

## **Free Rides to Eye Appointments** **Both Ways in February**

We are pleased to let you know that rides to eye appointments and the return ride will be free again in February thanks to the grant we have from Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc. As explained last month, the grant is for a specific amount of money on an annual basis. Since the number of eye appointment rides we provide varies from month to month, we periodically need to adjust what rides are covered to stay within the limits of the grant. The good news is that there are enough funds available so we can provide free rides both to and from eye appointments at least through February!

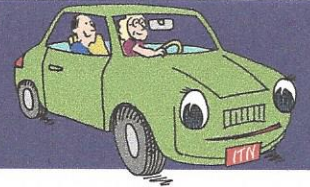
## **Let's Go Places! – Beginning in March**

Let's Go Places!, a new service from iTNSunCoast, will begin in March, not February as originally expected. You can get rides for as little as \$10 - \$15 round trip to selected shopping, educational, arts/cultural and dining establishments on a set schedule. As an added benefit, we are negotiating discounts for **Let's Go Places!** riders at local businesses. You will be picked up at your home, share the ride with a few others, go to the specified destination, and be given a ride home at the time set on the schedule. This is a great opportunity to get out and enjoy what our wonderful area has to offer. If there is a particular place you would like to go, please let us know! Also, thank you to those of you who participated in the phone survey we are conducting!

## **We Need More Volunteer Drivers**

The good news is that the number of people to whom we provide rides continues to grow. We provided 998 rides in January and are signing up new members up at a rate of over 5 per week. 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**

- 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 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 instead of giving us a call. Requests should be sent to Jennifer at [jennifer.edwards@itnsuncoast.org](mailto:jennifer.edwards@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 iTNSunCoast members and there will be an additional charge of \$2.50 per person per ride. If you have a caregiver who accompanies you on rides, the caregiver rides for free.
- 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 iTNSunCoast!!**

Arthur Lerman, Executive Director

Susan Shaw, Executive Assistant

Jennifer Edwards, Dispatcher