

We Made the Front Page!



Thank you to the Community Foundation of Sarasota County for choosing ITNSarasota as one of their grantees featured in a Community Foundation front page article in the Sarasota Herald Tribune; and for sharing our ITNSarasota story as one of their website features.

Pictured: On her way to an appointment, member rider Sharon Steele walks arm-in-arm under an umbrella with volunteer driver Phil Dunio .

Photo Credit: Sarasota -Herald Tribune Staff Photo, Dan Wagner

ITNSarasota Employee Wins National Award!

Ben Petro ITNSarasota's Operations Manager, has won the **"Karl Durgin Award for Excellence in Operations"** for his service and dedication to the ITN mission. The award is given by ITNAmerica in loving memory of Karl Durgin, ITNPortland and ITNAmerica staff member. "The award recognizes the positive attitude, sense of humor and compassion epitomized by Durgin", Donna Dunio, ITNSarasota Executive Director said. Adding that, "Ben is the ideal person to receive this national award! He has earned the respect and affection of every member rider, their families, our volunteers and his colleagues."

ITNSarasota is the fastest growing of the 18 nationwide affiliates that currently makeup ITNAmerica and, according to Katherine Freund, President and founder of ITNAmerica, "it wasn't even a contest; Ben Petro won



hands-down!" Petro is responsible for customer service, volunteer coordination, the ITNRides software system, dispatching and marketing. He is a graduate of Ursinus College in Pennsylvania and resides in Sarasota.

Letter from The Executive Director: Donna Dunio

Dear Friends of ITNSarasota,

The past 10 months at ITNSarasota have been filled with excitement, growth, new beginnings and hundreds of amazingly caring individuals! ITNSarasota began providing rides the last week of January 2010 with 6 rides; In August we passed the 1000 rides milestone, thanks to our incredible volunteer drivers and our very busy member riders; just last month we provided 245 rides!

What else has ITNSarasota been up to between January and November? We celebrated our First Rides Open House at the Community Foundation with some very special celebrity volunteer drivers: **Nora Patterson, County Commissioner** (and ITNSarasota board member), **Judy Gallagher, Celebrity Chef** and ABC 7 Culinary Director and **Cliff Roles, Radio Personality**.

We had our Chamber of Commerce Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, we moved to new larger offices at the Arts Council of Sarasota County and we had a very special "Thank You" luncheon for our treasured Volunteer Drivers, also at the Community Foundation. By the way, if you'd like to know more about how to become a volunteer driver, please call Ben Petro, Operations Manager at **941-364-7530**. It is the most fun you'll ever have volunteering!

Speaking of ways in which you can help us help others, we are holding our first ever Annual Campaign and we could use your help and support. The fee for each ride we provide covers less than 30% of the cost of the ride making it necessary for us to raise the balance from caring individuals like you! **The more rides we give, the more expenses we have! All gifts, large and small are vitally important and truly appreciated.**

We've also had the opportunity to recognize and honor some very caring and dedicated people and organizations during our first months of service. Most of you know ITN's Ben Petro. The featured story on the front page gives you an idea of just how loving and committed Ben is to our ITN Mission.

Another ITNSarasota star, volunteer driver Diane Gouger was nominated for "Volunteer Driver of the Year" and we nominated The Community Foundation of

Sarasota County, which has helped ITNSarasota and our community in countless ways, for National Philanthropy Day's "Foundation of the Year" award. Ben, Diane and the Community Foundation will always be ITNSarasota's outstanding "winners."

These are just a few of the winning partnerships that are enabling ITNSarasota to provide area seniors and adults with visual impairment dignified, affordable, arm-in-arm, door-through-door transportation when they need it. ITN enables our member riders to have the freedom and independence to grocery shop for themselves, to enjoy friends and family get-togethers, to go to the theater, to make and keep their doctor's appointment or just to go downtown or to the mall to window shop!

We are extremely thankful for our caring volunteers, our incredible member riders, our small, hardworking staff, and you, our ITN community partners, who understand that all of us have a stake in helping to ensure that seniors and adults with visual impairment have the opportunity to lead active and independent lives, even when they no longer drive.

ITNSarasota imagines a day when all seniors and adults with visual impairment will have access to transportation when they want it. With your support we will continue to work toward that vision.

Thank you!

Donna K. Dunio
Executive Director



Sophia LaRusso; First Rides Chair, Stewart Stearns; past President of Community Foundation of Sarasota County, and Donna K. Dunio; Executive Director ITNSarasota

Turn Your Car Into Rides with Car Trade!

You may have retired from driving, but you still have all the same appointments, social engagements and errands to run. If you have a car just sitting in your driveway, costing you money in insurance, registration, and upkeep, make it work for you by trading it to ITNSarasota for an equal value in rides.

We will send a representative to your home to help you set a price for your vehicle. Once you are satisfied, your ITN CarTrade funds your Personal Trans-

portation Account™ for rides—wherever you want or need to go. ITNSarasota will then collect your vehicle.

If you are not a member of ITNSarasota or are interested in donating a vehicle rather than trading it for credits, we accept car donations and provide receipts so that you can claim your tax deduction. Please call us at **941-364-7530** to get the process rolling.



Left Top:

Arthur J. Mahoney, Board Chair, Pam Baron-Mahoney, Nancy Schlossberg

Left Bottom:

Lee Levine, Chris Pinckney, Johanna Gustafsson, and Russ Townsend

Below:

Celebrity Drivers-

Judy Gallagher; ABC Celebrity Chef, Nora Patterson; County Commissioner, Cliff Roles; Radio Personality



Be a Part of the Newsletter

E-mail or send us a letter or comments about your ITN experience!

