

ITN SunCoast – Be the One! **&** **The 2018 Giving Challenge (May 1 and 2)**

The 2018 Giving Challenge presented by the Community Foundation of Sarasota County with giving strengthened by The Patterson Foundation is almost here! For ITN SunCoast, it is the most significant fundraising effort of the year. The funds raised through The Giving Challenge allow us to continue our mission of helping individuals maintain their independence and dignity and to live joyful and meaningful lives through a convenient, comfortable and affordable transportation option when driving a car themselves is not sensible or safe.

During the 2016 Giving Challenge, 85 donors/generous friends chose to ***Be the One*** who helped launch ITN SunCoast to a new level of service. These donations combined with the generous match from The Patterson Foundation resulted in over \$15,000 raised for ITN SunCoast. Thank you to each of you who donated and know that through your generous giving you have made a big difference in the lives of thousands of people in our community. Because of you:

- In 2016 ITN SunCoast provided 10,000 rides compared to 5,000 rides in 2015. The number of rides soared to over 15,000 rides in 2017 representing a 300% increase in services provided over a two year period. This year we are on pace to provide well over 20,000 rides. Last week we had our first day ever of providing over 100 rides.
- While our service area was originally focused on Sarasota and Venice, in 2016 we were able to expand our service area to include all of Sarasota and Manatee Counties.
- Out of our commitment to meeting the transportation needs of all seniors and individuals with vision limitations regardless of their financial situation, the number of the rides we provided at a reduced cost to individuals living on limited incomes increased from 126 in 2015 to 771 in 2016 to 1875 in 2017.

Our riders themselves express best the value of what we do.

“I don’t know what I would have done without ITN. It’s a great service that’s enabled me to go out and do things. I feel so blessed to have this service. It’s one of the big reasons I’ve been able to stay in my home!”

“My husband did all of the driving so I let my license expire years ago. Last year he came down with a terminal illness and spent the last six weeks in residential hospice. Initially I had no way

to visit him until I found ITN. They gave me a ride to visit my husband every day and I will forever be grateful.”

“Since moving to Sarasota, my husband passed away and I had major surgery. ITN Sarasota has been a lifesaver. The drivers are always on time and the service has proved to be a very great experience!”

“I’ve been a member for 3 years. I have had experienced, reliable and courteous drivers without exception. It truly is dignified transportation for those of us who live here and no longer drive.”

These accomplishments could not have happened without you! You should take pride in the fact that at least once a week one of our riders expresses their appreciation, often with restrained tears, for the difference ITN SunCoast has made in their lives. We have done good things together!

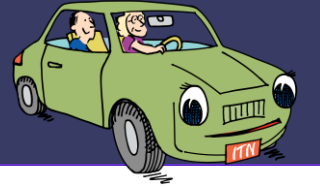
The 2018 Giving Challenge is on May 1 and 2 and is the next opportunity for you to help us take our services to the next level. ***Be the One*** to make a contribution this year to allow ITN SunCoast to expand the number of people we serve and the number of rides we can provide. Your support will also help us continue on our mission to address the issue of social isolation and loneliness. For more information or to make a donation, call ITN SunCoast at 941-364-7530.

Thank you!!

Free Rides

In the spirit of serving our area and keeping people connected to the community, ITN SunCoast is providing free rides to the following events. Call us at 941-364-7530 to schedule your ride.

- Sarasota Film Festival (SFF), April 13 – 22. SFF is recognized as a world-class platform for thought-provoking films from some of the best known and emerging independent voices. During its 20th Anniversary, SFF will screen 90 features and 131 shorts, among a variety of other great events. For more information, www.sarasotafilmfestival.com or 941-366-6200.
- The Hearing Loss Association of Sarasota (HLAA) is holding a Happy Hour on Friday, April 20 from 5 to 7 pm at Barnacle Bill’s, 5050 N Tamiami Trail, Sarasota.
- HLAA is also having a Giving Challenge Reception on Friday, April 27 from 5 to 7 pm at Art To Walk On, 16 South Palm Avenue in Sarasota. This is a free wine and cheese social.



Member Spotlight: Francis Quint

Dream a little dream and then put your “go shoes” on to make your dreams come true.

ITN rider Frances Quint, 87, has manifested many of her technicolor childhood dreams in a wonderful way. Originally from Litchfield, Connecticut, she met her husband while attending Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio. She worked in office jobs then started a family. Her daughter lives in Columbus, Ohio and her son lives in Vermont. She is the proud grandmother of three granddaughters. Fifteen years ago, she landed in sunny Sarasota where she now calls home.

In her extraordinary life, Frances has wandered the world by traveling extensively in her younger years. She has resided as far away as the Middle East from 1956-1986, a stay that was affiliated with her husband’s profession. The hands-on education of living overseas was invaluable for her family. The tradeoff was that sometimes they missed new products in the States, television shows and even gaps in the news but overall, it was an incredible experience.

These days, she’s catching her breath in paradise and revels in reading a good book and trying new restaurants. Solar power developments are a passion that also coincides with her son’s business. She’s ventured locally via ITN’s Let’s Go Places program and enjoyed it. ITN has given her a lift in her local travels for appointments and errands. “The interesting drivers are good conversationalists and make my short trips a nice experience,” she said.

She credits her longevity to the practical approach of just doing it and trying to enjoy every day. “Give it your best shot,” she added. “Life is what you make of it.”

You might say that Frances has put on her “go shoes” and danced her way through life in an interesting detour of a road less traveled.

4th Annual Non-Event A Great Success **Thank You!**

Our 4th Annual Non-Event did not take place on March 14th and it was a great success. Thank you! In addition to raising over \$10,000, more people than ever before sent us photos of how they “attended” the event. Great fun! Special thanks goes to Linda Davis and Don Deibert, members of the ITN SunCoast Board of Directors, who generously matched the donations made by others.

Friendly Reminders

- Our office hours are 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, Monday thru Friday and we may be reached by calling 941-364-7530. If you call us after hours, we will get back to you the following day. **In case of an emergency after hours or on the weekend, call 941-928-6506.**
- You may request a ride for any reason, on any day of the week including weekends, at any time of the day or night to anywhere within Sarasota and Manatee Counties. **Please make your ride request by 1 pm the day before you want a ride.**
- **For rides you need on Sundays and Mondays, please call in your ride requests by 1 pm the previous Friday.** On Friday afternoons, we set the schedules for Saturday, Sunday and Monday rides.
- If the details of a particular ride change after you have called us and made the ride request, please let us know ASAP and do not wait until you receive the confirmation call. Our ride schedules are pretty set by the time of the confirmation calls so making changes at that time can cause problems for us.
- When you call to make a ride request, please be prepared to give us your pickup 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. Requests should be sent to info@itnsuncoast.org.
- You are welcome to have friends join you for rides to wherever you want to go. Your friends do not have to be ITN SunCoast members and there will be an additional charge of \$2.50 per person per ride.

You may request rides for friends to visit you at your home. In this case, we will charge you, our member, the regular fare for the ride requested and it will be up to you to collect the charge or not from your friend.

Thank you for being a member/supporter of ITN SunCoast!!

Arthur Lerman, Executive Director

Stacy Prouty, Director of Development & Marketing

Jennifer McDonald, Executive Assistant

Rich Henderson, Dispatcher

Megan Radish, Administrative Assistant