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*Chair, AIS Advisory Council;
Pres., Area Agency on Aging Council
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*Prof. of Gerontology, SDSU
former Deputy Director, AIS*

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*ITNGSD Executive Director
Former Director., InfoVans*

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Former Director, CA Dept. of Aging*

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Executive Director

Rebecca Taylor
Chief Operations Officer

Daniel San Nicolas
Dispatcher

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Judi Bonilla
Exec. Director, "We Get Around"

Simona Valancute
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Ellen Bevier, former Metro Editor,
San Diego Union-Tribune

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ITN Greater San Diego™ Dignified transportation for seniors

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June, 2015

A MAJOR ENDORSEMENT! **ITNGSD Receives** **A SANDAG Grant**

The Board of Directors of The San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) has awarded a one-year grant to ITN *Greater San Diego* for FY 2015-2016. The grant is in the requested amount of \$85,392 and will fund enhancement of existing operations as well as our planned expansion into Southern San Diego County. We will open an office and dispatch operation near the Norman Senior Center in Chula Vista to serve zip codes in Chula Vista, National City, Imperial Beach and Bonita as well as - eventually - the southern part of the City of San Diego.

The grand total of the project is \$133,140; the SANDAG grant accounts for 64 percent of the total. The balance of the cost of the project will come from increased memberships and rides (\$26,400) and from a required 20 percent "match" from non-government revenues (\$21,348).

Needed: More Volunteer Drivers!

Inasmuch as ITNGSD only started in November, 2013, this grant is a major endorsement from SANDAG's advisers and staff. We are now averaging 100 rides a month and want to expand to 200 rides a month by July 1, 2016 and 300 rides a month after that. If those numbers are to be realized, that will mean that we will emphasize expanded efforts to recruit volunteer drivers.

SANDAG calls the program under which this grant was authorized the *Senior Mini-Grants Program*. All together this year, SANDAG made 16 awards to 12 organizations, totaling over \$1.3 million. All of the funds in this program are from local transportation bond funds approved by the voters of San Diego County. There are no federal or state funds included.

The grant is managed on the basis of reimbursement; that is, the receiving grantee incurs its monthly expenses and sends an invoice to SANDAG. Of course, the invoice must reflect the approved budget, which is always subject to inspection and audit. In this way SANDAG can assure voters and taxpayers that the funds they have voted for are being spent according to the approved purposes.

South County: A Major SANDAG Priority

The main feature of the ITNGSD application is our determination to serve the southern part of San Diego County. Expanding transportation services for seniors in that area is also a major priority of SANDAG's adopted five-year master plan for transportation. While there are other modes of transportation in South County such as buses and van services, as well as taxis, there is no transportation model for seniors and the visually impaired that is as personal, convenient and dignified as the ITN model.

The ITNGSD Board has approved the hiring of an Executive Director, Chief Operations Officer and a Dispatcher with both SANDAG and privately raised funds in time for the start of the grant. Wende Chan, a founder of ITNGSD and a Member of the Board, has been serving as Executive Director on a pro-bono basis for over two years. The members of the ITNGSD Board of Directors have authorized Wende to sign the contract document with SANDAG on their behalf.

ITNGSD's Chance to Shine!

There is no provision in the ITNGSD award for continuing SANDAG funds in a second year. This means that the budget must be managed frugally so that, combined with fundraising from other sources, ITNGSD will be able to make the grant carry over into FY 2016-2017. Fundraising and continued reliance on volunteers will be a hallmark of this period. Clearly ITNGSD has its work cut out for it. Enhancing existing operations and expanding into a new area - serving additional zip codes - will be a tall order. This is the chance for the ITN model of personalized transportation to shine in San Diego. Of course there are other models of transportation for seniors; our "sister" organizations, with whom we coordinate, each serve specific geographic areas within specified time periods. ITNGSD has the most comprehensive model for hours of service, convenience of booking and personalized service. Riders mention us as "family" or "friends" and cite that we are convenient, less costly than commercial transport and provide dignity for the person transferring from the driver's seat to the passenger seat.

