

“Safe Travels”

iTNBluegrass™
Dignified transportation for seniors

January 2017

THE 2016
**GOOD
GIVING**
CHALLENGE

Letter from the Executive Director

We finally have some cold weather, but I see that it’s not going to last long! The winter months can be hard on our ride numbers, but it’s not so much the cold or even snow, but ICE! ITNBluegrass almost never closes due to weather — the riders are good at letting us know when THEY don’t feel comfortable getting out.

Please continue to read on about both our **60,000th Ride** (which happened on December 19) rider and driver, as well as see the picture of our latest vehicle, a gift from long-time volunteer driver and former board chair Roger Parry. And give your special attention to page 2, where we have a long list of donors to thank. These people gave either online during the Good Giving Challenge or by check. Either way, we are very grateful! A shout-out to the KY Eye Institute for its matching grant, too!

Finally, check out our top 10 destinations. What started out as a need for filler garners more feedback than anything else in the newsletters. Some new destinations on the list this time, too! *Laura*



Laura Dake

Meet Sheila Sonka, our 60,000th Ride Driver!

Sheila was born and raised in New London, Iowa, and graduated from the University of Northern Iowa. She came to Lexington many years ago with Sam, her husband of almost 50 years, when he got a job at Link-Belt. After working for some time in child care and tutoring math/ACT prep, Sheila got a job as a systems analyst with Fayette Co. Public Schools. She even returned to school to get an associates degree in Computer Information Systems.

Sheila and Sam have three sons: one is an Army surgeon who is currently in Afghanistan but based in Germany; another works as a writer and layout designer for the Lex Herald-Leader and the third is a writer for the progressive online publication “Insider Louisville.” She has two grandchildren, Evan and Samantha, who live in Germany.

Retired in 2011, Sheila took a couple of years to travel between Kentucky and Iowa to care for her mother. After her mom’s death, she went on Volunteer Match but “nothing lit her fire” until she found ITNBluegrass! We’re glad she did! She says she is reminded of her mother every time she gives a ride. Sheila drives almost every Monday for about four hours. In her spare time, Sheila enjoys traveling in Europe, photography and bird-watching.



Lynne & Sheila:
both have Iowa
connections!

Meet Lynne Doyne, our 60,000th Ride Rider!

Lynne was born in Omaha, NE, and graduated from Iowa State University with a degree in child development. (She also has two master’s degrees in Human Development and Social Work.) She and Bert, her husband of 62 years and an independent industrial contractor, moved to Lexington in 1968. Lynne was a psychotherapist for many years, specializing in children and family issues. She worked for Comp Care (now bluegrass.org) and started Parents Place, a kind of structured support group for people with parenting challenges.

Lynne and Bert have three daughters and one son and six grandchildren. Her hobbies include Pilates, reading and participating in two book clubs, opera and previously participating in the Donovan (OLLI) Scholars program, where she enjoyed history, music and cultural studies classes.

An ITN rider since late 2015, Lynne says, “The drivers are so much fun. I ask lots of questions and can always find something to talk about from A to B [the duration of the trip].”

December Facts

Total Members by December 31: **523**

Total Rides in December: **797**

Total Rides to Date (Sept. 1, 2008–
Dec. 31, 2016): **60,255**



ROGER PARRY DONATED OUR LATEST CAR, A CADILLAC SEVILLE. HER NAME IS SALLY AFTER ROGER’S BELOVED LATE WIFE. SALLY JOINS LINDA AND GORDON IN OUR FLEET. RIDE COORDINATOR RON SALE IS GETTING READY TO DRIVE THE CAR BACK TO THE OFFICE! THUMBS UP!

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www.itnbluegrass.org

Grateful thanks to...*

Anne E. Bolton
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 Mary Schafer
 Shirley Seabrook
 E. C. Seeley
 Sheila Sonka
 Art & Pat Stuart
 Susan Tebbs (memory of John Tebbs)
 Marita Teraslinna
 Kevin Terry
 Theresa Thomas (honor of Laura Dake)
 Barbara Thompson
 Harvey D. Thompson
 Rhonda Turley
 Madelyn C. Twyman
 Jeffrey Watts
 James Wendschlag
 J. R. & Ann Wilson
 Judy K. Worth
 Billy & Alma Yeary
 Doris M. Zwack

Very special thanks to Kentucky Eye Institute for its \$500 matching grant!

**Gifts made between November 15, 2016 through January 5, 2017*

Welcome to our newest volunteer drivers:

Pete Clark, Sally Malmer, Frank Miller, and Laura Zimmerman

WHERE DO WE GO? OUR TOP 10* DESTINATIONS IN DECEMBER!

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) Hanover Towers | 6) Dialysis Clinic Inc. / Professional Hgts Drive |
| 2) Brookdale Senior Living (Richmond Place) | 7) Kentucky Growers Insurance (employment) |
| 3) Renal Care Group | 8) Lexington Country Place |
| 4) Senior Citizens Center | 9) Drayer Physical Therapy / Beaumont |
| 5) R and P Industrial Chimney (employment) | 10) St. Peter's Catholic Church |

**Not including private residences*