

iTNExpress

iTNBluegrassTM
Dignified transportation for seniors

Fall 2011

Please Support Your Favorite Senior Transportation Service
during the
GOODGIVING GUIDE CHALLENGE!

(October 27 through December 31, 2011)

GIVE LOCAL!

A partnership of:



The GoodGiving Guide Challenge is to encourage people to give to local nonprofits and to promote online giving. All donations must be made online! To visit our profile and to give, visit:

www.goodgivingguide.net

Site goes live at 7:59 am on October 27! Prizes and incentives offered throughout the Challenge!
We'll let you know about them as we know!

ITNBluegrass is offering its Ken Towery AutoCare discounts at the \$50 giving level and we've been given a matching grant for the first \$500 donated. Thank you for your support!

Gas Prices are Going Down and so is our Per-Mile Rate!

Effective November 1, ITNBluegrass' per-mile rate will decrease to **\$1.50**. The same-day rate (scheduling a trip after 4 pm the day before or on the same day) will remain at \$2.50.

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Fall Facts

Total Members by
October 2011:
314
(not all are riders)

Total Rides in September:
537

Total Rides to Date:
(October 15)
14,347

RIDE 14,000! WOW!

Driver **Rick Johnson** delivered our 14,000th ride to member-rider **James Mitchell** on September 26, just four days after ITN*Bluegrass* celebrated its third anniversary of ride service! Mr. Mitchell's trip was the first one of the day when he went to dialysis at the VA Hospital at 6:15 am. Rick almost always does Mr. Mitchell's trips, which the latter takes three times a week. Thank you, Rick!

Bulletin Board

Welcome to our newest drivers: Rose Marie Petrucelli, Regina Sharp and Rodman Stewart.

Staff additions: Evelyn Kramer replaces Holly Wethall as our new Community Outreach Coordinator. She continues to work as an after-hours rides coordinator as well.

Board changes: We welcome Kathleen Richardson to the ITNB board. We bid a fond farewell to our treasurer Jim Knoblett who has decided to scale back his volunteer activities.

Meet Member-Rider Ralph Carpenter...

Ralph Carpenter, a resident of Lexington for 50 years, has been riding with ITN*Bluegrass* for a year now after he decided to stop driving because he felt he was endangering himself and others. He heard about ITN after a friend of his wife's told him of its reliable and friendly service and he has been more than pleased. "ITN is always on time and I enjoy the rides. I always have interesting conversations when I am going places." Ralph, who is 85-years-young, says he wanted to stay active "...and ITN has allowed that to happen."

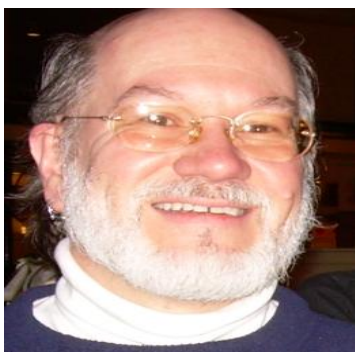
Ralph is retired and lives with his wife near Rupp Arena (and yes, he is a big Wildcat fan!). He is an Episcopal priest and spent 26 years working as a chaplain directing the Chaplaincy service at the UK Hospital. Ralph received his BA at Princeton University in New Jersey where he was born and raised and a Masters in Divinity at Princeton Theological Seminary. If that isn't enough, after he retired, he received his Masters in Classical Linguistic Studies specializing in Greek!



Ralph uses ITN because he can pay monthly and it's cheaper than taxis. "The drivers are so friendly and well-trained and they are always so careful when I am in the car. I feel safe when I am with a driver," he says. Ralph and his wife have four sons and five grandchildren. "I spend a lot of time with my wife these days, we go out shopping, and to church every Sunday." She is still driving, and he likes knowing that he does not have to depend on her to drive him to things like a doctor's appointment or Bible study. We hope to serve you for a long time, Ralph!

...And Volunteer Driver Charles Coulston

Charles Coulston has been a driver with ITN*Bluegrass* since last November. His interest in the service came about when a co-worker told him of the concept. "I really liked the idea of being there for people who rely on this transportation. I hope it is there when I need it down the road," he says. "It works out perfectly with my schedule. I just create a time slot and they schedule a time that is convenient for me and the person in need of a ride." Charles' experience serving at ITN has been a rewarding one in several ways. "The people I drive are very accommodating and the people are so interesting. I always enjoy talking to the people I drive," he says.