Our ITNGSD '15-'16 Leadership Team:



Kathy Randall, LCSW
Chair, Board of Directors

President, Area Agency on Aging Council of California
(Triple A Council of California or TACC)
Chair, Aging and Independence Services Advisory Council



Joaquin Anguera, Ph.D.,
Vice Chair (re-elected)

Adjunct Professor of Gerontology, San Diego State University
former Deputy Director, Aging and Independence Services



Michelle Streeter,
Secretary (re-elected)

Vice President/Branch Manager at First Bank, Kearney Mesa
Twenty years experience with US Bank, Wells Fargo and credit unions



Steven C. Wellington, J.D.
Treasurer (re-elected)

Law Offices of Steven C. Wellington, Real Estate Attorney
Senior Counsel, Allen-Matkins (seventeen years)



Judy Spaner Stern
New Member of the Board

Chair, Social Service Transportation Council for SANDAG
and has taught grant evaluation to government agencies
Founder, Rides4Neighbors, La Mesa

Alan E. Shumacher, M.D., F.A.A.P., Member

- Past President, Federation of State Medical Boards
- Past President, Medical Board of California (appointed by Gov. Pete Wilson)
- Director of Neonatology, Vice President/Associate Medical Director, San Diego Children's Hospital (now Rady Children's Hospital)

Dixon Arnett (former ITNGSD Board Chair), Emeritus

- **Former** Adjunct Professor of Gerontology, San Diego State University
- Former Director of the California Department of Aging
- Former Deputy Under Secretary, US Dept of Health and Human Services
- Former Member of the California State Assembly (elected to four terms)

Wende Dawson Chan Appointed ITNGSD Executive Director

Rebecca Taylor will assume role as Chief of Operations



Wende D. Chan
Executive Director



Rebecca Taylor
Chief Operations Officer



Daniel San Nicolas
Dispatcher

At the May meeting of the ITNGSD Board of Directors, the members unanimously appointed Wende Dawson Chan as Executive Director, effective July 1, which is the start of the ITNGSD fiscal year and the start of the SANDAG grant. In effect, this action removes “Acting” from her current title. She has been serving as Acting Executive Director since the inception of our affiliate (October, 2013) on a pro-bono basis. Wende indicated that she would serve for “up to” one year (to July 1, 2016).

At the same time, Wende proposed (and the Board approved) that she would appoint Rebecca Taylor to be Chief Operations Officer and that they will evenly share the compensation for the ED position. This will allow considerable overlap (several months) for Wende and Rebecca to interact and form a leadership team. The Board, along with approval from ITN *America*, is empowered to appoint the Executive Director. Rebecca will step down as Chair of the Board on July 1 in order to assume her new role as COO. In that role, Rebecca will be Wende’s understudy, act as outreach coordinator and set up a Speaker’s Bureau. Board members of non-profit organizations often take on staff responsibilities. In this case, Rebecca’s agreement is, among other reasons, prompted by the immense challenge of the SANDAG grant.

Daniel San Nicolas has been reappointed as Dispatcher, a role he assumed over a year ago. As part of the SANDAG grant, he will train a new bi-lingual dispatcher for the South San Diego County, as well as continue to enhance our current services.

ITN Everywhere!

A Research and Development Community Transportation Initiative to Promote Age-Friendly Communities

As early as 2002 the *ITN America* team envisioned an initiative to build and deploy a suite of transportation software programs linked through a unified data model and shared business services that can access private transportation models to create a community-oriented community transport system.

Designed to complement, not replace, public transportation, ITN Everywhere builds on the innovative use of private resources and personal transportation planning primarily developed for an aging population and applies those concepts to the population as a whole.

The ITN Model Expands

Much like ITN membership, participants will join ITN Everywhere, become dues-paying members, open a personal transportation account and pay for rides through a variety of newly modern options. Users would earn credits for sharing a ride with others, being a volunteer driver or by trading a car they no longer drive in exchange for rides. Individuals, businesses and non-profit organizations would be invited to join.

