

50,000th ITN SunCoast Ride!

ITN SunCoast provided its 50,000th ride this past month. The lucky rider was Mary Ann Hanrahan, an east county resident and ITN member for 7 months, who thought it was just a regular day and trip to Publix. “I am excited to be part of ITN’s celebration because I know firsthand how important this service is for anyone who no longer drives,” said Hanrahan. “Instead of imposing on friends when I need and want to go somewhere, I can always count on ITN SunCoast and the friendly, caring drivers.”

ITN SunCoast, originally ITN Sarasota, gave its first ride in 2010. Inspired by the ITN (Independent Transportation Network) model developed over 25 years in Maine by Katherine Freund, SCOPE, JFCS and The Community Foundation of Sarasota County worked together to launch the service. Since then, ITN has slowly expanded to serve all of Sarasota and Manatee Counties and has over 600 members. In fact, in May ITN SunCoast set a record of providing over 1,800 rides including a few days when over 100 rides were given in a day!

ITN SunCoast would not be able to serve the community without support from our volunteer drivers, riders, family and community members who contribute their time and provide financial support to help their neighbors stay connected to the community. We are forever grateful for the support that makes ITN SunCoast “More than Just a Ride”.

Do You Use Email? Get Free Tickets to Florida Studio Theater

We recognize and appreciate that many of our members do not use email. At the same time, email is a fast and inexpensive form of communication. Email is particularly helpful when we get time sensitive, special offers from local cultural venues and businesses that we make available thru Let’s Go Places! In order to get a better idea of who among our members use email, we have a special offer! If you send us an email (a ride request or a simple hi!) during the month of June, you will be entered into a drawing for 2 free tickets plus transportation to the summer or fall show of your choice at Florida Studio Theater! Just hit the “send” button for a great time in Sarasota on us! Contact us at info@itnsuncoast.org.

Savor Sarasota 2018 – Free Rides!

It's the time of year for Savor Sarasota! Between June 1 and 14, dozens of local restaurants feature three course, prix-fixe \$16 lunch and \$32 dinner menus. This is a great opportunity to try new restaurants or go to your old favorites. It is fun and a fantastic gastronomic experience! And, in support of our members getting out and having fun and to support local restaurants, ITN SunCoast will provide our members with free transportation to the restaurant of your choice. Check out Savor Sarasota at <https://www.visitsarasota.com/savor-sarasota> or call your restaurant of choice for more information and then give us a call at 941-364-7530!

More Free Rides!

We know our riders well and care deeply for them. We also know that many of you live alone in your own homes and can be lonely and feel socially isolated. In addition, we are well aware that there is a relationship between your sense of social connectedness and your physical, mental and emotional wellbeing. It is the reason we started Let's Go Places! To further encourage you to get out, meet new people and have some fun, we will be offering free rides every month to different places within our community, like Savor Sarasota this month. Watch for the announcements in our newsletter.

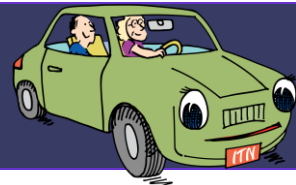
New ITN SunCoast Board of Directors Officers

ITN SunCoast is a Sarasota based, non-profit, Florida corporation. The members of our Board of Directors are volunteers with the responsibility of overseeing and guiding our organization. Our mission is to serve our community, not to make money. There is no such thing as profit in our world and without support from the community in the forms of volunteer Board members, drivers and office help and donations we would not exist.

At the 2018 Annual Meeting in May, the ITN SunCoast Board elected its 2018-19 officers: Chair, Barbara Cogswell; Vice Chair, Nancy Bobbitt; Secretary, Linda Davis; and Treasurer, Don Deibert. We are very fortunate to have these dedicated and hardworking people give their time to ITN! Also, many thanks to Suzy Prymmer who did a great job as Chair this past year!

Ambassador Program – We Need Volunteers!

We need volunteers! We need volunteer for lots of reasons including drivers, office volunteers and people who can work from home and help us figure out what to include in our Let's Go Places! calendar. Do you or someone you know have some time to help us out? Please call the office – (941) 364-7530! By the way, we now call our volunteers "Ambassadors". How can you resist a title like that! Give us call and make a difference!



Member Spotlight...Joan Liguori

By Linsea Mohr

On a scale from A to G, music and choir reverberate a high note in the life of longstanding ITN rider Joan Liguori. Her participation in the local Diversity Chorus augments her love of music and interesting people she meets along the way. She's not just a one-note though. Her life is the "whole song" filled with family, an enriching career and adventures galore.

Liguori, 89, grew up in Cornwall, NY on the Hudson River. She met her husband Bob at the Trailways bus station on her way to Oneota State Teachers' College in NY. He offered her a ride and the rest was history. She was a K-2 elementary teacher and Bob went on to become an Episcopal priest. Five boys followed along with three grandchildren. One of her sons, Christopher, even pursued his father's path and became a Catholic priest.

"I always say that I'm German by heritage, but Italian by marriage," she said. Bob's Italian heritage encouraged her to become an excellent cook. Unfortunately, Bob passed away but the memories of 63 happy years together remain indelibly etched in her mind.

Her husband left a legacy that the family carries on. Live and go all out for everything. Enjoy every bit of life. Joan adds, "Be of service. Connect with other people. Volunteer." She has always been a glass half-full person who tries to have something to look forward to including just meeting people anywhere and learning about them.

ITN facilitates her escapades by taking the stress out of driving and traffic. She counts on reliable ITN drivers for their invaluable service in transportation.

After 33 years in Sarasota, she's always on the move. Her next undertaking is writing a tales of romance book about the intriguing way couples she knows met each other. That's when she has time in between notes at choir practice, family, friends and her optimistic outlook on what each ensuing day will uncover.

Pick Up Service Available Thru ITN SunCoast

We do offer a pick-up service to all of our members. Do you need to pick-up a filled prescription or anything else and don't feel like going out yourself? Give us a call and we will take care of it for you. For this service, we charge the cost of the ride from the pick-up location to your home plus a \$3.00 pick-up charge.

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 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.
- 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