



# PRESS release



For Immediate Release  
August 23, 2005

Contact: Ellen Blackman  
310.576.2550 ext 223 office  
eablackman@centerforhealthyaging.org

## **Participate in the Planning!**

### **Public Forum in Santa Monica Needs You!**

#### **Independent Transportation Network Driving Program Keeping Older Adults Connected to their Communities**

*Santa Monica, CA – Be part of planning an important program for the community!* Center for Healthy Aging and ITNSantaMonica™ will be holding a public forum on **Thursday, September 8**. This is the first of three public forums to be held in the area to gather the input, questions, and comments from Santa Monica and nearby communities as we discuss the feasibility, plans, and **launch of the Independent Transportation Network driving program** presently scheduled for the Spring of 2006.

#### **The Program**

ITNSantaMonica™ will supplement – not replace – existing transportation options for older adults in Santa Monica and nearby communities. The program is designed to offer seniors the **maximum in independence, choice, and freedom** they seek by using caring, trained, **volunteer drivers** to collect clients from their homes, not just the curbside, and provide customized service not currently available. ITNSantaMonica™ will be offered to the greater Santa Monica area and will not be restricted by city boundaries. ITNSantaMonica™ is modeled after the very successful Independent Transportation Network® program founded ten years ago in Portland, Maine. This program is currently undergoing a national rollout (ITNAmerica™), beginning with the Santa Monica area, and is designed to **provide dignified, responsive transportation keeping older adults connected to the community.**

*Page 1 of 2*

---

**CENTER FOR HEALTHY AGING**

2125 Arizona Avenue, Santa Monica, CA 90404 T: 310.576.2554 ext 223 F: 310.576.2499

## **The Need**

Many older adults will outlive the decision to stop driving by 7-10 years and most still will prefer to ride in cars in order to provide them with greater flexibility and choice and keep them connected with their communities. Although there is a range of transportation options available to older adults in Santa Monica and nearby communities, which work very well for many types of trips, there are often limitations in terms of location, time, and assistance.

## **The Forum**

The Public Forum will be held on **Thursday, September 8, 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm at Emeritus College, Room 107, 1227 Second Street in Santa Monica.** Speakers will include Kathy Freund, President and Executive Director of ITNAmerica™, and Dr. Monika White, President/CEO of Center for Healthy Aging. Admission is free. We look forward to seeing you there at this very important community event.

# # #

*Center for Healthy Aging is a private, non-profit organization located in Santa Monica, CA, whose mission is to meet the needs of aging adults and their families. Founded in 1976, CHA has gained a national reputation for innovative and effective programs and services that assist clients and their families with the physical, emotional, financial challenges that come with aging through customized programs and services.*  
[www.centerforhealthyaging.org](http://www.centerforhealthyaging.org)