In this manner and with the rapid advancement of technology, what has been learned about the transportation of older adults and the visually impaired can be expanded to serve growing needs among a broader swath of the population.

eBay and Craigslist

ITN America has completed more than six years of research and, with sufficient financial assistance, will bring the vision to reality. Thus, ITN Everywhere aims to be to community mobility what eBay is to flea markets and what Craigslist is to classified ads. In short, the vision is to establish a non-profit marketplace, supported by technology, where people can share private transportation. It will be for everyone, accommodating people of all ages, incomes and abilities, including older people and those who are less tech-savvy. It will have the ability to solve transportation needs by combining rideshare, carshare, volunteer transport, the ITN model of personalized service and other community transport models.

Katherine Freund's "Storybook Tour" ***The Stories are about our Riders!***

The stories are about you - our riders! We who volunteer to provide rides to seniors and the visually impaired KNOW you all have stories to tell. You should get to know yourselves like we do. You have all led interesting, often exiting, lives. Your achievements are legion and the love that you share for your families is reaffirming.

That's one of the reasons that our national founder and president, Katherine Freund, will undertake a two-month tour (starting June 16, 2015) across the nation by car this summer. She will visit each one of the 29 affiliates of *ITN America* from Portland, Maine (where *ITN America* started) all the way to be with us here in San Diego. In fact, her "Tour" is also the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the founding of *ITN America*.

You May Read About Yourself and Meet Katherine

Everyone has a story - even a testimonial about others (including ITNGSD) that have impacted your lives. Katherine will take the time to listen and take notes because she intends to publish her "Storybook" in 2016. The stories may be a blend of personal experiences along with a story of how our transportation service has been helpful to you so that you can keep your independence - and to do so with dignity.

Some of you are familiar with one of our regular riders, Hal Jellison, whom we honored at our Veterans Day fundraiser last November. If you're not acquainted with Hal, go to our web site (www.ITNGreaterSanDiego.org). There you will find a video of Hal and you will be reminded that we are a Navy and Marine town.

Hal served in the Marines for 26 years and retired as a Major (he had joined the Marines as a Private when he was 17). He has served in combat in three of our nation's wars: World War II (Okinawa), Korea (Inchon) and Vietnam (various duty stations). Today, however, he teaches piano and music - his first love, a gift from his mother. Hal is 89 and teaches at two of our community colleges. His transportation for all his activities comes from ITNGSD volunteer drivers. Hal is like family to us. We are like family to him. Watch the video and you'll see.

Katherine will arrive in San Diego on July 22. We plan to have a reception in her honor and want you all to come to the reception to meet her: Thursday, July 23, 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm at the offices of OASIS, which are on the third floor of Macy's in the Mission Valley Shopping Center (right off I-8). Park on the I-8 side of Macy's and take the elevator to the third floor and follow the signs to the reception. There'll be good wine, sodas and juices, and hors d'oeuvres. No speeches; just our ITNGSD "family".

New Offices for ITNGSD

We've moved to a new, bigger, better office at 2221 Camino Del Rio South, Suite #308, San Diego, 92108 - part of the complex of Permanent Value, Inc. (PVI), a financial planning firm. The monthly rent is the same as before, but we have twice the space, especially to accommodate office volunteers. For the time being, our mailing address will remain the same and our telephone numbers remain current.

Vehicle Donations Are Vital to ITNGSD

You hear it all the time - non-profit organizations appealing for vehicle donations. The appeals seem endless, but for good reason. A car not otherwise in use can still cost the owner - for insurance and registration, if nothing else. Non-profit organizations can auction the donated car and, after towing costs, put the proceeds toward their expenses and the donor receives a limited tax deduction.

But, with ITNGSD, because we are in the "business" of providing rides, we can use a donated car for our very purpose if the car passes a safety inspection. When we use a donated car for a year or more, the donor can receive a tax deduction that can be much higher - up to the value of the car. It's a win-win situation. The donor doesn't have to pay upkeep on a car not being used, can take a tax deduction and even use the value received by ITNGSD to pay for rides.

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