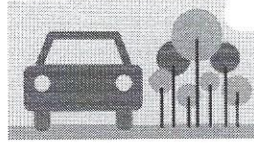


## Let's Go Places! Has Begun!



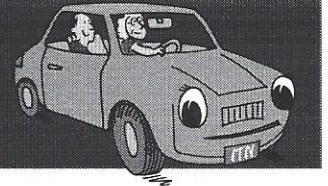
It's official! Let's Go Places! has begun. You should have received the June calendar in the mail by now. With help from a grant from the Gulf Coast Community Foundation, we are launching the service on a limited basis in Sarasota and Venice with plans to expand to other parts of Sarasota and Manatee Counties in the fall. For \$15 round trip, we will take you to the shopping, educational, arts/cultural and dining destinations shown on the calendar. Time to get out of the house, have fun and meet new people! In addition, some local businesses are very supportive and are providing 10% discounts for Let's Go Places! riders. The list includes Florida Studio Theater, Goodwill and First Watch. Call us to make a reservation, request the June calendar, or if you have any questions. Also, let us know where you would like to go.

## Florida Studio Theatre Offers Discounts

Florida Studio Theatre has been a strong supporter and great partner of ITN SunCoast over the past few years. FST is now taking that support to a new level by offering a 10% discount this summer to all ITN SunCoast members, not just those who participate in Let's Go Places! The discount is available for two tickets per person to any of FST's outstanding performances based on availability. The shows this summer include: **Burt & Me, The Absolute Brightness of Leonard Pelkey, Doublewide, The Jersey Tenors, The Blue Eyed Bettys, Roar! The Music of the 1920s and Beyond, and FST Improv.**

If you want to see outstanding, professional theater at a now discounted, remarkably reasonable price, call ITN SunCoast at 941-364-7530 for more information. For the schedule of performances, go to [www.floridastudiotheatre.org](http://www.floridastudiotheatre.org).





## **Road Scholar Program Update**

As you know, ITN SunCoast is here to serve the entire community. We provide rides to a wide variety of people from those who are comfortable financially to those who are challenged to make ends meet. For individuals living on limited incomes, we provide rides at discounted rates through our Road Scholar Program. Last year we provided nearly 1,000 rides through this program and had to place a moratorium on new participants due to the financial pressure the program was causing.

In response, last fall the ITN SunCoast Board of Directors created a \$25,000 fundraising campaign so that the moratorium can be lifted and the Road Scholar Program can be expanded. So far we have raised over \$12,000 toward our goal of \$25,000 thanks to generous grants from the following foundations:

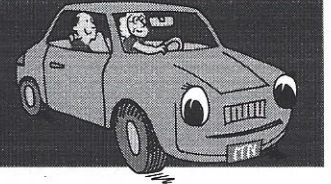
Glad Tithings Foundation  
MSC Foundation (Michael Saunders & Company)  
Rotary Club of Lakewood Ranch  
Sarasota County Aging Network (SCAN)  
Venice-Nokomis Women's Club

As the result of our fundraising success to date, we are now accepting new Road Scholar participants in Venice and Manatee County and look to expand the program further as we raise additional funds toward our \$25,000 goal. A warmhearted thank you to our foundation and individual contributors!

## **The Spirit of ITN SunCoast**

A few weeks ago, we got a call from the daughter of one of our riders whose father had gotten very sick and was not likely to live more than a few days. She called to express her appreciation for the services and support we had provided her father, especially since she lived out of the area. One particular time her father was feeling very bad and needed on short notice a ride to the hospital. Linsea Mohr, one of our drivers who had driven her father on a number of occasions, drove from Venice to Sarasota to make sure he got where he needed to go. The daughter, with tears in her voice, expressed her gratitude for ITN SunCoast and asked if it was alright to suggest in her father's obituary that people make donations to ITN SunCoast in honor of her father. In response, we have received over \$1,000 in donations for which we want to thank the family and friends of Joe Putignano. That is the spirit that we at ITN SunCoast are committed to in serving our riders and the community as a whole – making the extra effort that makes a difference in people's lives.





## **Please Welcome New ITN SunCoast Staff**

Rich Henderson has been our new dispatcher for over a month. He comes from Indiana and moved to Sarasota two years ago. Rich has extensive dispatching, driving and customer service experience. Most recently he was the scheduling coordinator for Ride Right, the company that is under contract with SCAT to provide local paratransit services. As the result, he knows the highways and byways of the area very well.

Rich and his wife Malinda have two daughters and one grandson. Rich's hobbies include watching sports and playing pool (don't get hustled). Rich is very happy to be part of the ITN SunCoast Team and is enjoying getting to know our wonderful members.

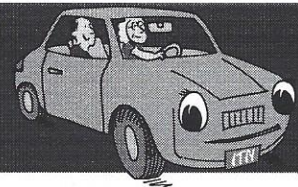
Dana Stewart is our new administrative assistant who is responsible, among a number of other things, for taking ride requests, putting requests into our computer system, and making confirmation calls. She has extensive customer service experience having worked for General Dynamics and Transportation Management Systems.

Originally from California, Dana has lived in Florida since 2000. While a relative newcomer to Sarasota, she is getting to know her way around as she navigates our roadways on her bicycle. Dana is an excellent addition to our team and loves speaking with our members and helping them get to where they want to go.

## **Car Donations – We Make it Easy**

We recently received three car donations from individuals who decided that it was best to stop driving and that it was smart to stop paying for registration, insurance and maintenance on cars that were sitting in the driveway not being used. After a brief meeting and the signing of a few papers, we drove the vehicle away, sold it and distributed the proceeds according to the wishes of the owner. In some cases, the proceeds from the sale were donated completely to ITN SunCoast. In other instances, the proceeds were split between a credit in the donors ITN account and a donation. Either approach is fine with us and all donations are tax deductible. Give us a call if you want to find out more about our car donation program.





## Friendly Reminders

- ITN SunCoast office hours are 9:00 am to 2:00 pm, Monday thru Friday and may be reached by calling 941-364-7530. If you call us after 2 pm, 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](mailto: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

Susan Shaw, Executive Assistant

Rich Henderson, Dispatcher

Dana Stewart, Administrative Assistant