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Debra Burton Joins ITN TwinCities as Executive Director

Minneapolis, **April 30**, 2014 -- Debra Burton joined ITN TwinCitiesTM as Executive Director, effective March 1. Ms. Burton, with 20 years of experience in nonprofit management, will lead ITN TwinCities in providing a new membership-based transportation service for older adults delivered in private cars by trained volunteers. Service in Hennepin County is slated to begin this fall.

ITN TwinCities is a local affiliate of the national organization ITNAmerica® (ITN® denotes Independent Transportation Network) and has filed for nonprofit 501(c)3 status. The organization is committed to reducing the transportation barriers that prevent older adults from staying fully engaged in their communities.

Currently, Ms. Burton and the six-member Board of Directors are securing space and developing strategic plans for operations, communications, and fundraising. Staffing additions this summer will include a volunteer coordinator and ride dispatcher.

In 2011, local community members from the Edina area came together to discuss alternative transportation options for meeting the needs of older adults. In 2012, with support from a Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging Lifetime Communities mini-grant and the Edina Community Foundation, the group researched the viability of being an ITN affiliate, conceived an operational model, and underwent the application process. In 2013, the newly formed ITN TwinCities received funds from AAA of Minneapolis and the Regeneron Corporation to pay annual affiliation dues, which support the installation and technical assistance of ride scheduling software, volunteer recruitment and training, marketing, and other operational needs.

Under the ITN model, affiliates must become self-sustaining without public funding or subsidies. When fully operational, the ITN TwinCities door-to-door service will offer rides to destinations across city boundaries. Operations will be funded by rider memberships and fares and by support from foundations, businesses, and individuals.

For more information about ITN TwinCities – the service, volunteering, or serving on the Board – contact Debra Burton at debra.burton@itntwincities.org.

Visit www.itntwincities.org or www.itnamerica.org