

SPOTLIGHT

Bucket List Wish

Empath Teams make final wishes become reality

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Dear Friends and Supporters,

We are turning the corner into summer, ever grateful for your support. In March, we had a very successful Signature Luncheon and experienced your generosity with the Linens and Love drive. In these efforts and many others, we are reminded of the impact you make in the lives of people in the care of Empath Health and Tidewell Hospice.

We heard from Dr. Sudip Bose, an emergency room physician, Army combat veteran and Bronze Star recipient, at the Signature Luncheon. His father had experienced hospice care in Chicago, which Bose offered in a personal note, allowed him “to be a son instead of a physician.” We reflected on how our care teams help share the burden for so many in our community, allowing them to be sons, daughters, spouses, and friends at a critical time.

When we talk about lifting spirits of those in our care, presenting them with much-needed linens is a touching example. Standing amid hundreds of pounds of new sheets, towels, and other linens, is certainly humbling. Not only because of the generosity of donors, but also because it reminds us of the difficult personal circumstances of some of Tidewell’s patients and families. It is both peace of mind for the family and an extra measure of care and comfort for the patient, when they have access to new, beautiful linens.

Each day, with the support of donors, we can provide those uplifting moments from granting a special wish to welcoming someone into our grief care programs to helping provide an extra measure of whatever is needed most. **We thank you.**

Yours in the mission,

Jonathan D. Fleece, ESQ.
President & CEO, Empath Health
and Affiliate Programs



Delesa Morris, MS, CFRE
Interim President
Tidewell Foundation



“...with the support of donors, we are able to... provide an extra measure of whatever is needed most. We thank you.”

SAVE THE DATE

UPCOMING EVENTS!

15th Annual
Signature
Luncheon
will be
March 1,
2024

See page 6.

SEPTEMBER 13

9/11 Air Force One Pilot To Speak



Col. Mark W. Tillman, Air Force One pilot and commander on 9/11, will be in Sarasota in September for a presentation about the historic flights on that fateful day and beyond.

The program was rescheduled from last fall due to Hurricane Ian.

Presented by Tidewell Foundation in partnership with Tidewell Honors Veterans, the free program

will begin at 10 a.m., **Wednesday, September 13, 2023**, at the Van Wezel Performing Arts Center.

Col. Tillman's presentation is made possible by a \$30,000 grant from the Community Foundation of Sarasota County through the Walter Haskins Fund in memory of Stacey K. Haskins, and a \$17,000 gift from the Eluned and Edward Russell Foundation.

Registration information will be available later in the summer at [TidewellFoundation.org](https://www.tidewellfoundation.org).

NOVEMBER 4

New Event!

Remembrance Walk

Tidewell Foundation will hold its inaugural **Tidewell Memorial Walk**, a fundraiser to support Tidewell Hospice and other Empath Heath affiliates at 8 a.m., November 4, 2023, at Nathan Benderson Park. This non-competitive event is open to the community in celebration and recognition of family members, friends and others who have died. Please watch for details.



Registration information will be available at [TidewellFoundation.org](https://www.tidewellfoundation.org) in August.



Making Final Wishes Become A Reality

Caregivers, RNs and Administrative Staff team up to brighten lives.

Skydive wish comes true for Punta Gorda patient

It wasn't the first time George Downing traveled from the sky to the ground in an unconventional manner, but it was the first time this former Army helicopter pilot did it on purpose.

The first two times, as a combat pilot in Vietnam, his helicopter was shot down and George was forced to traverse jungle and rice fields to get back to his unit.

This time, as George put it, he wanted to jump from "a perfectly good airplane" and even better, without facing enemy fire.

After George, of Punta Gorda, entered the care of Tidewell Hospice, he and his wife, Sandra, decided to check off some bucket list items.

George, however, had a wish of his own: to go skydiving.

His nurse and social worker immediately went to work, connecting him with Tidewell Foundation to make it happen.

The Tidewell Wishes Fund covered the tandem skydive with a trainer from the Southwest Florida Skydive Club.

On March 22, George and his friend, Bill, jumped from 13,000 feet on a beautiful sunny day. It started with a free fall at 120 mph. The full skydive took seven minutes. His welcome to the ground was a bit more friendly this time, as family and friends cheered him on.

He described the experience "as a rush" and pretty cool, and referred to Tidewell colleagues as "its Angels."

George and Sandra pose with friends and staff of Southwest Florida Skydive Club after the jump.



Tidewell comes together to help mom be part of daughter's wedding

What began as friendship turned stronger and soon Tina and Justin wanted to marry. But, for the bride, it wouldn't be the same if her mother and best friend, Linda Tuller, a Tidewell Hospice patient at Manatee Springs Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, couldn't be there.

Led by Tidewell chaplain Sonia Alvarado, Linda's care team intervened.



Sonia collaborated with the staff at Manatee Springs and the Tidewell Foundation team to begin planning the ceremony. The Tidewell Foundation Wishes Fund paid for a cake and décor for the event; Trader Joe's Sarasota donated beautiful flowers; 88 Live Piano Bar provided appetizer trays; and Tidewell colleagues pitched in to convert the foyer into a wedding hall.

Nails polished, hair styled, and wearing a beautiful dress, the happy mother was given a bouquet of roses — also provided by the Wishes Fund — and joined Tina and Justin at the altar. She was overjoyed to be a part of Tina's wedding.



