteer driver and provides rides over a 3 month period, we will give you a \$50 referral credit in your account. Help us help you!! Thanks!!

## **Friendly Reminders**

- iTNSarasota office hours are 9:00 am to 2:00 pm, Monday thru Friday. If you call us after 2 pm, we will get back to you the following day.
- **You may request a ride for any purpose, on any day, at any time. Please make your ride request by 1 pm the day before you want a ride.**
- We have expanded our service area. We now provide rides from Bradenton to Englewood including Longboat Key.
- All rides for iTNSarasota members to eye related doctor's appointments are free thanks to a grant provided to us by Regeneron, a national pharmaceutical company.
- **When you call to make a ride request, please be prepared to give us your pick- up and destination addresses and the times when you want to get picked up for both portions of your travels.**
- Please make your ride reservations as far in advance as possible. This helps us identify a driver for you.

### iTNSarasota Staff

Arthur Lerman, Executive Director

Marissa Martinez, Transportation Coordinator

Susan Shaw, Executive Assistant

**Thank you for being a member/supporter of  
iTNSarasota!!**