

Cancer Transportation Programs on San Juan Island

Ferry Tickets

Soroptimist of Friday Harbor started the ferry ticket program in late 2004 and it is continuing today. We provide ferry tickets for cancer patients who live on San Juan Island who need cancer treatments on the mainland. Anyone who is going for cancer treatment off island is eligible to participate in this program. Ferry tickets are provided for the car/driver and passenger(s) accompanying the patient. A patient's physician statement can enable priority ferry boarding. For ferry tickets: 360-298-0459 or email: soroptimistferrytickets@gmail.com

**Free Transportation
for Cancer Treatment
Friday Harbor to the Mainland**

**AIRPLANE FLIGHTS
provided by the San Juan Eagles**



Flight Info: call Vicky Thalacker at 360-378-4578 or John Geyman at 360-378-6264
For more information:
www.sjeagles.org

FERRY TICKETS



For Ferry Ticket Info: contact 360-298-0459
or email: soroptimistferrytickets@gmail.com
for more information:
www.sifri.org/projects

We work in co-operation with The Eagles who offer free flights to the mainland for cancer patients.

Flights

Vicky Thalacker and other island pilots organized the San Juan Eagles in 2002 and Vicky continues to coordinate flights for patients. The Eagles are island pilots who volunteer their time, airplanes, and fuel to transport cancer patients from Friday Harbor to the Anacortes, Skagit or Bellingham airports. Patients who wish to fly must not be acutely ill and must be able to enter and exit the airplane. For flight information: contact Vicky Thalacker at 360-378-4570 or John Geyman at 360-378-6264. More information is on the San Juan Eagles' website: www.sjeagles.org

Background of the Soroptimist Cancer Transportation Program

In late 2004 Soroptimist of Friday Harbor (SIFRI) started the ferry ticket program for cancer patients with a \$10,000 grant from Soroptimist International with its stipulation that the program become self-sustaining. The program has fulfilled that obligation and is supported by fund raising of Friday Harbor Soroptimist members e.g. Annual St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner, by the Honeywell Charitable Trust of the Community Foundation of the Rappahannock River Region and by other

private donors. The program has grown through the years and the average annual budget is approximately \$15,000. From 2004 to August 2017, 180 patients have benefitted from this program.

Vicky Thalacker co-ordinated the project from its inception until 2006 and since then other Soroptimist members have continued to manage the program: Mary Kate Panero, Liz Illg, Ellen Roberts, and Julie Hanks. Joyce Sobel assumed the position in 2015 and is the current manager.

Recognition

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>. Local newspapers have done articles about the programs and letters from grateful recipients have been found on the Editorial Page of *The Journal*.

Information rack cards about the programs are at a variety of locations in Friday Harbor, including Peace Island Medical Center and Inter Island Health Care, and on the mainland at Island Hospital in Anacortes, Skagit Hospital in Mount Vernon, United General Hospital in Sedro Wooley, Peace Health Hospital in Bellingham and at the Cancer Care Alliance in Seattle.