The Tidewell Wishes Fund helps brighten the lives of patients and families. To donate, visit TidewellFoundation.org.

DONATE



EVENTS ROUNDUP



Signature Luncheon Celebrates Veterans

Nearly 600 people attended Tidewell Foundation’s 14th Annual Signature Luncheon on March 3 at The Ritz-Carlton, Sarasota. We thank our Signature Sponsor, Caldwell Trust Company, Sustaining Sponsor, Northern Trust, and all of our sponsors and ticket holders for their support.

This year’s event celebrated U.S. military veterans. We welcomed speaker Dr. Sudip Bose, emergency room physician, Army combat

physician and Bronze Star recipient, and heard his powerful message about the importance of staying calm amid chaos.

Funds raised support the services of Tidewell Hospice and other not-for-profit affiliates of Empath Health.

We hope to see everyone next year at the 15th Annual Signature Luncheon on March 1, 2024.

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Linens Drive Provides Extra Measure Of Care

Hundreds of pounds of sheets, towels, other linens and \$4,025 for purchases were donated during the 3rd Annual Linens and Love Drive held by Tidewell Foundation in partnership with Dignity Memorial, who hosted a number of drop-off sites throughout the five-county region.

Many patients who enter the

care of Tidewell Hospice lack the extra long twin sheets that fit the hospital bed brought to their home. Other patients simply lack needed linens.

Tidewell Foundation thanks everyone who donated. The donated items are used by care teams to provide an extra measure of care and comfort.

Photo: Tidewell Foundation Interim President, Delesa Morris, poses with leaders from Linen Drive sponsor, Dignity Memorial, among containers of donated linens.

Treasures Sarasota Celebrates 1 Year

Since opening in March 2022, Tidewell Treasures Sarasota, in partnership with Tidewell Treasures Venice, has become a significant source of funding to Tidewell Foundation and its support of hospice care.

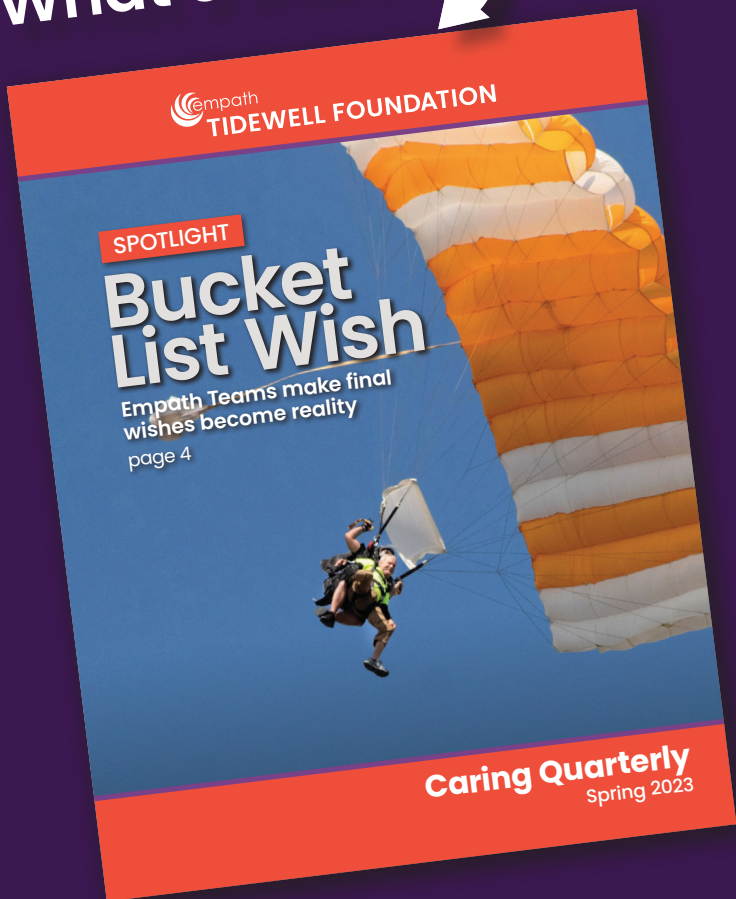
On March 18, Treasures Sarasota celebrated its first anniversary with a volunteer fair, refreshments and, of course, a 50% Off Sale.

Through volunteer support, donations, and purchases, Tidewell Treasures helps brighten lives in our community.

Learn more and download a sales calendar at TidewellTreasures.org.



What's Inside



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Delesa Morris, MS, CFRE
Interim President
Planned Giving, Corporate Sponsorships, Gifts from Foundations, DAF, and Individuals
delesamorris@tidewellfoundation.org
(941) 552-7685


Sean Allison, Philanthropy Advisor for Manatee County Residents
seanallison@tidewellfoundation.org, (941) 552-7519


Chris Pfahler, CFRE, BSN, RN, Sr. Philanthropy Advisor for Sarasota County Residents
cpfahler@tidewellfoundation.org, (941) 552-7651

Nicole Taylor, Philanthropy Advisor for Data Mgt. and Charlotte & DeSoto County Residents
ntaylor@tidewellfoundation.org, (941) 552-7502

Megan Wenger, CFRE, Sr. Philanthropy Advisor for Annual Giving and Third Party Events
meganwenger@tidewellfoundation.org, (941) 552-7515

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