

## First Rides Weekend a Success!

ITNBluegrass recently held its First Rides Weekend, marking the official start of full transportation services in Fayette County. To kick off this exciting weekend, a public forum was held at the Kentucky Theatre on Saturday, September 20, featuring ITNAmerica founder, Katherine Freund. Following the forum, there was a free showing of the documentary film *Young@Heart*. Also part of the festivities was the Young at Heart Dixie Band, who provided musical entertainment.



Laura Dake, Gale Reece, Katherine Freund, Mayme Hamby, and Mayor Gray cut the ribbon!

The festivities continued on Monday, September 22, with a roundtable discussion during which Katherine shared with local community leaders the mission, goals, and future of ITN. Following the discussion, an official ribbon cutting ceremony was held at the front entrance to Lexington Green.



After the ceremony, Lexington Vice Mayor Jim Gray gave ITNBluegrass' First Official Ride to member Mayme Hamby. He drove her from Lexington Green to Second Presbyterian Church where she volunteers with the Meals on Wheels Program. A special thanks to Mr. Gray and everyone who helped make First Rides Weekend a huge success!!

## First Annual Appeal: Help Build a Strong Foundation

ITNBluegrass is officially open for business! We would be honored if you considered making a donation to help us celebrate this huge success. Our goal is to raise \$5,000 to assist in building a sound financial footing for the future. All donations made before the end of the year are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law for the 2008 tax year. Memberships and rider fares cover just half the actual cost of our operations, so your support is critical to our future success. Be on the lookout for the Annual Appeal letter in your mailbox within the coming weeks!

## Special Thanks to Our Supporters

We would like to extend a very special thanks to the following for their past or present support of ITN*Bluegrass*: Blue Grass Community Foundation, Quadrant 2 Consulting, our former Executive Committee members, our Board of Directors and our Charter Business Members: Bluegrass Community Hospital, Bluegrass Retina Consultants, Cumberland Valley National Bank, Laurel Grocery Company, Lexington Clinic, Quantrell Cadillac, Retina Associates of Kentucky, St. Joseph's Health Care, Second Presbyterian Church, UK HealthCare and United Radiation Oncology.

## Donna Baker: Volunteer of the Year



Donna Baker has been a tireless volunteer for ITN*Bluegrass* since June 2007. She works in multiple capacities: as a Board member, as a volunteer driver and as an informal "operations consultant," where she is working with our dispatchers to develop a daily operations manual. Donna also helps at events. She is a joy to work with and has a great sense of humor!

For her efforts, Donna will receive a beautiful award, a commissioned handmade pottery by Rara Avies Pottery. It is a modified Tzedakah Box (to hold coins for charitable acts) showing a little ITN car traveling through a village with destinations common to ITN members.

## Meet Charter Member Natalie Sherman

By Anna Thomas, ITN*Bluegrass* College Intern

I recently had the opportunity to interview one of ITN*Bluegrass*' most valued customers, Natalie Sherman. Natalie and her husband Albert learned about ITN*Bluegrass* from their son, Harold, who told them that ITN*America* would soon be opening up an affiliate to serve the Bluegrass area. As charter members, the couple supported and joined ITN long before transportation services actually began.

As active members of their synagogue, Natalie said that the primary reason that she and her husband use ITN transportation is to attend Saturday morning services. Other reasons include going to the grocery store and visiting family and friends in the hospital. Once, she even went shopping at a local department store! When asked if ITN*Bluegrass* helps her maintain her desired level of involvement in the community, she simply said, "Yes, it does."

The Sherman's favorite feature of ITN*Bluegrass* is that, unlike relying on family and friends for transportation, they only have to call a day ahead, or sometimes even the same day to get a ride. Natalie only had positive things to say about ITN*Bluegrass*, noting that she could think of no areas that need improvement and adding, "ITN is so friendly. I like having someone to talk to when I go somewhere. With ITN, you get that. It's not like a taxi cab." where you don't know the driver."

