



2016 Giving Challenge: We Need Your Support!

The 2016 Giving Challenge takes place September 21 – 22 from noon to noon and is a critical fundraising event for us at iTNSunCoast! We do not charge our riders the full cost of providing their rides so that the rides are as affordable as possible to as many area residents as possible. At the same time, we are providing more rides than ever (over 850 in August) and having to rely more on paid drivers since many of our volunteer drivers are away for the summer and fall. This set of circumstances has create a big financial challenge for us.

Due to the generosity of The Patterson Foundation, your contribution to us during the 2016 Giving Challenge will be matched. All contributions from new donors will be matched 2 to 1 so that a \$25 contribution becomes \$75 to us, \$50 becomes \$150, and \$100 becomes \$300. For those of you who contributed to iTNSunCoast during the 2015 Giving Challenge, your donation up to \$100 will be matched 1:1. This is an outstanding opportunity to make a substantial difference for us and allow us to continue to provide our much needed service.

All donations need to be made electronically between noon on Wednesday, September 21 and noon on Thursday, September 22 by going to www.givingpartnerchallenge.org. If you do not have access to a computer or will not be available to make a donation during the 24 hour period, call the iTNSunCoast office (941-364-7530) and we can help you make the donation.

The 2016 Giving Challenge is presented by the Community Foundation of Sarasota County with giving strengthened by The Patterson Foundation, as well as support from Manatee Community Foundation, John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, William G. and Marie Selby Foundation, and the Herald-Tribune Media Group.

Ride Requests by Email

You now have the option of submitting ride requests through email instead of giving us a call. Requests should be sent to Jennifer by noon the day before or by noon on Friday for a Saturday, Sunday or Monday ride. Jennifer's email address is jennnifer.edwards@itnsuncoast.org. Please give us your requested pick-up time, the actual street address of your destination and the time you want to be picked up for your return ride. If it is an appointment, please provide the name of the person you will be seeing and their suite number if the office is in an office building so we can find you for the return. Hopefully this will make things easier for some of you.



Free Rides to Falls Prevention Symposium

The Pines of Sarasota is presenting a Falls Prevention Symposium on September 22 from 9 am to 3:30 pm on its Sarasota campus. Recognizing that falls are the biggest threat to maintaining independence for many individuals living in our community and that iTNSunCoast is committed to doing everything we can to help people maintain their independence as long as possible, we will provide free rides to the Falls Prevention Symposium. To learn more about the free symposium or to register, call The Pines at 941-552-1882. For a free ride to the event, call iTNSunCoast at 941-364-7530.

Free Rides to Eye Appointments – One Way Beginning October 1

As most of you know, Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc. has provided a generous grant to help cover the cost of rides to eye appointments. While we have been providing rides to and from eye appointments for free for the past several months, the number of eye appointment ride requests we are receiving is greater than the amount of funding we are getting from the grant. As the result, beginning October 1, free rides to eye appointments will be limited to only one way of the round trip. You will be charged for the return ride.

Hurricane Hermine

Hurricane Hermine presented a major challenge to us last week due to serious flooding in some parts of our service area. We were conflicted between fulfilling our commitment to you to get you where you want to go when you want to go there and not putting our riders and drivers in an unsafe situation. The difficult to predict path of the storm added to the challenge. As some of you know, we did cancel all rides last Wednesday out of concern for people's safety. Otherwise, Jennifer and our drivers did a remarkable job of staying on schedule despite difficult conditions. We thank you for your patience and understanding and hope you were able to stay safe and dry!

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

Arthur Lerman, Executive Director

Susan Shaw, Executive Assistant

Jennifer Edwards, Dispatcher