

SPOTLIGHT

A Loving Final Chord

A Touching Tidewell Music Therapy Story

page 4

Here's what you will find in this newsletter:

- **The Wishes Fund:** granting patients a special experience near the end of life.
- **Bill & Karen's remarkable love story.**
- **Two special events brought to you by Tidewell Honors Veterans:** Col. Mark Tillman, pilot of Air Force One on Sept. 11, 2001, will be the speaker. Learn how you can attend on page 6!
 - **Sept. 13, at Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall in Sarasota**
 - **Sept. 28, at the Military Heritage Museum in Punta Gorda**
- **Our inaugural Remembrance Walk on Nov. 4 at Nathan Benderson Park.** Take the first step on page 7!

Dear Friends and Supporters,

The end of summer is always a poignant time of year, even in Florida, where the leaves don't fall. It's certainly a time of change, but—like our local flora—growth doesn't stop in autumn.

With your help, Tidewell Hospice and Empath Health have scaled our impact. We remain focused on expanding care and brightening the lives of those who need it most. But we still need your support.

Together, we're pioneering a holistic approach to full-life care, which goes beyond hospice to include personal care, home health, palliative care, and more. We're helping more people than ever—over 60,000 Floridians last year alone. As we broaden our services, your support goes even further, because all Tidewell Foundation donations stay right here in our community.

In the news

Hospice News honored Empath Health as a "Hospice Provider to Watch in 2023," noting how we cover more of the healthcare continuum.

The article mentions our clinical training facility in Bradenton, where we use purpose-built, lifelike mannequins to simulate caregiver-patient interactions and ensure our team is ready for anything. It's a way to hone high-stakes skills in a low-pressure environment, and we've already seen amazing results.

What's next

This year, Tidewell is investing in a new system to coordinate medical records and care, which will improve accessibility, with access to real-time health information.

As always, we thank you for investing in the Tidewell Foundation with your time and resources. You give people in our community the care—and the life—that they deserve.

Yours in the mission,

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



Delesa Morris, MS, CFRE
Interim President
Tidewell Foundation





The Lasting Impact of Legacy Gifts

You may have heard that “leaving a legacy” is important to organizations like the Tidewell Foundation. But what makes legacy giving so different from writing a check or donating online?

Legacy gifts...

- **Focus on the future.** The support we receive from annual gifts each year is critical. But a legacy gift is like a support system we can count on to help us continue our work for generations to come.
Ask yourself: If you could live forever, would you continue to support the the Tidewell Foundation community? If the answer is yes, a legacy gift can immortalize your support.
- **Do not affect your current finances.** You can take care of your top priorities—yourself and your loved ones—now, while providing for the Tidewell Foundation in the future.

Here are two of the most popular gift types:

- **A gift in your will:** A few sentences is all it takes to include the Tidewell Foundation in your will.
- **A beneficiary designation gift:** Name the Tidewell Foundation as a beneficiary of your retirement plan, IRA, donor advised fund or life insurance policy.
- **Help you recognize the Tidewell Foundation’s role in your life.** If the Tidewell Foundation has had a significant impact on your life or the life of someone you love, a legacy gift is a heartfelt way to honor that relationship.

What's Your Impact?

Through your legacy gift, you have a special chance to reflect the caring person you are today far into the future. And, if you tell us about this gift now, we can ensure it is used exactly as you intend.

We would be honored to discuss how your kindness can become your legacy.
Please contact Delesa Morris, M.S., CFRE at (941) 552-7685 or DelesaMorris@TidewellFoundation.org.

A Loving Final Chord

When they met for the first time at the mailbox in their condominium complex, it was as if music played for each of them, serenade to an unexpected but welcomed later-life romance.

Karen and Bill McCarty's life together was filled with faith, happy routines, music, dancing, and love. Big, hopelessly romantic, unwavering love.

Even after Bill was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, they kept dancing, the steps still tucked away in Bill's memory from their many turns around a dance floor.

As the disease progressed, Karen had to make the difficult decision to transition Bill to a memory care facility. Shortly after, she knew they were ready for hospice care and contacted Tidewell Hospice. Bill entered care at Tidewell Hospice House in Port Charlotte on Feb. 2, 2022.

"It's been a long journey," she wrote in her journal. "With lots of angels in my path."

From the start, she noticed a change. "He is in a wonderful cozy, peaceful home with a large room and very good care as his body winds down" she wrote.



In this time, they still had music. Tidewell Hospice Music Therapist, Sarah Michaels, came by to play.

Karen notes, "She played and sang *Ring of Fire* by Johnny Cash, a song we often danced

to. How touching that whole experience was as I listened and held Bill's hand."

On February 12, 2022, as Karen told him how much she loved him, Bill died, his hard-fought battle over.

Karen said Bill's final weeks were made easier to bear with the help of Tidewell. Today, she is an advocate for hospice and a

donor to Tidewell Foundation so others may know the same world-class care.

"Hospice was wonderful, and I will be forever grateful for the care they gave Bill, as well as the support they gave me. It will always be one of the charities in my legacy."

The Tidewell Music Therapy program brightens the lives of patients and families in the care of Tidewell Hospice. The program is possible only by donor support through Tidewell Foundations. To learn more or support this program, visit TidewellFoundation.org



The Impact of Fulfilling A Wish

Funded by donors, wishes managed through Tidewell Foundation are typically thought of as one last special memory. They have taken many forms over the years—from one last visit to the beach or a last baseball game, to organizing an impromptu wedding ceremony—capturing our own imaginations and helping us to remember to live life to the fullest.