Charles is originally from central Indiana but has been a part of the Lexington community for over 30 years. He is a professor at Bluegrass Community and Technical College where he teaches nuclear medicine. He has been involved with medical imaging for over 25 years! Besides volunteering with ITN*Bluegrass*, Charles is very involved with his church, St. Michael the Archangel, and drives for Moveable Feast, which delivers food to people in Lexington who are unable to obtain food independently or who are under hospice care.

His loyalty to ITN*Bluegrass* comes from his desire to serve and his recognition of ITN's mission and purpose. "This is an organization where I have the opportunity to help others, I hope it is there when I need it, and I wish it were more widespread." Charles has two grown sons and is expecting his first grandchild — a girl! — in the first half of November. Congratulations, Charles, and thank you for your service to ITNB!



Letter from the Executive Director: Gale Reece

Fall is here and change is in the air both in Central Kentucky and at ITN*Bluegrass*. I have been working on getting our transportation program up and running for five-and-a-half years. Now it is time to pass the daily responsibilities to the very capable Laura Dake, who has been working side by side with me for almost five years. In the beginning, I worked on operations and set-up and Laura helped raise the start-up funds. Now, Laura will take over the daily Executive Director's operations' responsibilities (and continue grant-writing), and I will concentrate on funding.

As many of you know, the fees we charge for membership and rides is only about 50% - 60% of the actual cost of those rides. We are a business like any other. We have normal business expenses: accounting, computers, software, repairs/maintenance, phones, insurance, office supplies, gasoline, tax preparation (even though as a nonprofit we pay nothing to the state or IRS), audits, our wonderful 24/7 Ride Coordinators, excellent paid drivers, payroll taxes, rent (the most reasonable in the city thanks to the generosity of Arlington Christian Church), etc.

Our success has depended upon careful cost containment, fundraising and meticulous attention to customer service. I have said several times in previous newsletters that "many hands make light work." That goes for financial support also. When we all pitch in, it gets the job done without undue pressure on a few. Now is the time to continue with this support.

Laura is just what ITN*Bluegrass* needs at this point in its development. Our transition will not be complete for several months. I am still here, just not as Executive Director. Thank you for your support and encouragement over the years. I have derived more satisfaction from this project than any work in my life. I will be driving and riding, too! See you then...

ITN*Bluegrass* Honors Stan Wonn as its 2011 Volunteer of the Year!

ITN*Bluegrass* is pleased to announce that Board Chair Stan Wonn is its 2011 Volunteer of the Year award recipient! We are reminded of the qualities of the ITN*America* mascot when we think of Stan – a head for business, a non-profit heart and a willingness to work. Not to mention the spark plug! A major project Stan plus other board members and staff undertook in summer 2010 was to write a detailed business plan for ITN*Bluegrass*. This was a huge amount of work but we are the better for it as it gives us increased credibility with potential funders. Other initiatives Stan is working on are the Executive Director transition and a formal HR policy manual.

Now the non-profit heart. Stan says he enjoys volunteering because he "has a sense that we should all contribute to making things better, especially while we are still physically capable." He has also shared that he is passionate about ITN's mission because his own mother lost her ability to drive and that "on many occasions she just wouldn't go [somewhere] rather than impose. As a result her ability to live life to the fullest was very limited." Stan certainly appreciates the difficulties facing those who have given up driving and wants to help older people in our community overcome those difficulties.

Stan, who retired as Manager of Global Network and Computing Information Security from Ashland (Oil), Inc. after 45 years of service, is a volunteer driver and also folds, stamps and mails our billing statements with his wife Dana...every month! For his efforts, Stan will receive a commissioned handmade piece of pottery from Toby Rosenberg Pottery (Portland, ME). 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 member-riders.

For the full story of Stan's wonderful participation in our organization, please visit our website and click on the appropri-



TWO Delicious Opportunities to Help ITNBluegrass in November!



The Merrick Inn is located at 1074 Merrick Drive off Tates Creek Road near New Circle.

The Merrick Inn will donate a percentage of lunch AND dinner proceeds to ITNBluegrass on Thursday, November 3, to support dignified senior transportation!

Merrick Hours: **Lunch 11am-5pm**
Dinner 5:30-10pm

For reservations, call 859-269-5417 or visit www.themerrickinn.com

Josie's will donate to ITNBluegrass between November 1 and November 8. Enjoy a comfortable sit-down restaurant featuring wonderful breakfast and lunch dishes and an old-fashioned horseshoe countertop.

Josie's is open from 8 am—2 pm and located at 821 Chevy Chase Place in the shopping center off East High Street with Oasis and Puccini's. For information, call 859-523-8328.



Return Service Requested

ITNBluegrass
Dignified transportation for seniors
1206 N. Limestone Street
Lexington, KY 40505