Ride Facts:

Member Riders:	80
Volunteers Drivers:	10
YTD Volunteer Hours:	2580
Rides to Date:	1553

As of 11-18-10

Speaking Opportunities

If you belong to a group – civic, religious, business, whatever – and need a speaker, our Executive Director at ITNSarasota would love to help! We can talk about the ITN concept in general, share a little on ridership or on volunteer driving, or on opportunities for businesses to get involved (or all of these). Please call or email me and we'll see if we can arrange some-

thing. **And speaking of volunteer driving, we need you!** Our daily ride load is increasing, so please talk to your friends and ask them to consider what all our volunteers say is a wonderful experience. And thank you to those of you who've already referred volunteer drivers!



[1]



[2]



[3]

[1] ITNSarasota Board Member Judy Cahn and guest Betty Schoenbaum

[2] Vice Chair Linda Abromson and ITNAmerica President and Founder Katherine Freund

[3] Executive Director Arts Council Jim Shirley and Community Foundation Board Member Audrey Coleman

Wish List

- * Donated cars
- * Volunteer drivers
- * Gift cards
(oil changes, car washes...)
- * Making our Member Riders Happy!



Gift Certificates for ITN Rides!

ITNSarasota now has gift certificates available. These would be a thoughtful Holiday Gift for a senior loved one and a special way to show them that you care about his or her independence.

To order, call **941 364-7530**

ITNSarasota joins the Chamber of Commerce

We are pleased to announce that ITNSarasota joined the Sarasota Chamber of Commerce and we were welcomed with a Ribbon Cutting to celebrate our first year of providing services.

From Left to Right:

Thomas Welsh Jr., Sue Ellen Addicott, Chris Pinckney, Arthur Mahoney Jr., Doug Heinlen, Rose Chapman, Nora Patterson, Donna Dunio, Scott Carpenter, Mary Erickson, Teresa K. Bowman, and Marilyn Harwell.



Chamber of Commerce Ribbon Cutting

First Rides!

We launched our First Rides Open House in April with our Celebrity Drivers: County Commissioner **Nora Patterson**, ABC Celebrity Chef **Judy Gallagher**, and radio personality **Cliff Roles**. The event was held at the Community Foundation of Sarasota. A great time was had by all; our member riders, our volunteer drivers, and community supporters.

Upcoming : Walk For Rides

In March we will be holding our **first** Annual Walk For Rides. We need volunteers— **Come join in on the fun!** Call Donna K. Dunio at 941-364-7529, to find out how to get involved.



Susan Jackewicz and Sue Ellen Addicott



Ben Petro, Donna Dunio, Volunteer Driver Joanna Stevens, and Member Rider Carmelita Mondillo



Kathie Roberts of Community Foundation with ITNSarasota, Member Riders; Audrey Lamb, Ivy Large, Edith Hall



National Philanthropy Day

Thanks to the leadership and urging of Wendy Hopkins, Vice President of Grant and Program Services, The Community Foundation provided the funding that made it possible for ITNSarasota to address one of this counties greatest needs; the need for seniors and visually impaired adults to live a dignified, healthy, independent lifestyle.

Pictured left: Wendy Hopkins and Donna Dunio—Hopkins receiving certificate for nomination for "Outstanding Foundation" at NPD 2010.

ITNSarasotaTM
Dignified transportation for seniors

Board Of Directors

Arthur J. Mahoney Jr. Chair	Marilyn Harwell
Linda Abromson Vice Chair	Doug Heinlen
Thomas Cramer, CPA Treasurer	Nicci Kobritz, RN, N.P.
Sue Ellen Addicott	Leanore Levine
Teresa K. Bowman	Nora Patterson, County Commissioner
Judy Cahn	Chris M. Pinckney
Scott Carpenter	Thomas W. Welsh Jr.

Staff and Volunteers

Donna K. Dunio Executive Director	Gregg Fishel
Ben Petro Operations Manager	Toni Gartner
Karina Mills Marketing Intern	Diana Gouger
Barbara Hart P/T Admin.	Susan Jackewicz
Linda Abromson	Arthur J. Mahoney Jr.
Sue Ellen Addicott	Amy Petz
Walter Dettling	Joanna Stevens
Philip Dunio	Shirley Toutant
Mary Erickson	Terry Worden
	Betsy Wyant

A special **Thank You** to all our drivers— including a number of our ITNSarasota Board Members!

If you would like more information about ITNSarasota or wish to make a donation, please fill out the following form and return it to: **1226 N. Tamiami Trail, Suite 300, Sarasota, FL 34236**

- ☐ I would like to become a non-riding member for \$50.
- ☐ I am interested in volunteering as a driver or for office support.
- ☐ I am interested in donating a car or trading a car for rides.
- ☐ I am interested in ITN® services for myself, a friend or relative.
Please send an application.
- ☐ I would like ITN® to make a presentation to my group.
- ☐ Please send a *CarTrade* brochure.
- ☐ Enclosed is my contribution: \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, Zip: _____ Phone #: _____

Email: _____

We're on the Web!

www.itnsarasota.org

www.itnsarasota.wordpress.com

www.facebook.com/itnsarasota

DONATE ONLINE NOW AVAILABLE



To suggest story ideas, to contribute articles, or make a donation please contact us!

1226 North Tamiami Trail Suite 300, Sarasota, FL 34236

Tel: 941 364-7530

www.ITNSarasota.org Email: Info@ITNSarasota.org

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Contributing Writer: Karina Mills

iTNSarasota™

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1226 North Tamiami Trail
Suite 300, Sarasota, FL
34236