## Is your car lonely?

Does your household have a car that's not being used? In 2005, AAA<sup>®</sup> estimated that the average cost of a car sitting in your driveway is \$15.25/day. This doesn't even include the cost to drive anywhere! Why not convert your depreciating asset into ITN rides? If you are interested in trading a vehicle for ride credits, please call us at 859.252.8665.

## Letter from the Executive Director: Gale Reece



In May of 2006, I made a commitment to Dr. Robynn Pease, Director of Aging Service for LFUCG, to do my best to get an ITN® (Independent Transportation Network) affiliate to serve the Bluegrass area. Two years and four months later, ITN*Bluegrass* has begun servicing

all of Fayette County.

There were two major obstacles that caused the implementation process to be such a long one. First, we had to raise \$125,000, both to prove to ITN*America* that we are committed to making our affiliate a success and to fund the first year of operations. Second, we had to get an exception to a transportation law through the legislature which would have prohibited us from operating. It was only with the help of our many supporters that we were able to overcome these challenges.

With those obstacles out of the way, our real work begins. Fortunately, as we face the challenges of implementing ITN*Bluegrass* we are blessed with an excellent staff and board of directors and an exceptional group of volunteer drivers, all dedicated to providing safe, dignified transportation for elders and visually impaired individuals in our community. A special thanks to our Deputy Director Laura Dake who has worked tirelessly for the project for almost two years now. Laura's writing skills, creativity, and "can do" attitude have been a large part of our success.

Mobility of our neighbors is a community issue. In order to adequately address it, everyone must step up to the challenge to help our citizens who should not or can no longer drive remain productive, important assets to the community. ITN*Bluegrass* needs volunteer drivers, business and rider members, and car donations. Do you need a ride? Do you have time to volunteer drive? Are you a business interested in bringing in elder customers? Would you like to hear more about our multi-year business memberships? If you answered yes to any of these, give us a call!

## Bulletin Board

### **Welcome To:**

*All our volunteer drivers:* Donna Baker, Elizabeth Billhymer, Midge Cull, Mallory Cunningham, Laura Dake, Bonnie Diedrich, Bruce Engel, Billie Goodwill, Esther Hurlburt, Joe Jarboe, Sonya Leo, Linda Little, Sue Maloney, Beth Mills, Roger Parry, Gale & Merrill Reece, Anna Thomas, Jim Tincher, Mike Warman, Holly Wethall and Ken Williams.

*Our newest staff:* Dispatchers Walt McAtee

and Barbara Warburton; Community Outreach Coordinator Holly Wethall and college intern Anna Thomas.

*Our Board members:* Jeff Koonce (chair), Donna Baker (secretary), Roger Parry, Theresa Thomas, Emma Tibbs, Sheri Trail-Likoy and Sue Weant.

### **Farewell and Best Wishes:**

Board members Bill Fortune and Miles Phelps, who left our board in September. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication to our success.

## Wish List

Cars  
#10 envelopes  
Stamps  
Gift certificates to reward volunteers (oil changes, car washes)  
Volunteer drivers  
Photocopier paper

## Fall Facts

Total Members  
34  
Total Rides in September  
99  
Total Rides To Date  
230

## Did You Know?

If you have a ride that you need every week, let us know so we can book it as a "recurring ride." This way, the only time you need to call us is if you *don't* want the ride in a given week.

If you would like more information about ITN*Bluegrass* or wish to make a donation, please fill out the following form and return it to: **436 Georgetown Street, Lexington, KY 40508**

I would like more information about becoming a member of ITN*Bluegrass*.  
 I would like more information about becoming a Volunteer Driver.  
 I am making a tax-deductable donation to ITN*Bluegrass*.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred Method of Contact: \_\_\_\_\_



**The holiday season is right around the corner! This year, give a meaningful gift—the gift of transportation. ITN*Bluegrass* has special holiday gift certificates available now.**



Mailing Label