



1st Annual “Come Ride With Us” Luncheon – A Great Success!

iTNSunCoast held our 1st Annual “Come Ride with Us” Luncheon on November 1st at Florida Studio Theatre’s Court Cabaret. Attendance was terrific, the food was tasty, Chris Farrell, our keynote speaker from American Public Radio’s Marketplace, was very thought provoking, and Heidi Godman of WSRQ’s daily “Health Check with Heidi Godman” was an excellent emcee. In addition, we were treated to the world premiere of iTNSunCoast’s new volunteer recruitment video which captures the essence of what we do and why we do it.

Many thanks to our event and table sponsors including: Life Planning Law Firm, Herald Tribune, Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee, Alderman Oaks, Arts & Cultural Alliance of Sarasota County, Aviva (formerly Kobernick-Anchin-Benderson), WSRQ Talk Radio, Tidewell Hospice, Right at Home, Pines of Sarasota, Ashton Place, Judith & Benjamin Handelman, Donald Deibert, and Linda Davis and her friends from The Meadows.

Kudos and great appreciation goes to our video “actors” including riders Lyn Gould, Margaret Haber, Vilma Juhasz, Helaine Schwabach, Cathy Shaw, Tom Welsh, and Carol Wilkins and drivers Don Deibert, Kathy Dominguez, Rhoda Goldberg, and Wendy Hopkins.

Special thanks goes to Susan Shaw of the iTNSunCoast staff who did an outstanding job in organizing the luncheon.

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. 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 Jennifer or Susan in the iTNSunCoast office a call (941-364-7530) to let us know if you might need a ride.

Wanted: Board of Directors Members

We are looking to expand membership on our Board of Directors. 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. If you are interested in serving or want more information, please contact Arthur at the iTNSunCoast office.



Car Donations

Do you have a car in the garage that is costing you money to register, insure and maintain and that you almost never use? *iTNSunCoast* accepts car donations and takes care of all the details. We will pick up your car and make arrangements for its sale. You can use the value of your vehicle as a tax deduction and/or put all or part of the proceeds in your *iTNSunCoast* account to cover the cost of future rides. You can also give credits to a family member or friend or donate to our Road Scholar program. For more information, call Arthur at the *iTNSunCoast* office.

Donate to iTNSunCoast at No Cost To You!

We know that more and more people are making their purchases on line and this includes gift purchases over the holiday season. Amazon Smile is a simple way for you to support *iTNSunCoast* every time you shop at Amazon at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same prices, selection and convenience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to *iTNSunCoast*. You log into Amazon Smile at <https://smile.amazon.com> using the same email address and password as your regular Amazon account. Your shopping cart, wish list, and other account settings are all the same. On your first visit to AmazonSmile, you need to select *iTNSunCoast* as the charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Your selection of *iTNSunCoast* will be remembered and then every eligible purchase you make on AmazonSmile will result in a donation. This is an on-going program, not limited to the holiday season. So, every time you make a purchase through Amazon, as long as you log into your account thru AmazonSmile, you will be contributing to us!! If you have any questions about this, call Arthur in the *iTNSunCoast* office.

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!!



Thanksgiving Weekend – Rides Available & Office Closed

We will be providing rides over Thanksgiving weekend and the iTNSunCoast office will be closed on the Friday after Thanksgiving (November 25th). This means that you need to let us know by noon on Wednesday, November 23 if you need a ride on Thanksgiving or the following Friday, Saturday, Sunday or Monday. Sorry for any inconvenience.

If Your Ride Request Changes, Let Us Know ASAP

If the time or location of a ride you need changes after you call us with the original request, or if you decide that you want to make an additional stop while you are out, no problem. But, please call us as soon as you know of any changes and please do not wait to tell Jennifer about changes when she calls you the afternoon before to confirm the ride. Every afternoon, Jennifer looks at the ride requests and available drivers and sets the schedule for the following day. It is a very challenging job. Even slight, last minute changes can cause major problems that can sometimes take an hour or more to rework the schedule (never mind lost hair). We are here to serve you and we need your cooperation. Please let us know before you receive a confirmation call if the details of your ride need to be changed!

Friendly Reminders

- iTNSunCoast 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 noon the day before you want a ride.**
- **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.**

You now have the option of submitting ride requests through email instead of giving us a call. Requests should be sent to Jennifer at jennnifer.edwards@itnsuncoast.org.

Thank you for being a member/supporter of iTNSunCoast!!

Arthur Lerman, Executive Director

Susan Shaw, Executive Assistant

Jennifer Edwards, Dispatcher