Wishes can be poignant, like providing medical transport so a husband could be with his wife in her last moments, or professional family photos with an infant with days to live.

Recent wishes allowed Marine Corp. veteran, Dennis Johnston, to participate in a Southwest Florida Honor Flight to Washington, D.C. by covering the cost of his required “guardian,” his wife, Sharon.

Dwayne H. had one last thing he wanted to do: thank the staff at Florida Cancer Specialists. This former dairy farmer and deli owner, who managed his battle with humor and grace, had

touched the hearts of the medical team as much as they touched his. Wishes covered the cost of transport to the office and a “thank you” cake.

Betty Irvine celebrated her 105th birthday with family at a favorite Punta Gorda restaurant, with the help of medical transport.

Those special extras are the Tidewell difference that help brighten the lives of the patients and families we serve.

In all wishes, the intent is to help lift the spirits of a patient and family at a very difficult time. Even when a wish cannot be granted, it is just a small piece of the total care available to people at Tidewell. For many, for example, a music therapy or pet therapy session can provide an equal amount of respite or joy. Those special extras are the Tidewell

difference that help brighten the lives of the patients and families we serve.

Learn more about the Foundation Wishes Fund and all of the other ways your donation can make an impact at TidewellFoundation.org/Impact-Areas.



Protecting the President on 9/11

Hear the unknown backstory from the cockpit of Airforce One

Join us at the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall as Col. Mark Tillman recounts his experiences as the Air Force One pilot for President George W. Bush on 9/11 and in the days after, including a top-secret mission to Iraq on Thanksgiving Day.

The free program is presented by **Tidewell Foundation** in partnership with **Tidewell Honors Veterans** program, and with support from a \$30,000 grant from the Community Foundation of Sarasota County through the Walter Haskins Fund in memory of Stacey K. Haskins, and a gift from the Eluned and Edward Russell Charitable Foundation.

Special Presentation in Charlotte County

The September 13 performance of Col. Tillman's presentation will be recorded. In an exclusive one-time-only event, it will be shown on **Thursday, September 28** at 4 p.m. at the **Military Heritage Museum**, 900 West Marion Avenue, Punta Gorda, Florida.

Both programs will provide tributes to area military veterans and first responders.

Register for each event at TidewellFoundation.org or via the QR Code on the right.

PRESENTED BY



SPONSORED BY



Time and Place

10 a.m.
Wednesday,
September 13, 2023

Van Wezel
Performing Arts Hall
777 N. Tamiami Trail,
Sarasota, FL 34236

The program is free,
with open seating.
Registration is requested.

Details/Registration

TidewellFoundation.org
(941) 552-7569

Registration

Sarasota Live Event



Charlotte County Event





Registration Opens for the Inaugural Remembrance Walk

Tidewell Foundation is excited to announce the opening of the registration window for the inaugural Tidewell Foundation Remembrance Walk, a fundraiser to support **Tidewell Hospice** and other **Empath Health** affiliates.

This non-competitive walk, presented by **Alltrust Insurance**, will allow everyone to come together in memory and celebration of loved ones. It replaces the annual Tidewell Trot run/walk event.

The Remembrance Walk will feature **opening ceremonies**, turnarounds at any point along the 3-mile route for those who prefer a shorter distance, an awards ceremony for top fundraisers, **food trucks** and refreshments, and a **Full Life Fair** where participants can learn about Tidewell Hospice and Empath Health's wide range of services.

Participants can purchase a tribute sign to honor a loved one; the sign will be placed along the route and will be theirs to take home afterward. There will be other ways to pay tribute to loved ones as well.

Learn more at TidewellWalk.org or register via the QR Code at right.

SPONSOR THIS EVENT! Please contact Shannon Johnson for sponsorship information at (941) 552-7569

Time and Place
Saturday,
November 4, 2023

8 a.m.
Registration

9 a.m. Walk

Nathan
Benderson Park
5851 Nathan
Benderson Circle
Sarasota, FL

**Details/
Registration**
TidewellWalk.org
(941) 552-7569

Registration





 **TIDEWELL FOUNDATION**

3550 S. Tamiami Trail,
Sarasota, FL 34239

**NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MANASOTA, FL
PERMIT NO. 1264**

We're Here to Help You Plan!

No matter how you donate –or how much– our donor advisors are available to help you plan your gift, event, or sponsorship.



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

Samantha McKee, ACP

Philanthropy Advisor - Grateful Families

samanthamckee@tidewellfoundation.org, (941) 840-5614

Chris Pfahler, CFRE, BSN, RN, Sr. Philanthropy Advisor for Sarasota County Residents


cpfahler@tidewellfoundation.org, (941) 552-7651

Megan Wenger, CFRE, Sr. Philanthropy Advisor for Annual Giving and Third Party Events

meganwenger@tidewellfoundation.org, (941) 552-7515

Tidewell Foundation is grateful to our sustaining annual corporate partners for their ongoing sponsorship of the Foundation's work.

Partner in Excellence: 

Partner in Compassion: 

The Tidewell Foundation, Inc., is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling Toll-Free 1-800-435-7352 or 1-800-352-9832 (en Español) or going to the department's website www.floridaconsumerhelp.com. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state. One hundred percent (100%) of the donation is received by the Tidewell Foundation, Inc. Charitable solicitation registration #CH63240.

 **TIDEWELL FOUNDATION**

TF-070523-0405