

Cancer Transportation Fund



Soroptimist International of Friday Harbor (SIFRI) assists San Juan Island residents who have cancer that require treatment on the mainland. We improve access to healthcare by offering ferry tickets and car transportation, as well as coordination with the San Juan Eagles, a local flying club created to provide air transportation to these cancer patients.

Ferry Ticket Program

SIFRI started the ferry ticket program in late 2004, by creating a policy for the provision of free batches of ferry tickets for people receiving cancer treatment. In 2005, \$10,013 was spent on ferry tickets and commercial flights for several patients. In 2006, 26 ferry ticket books were supplied to 13 patients at a cost of \$6,300. Eighteen new patients were added in 2007 at a total cost of \$8,163. In 2008 an additional seven patients were added and a total of \$10,255 was spent. Increased publicity in 2009 brought in 21 new patients at a project cost of \$12,382. In 2010 an additional 17 patients brought project costs to \$15,679. Over 70 island patients and their families have benefitted from this program to date.

The job of coordinating the Cancer Treatment Transportation Project was held by Vicky Thalacker from its inception until 2006. Mary Kate Panero managed the project from 2006 until 2009, developing the first written procedures and information for posting on the SIFRI website. Liz Illg took over the project in 2009. She and Ellen Roberts added the task of ticket tracker to the procedures in 2010 to ensure that all tickets are used before their expiration. Ellen and Liz also drafted updated policies and procedures which were adopted by the Board in 2011.

Publicity and Recognition

Our project is known nationwide. SIFRI and the San Juan Eagles were featured in the May 2004 issue of the Smithsonian's *Air & Space* magazine: <http://www.airspacemag.com/flight-today/harbor.html> The project is also highlighted in the Roy Franklin exhibit at the Friday Harbor airport. Each year the *Journal of the San Juans* has done an article about the Eagles, and letters from grateful recipients are often found on the editorial page. The program has also received good press on several local internet news sources, as well as in the *At Home* magazine.

We have displayed our information cards at Skagit Hospital in Mount Vernon, St. Joseph Hospital in Bellingham, Island Hospital in Anacortes, both Friday Harbor clinics and the Mullis Senior Center in Friday Harbor.

To help support this valuable community resource: mail your donation to Soroptimist International of Friday Harbor (with "cancer transportation" specified on your check), P.O. Box 2856, Friday Harbor, WA 98250.

For more information on the San Juan Eagles: contact Vicky Thalacker at 360-378-4578.

If you are a cancer patient in need of transportation to and from the mainland for treatment: contact Joyce Sobel at 360-298-0459 (please do not sent texts to this number) or soroptimistferrytickets@gmail.com