

SPOTLIGHT

The Future of Hospice Nursing

page 4



“
Thanks
to our
donors and
community
supporters,
Tidewell
serviced
nearly
12,000 lives
last year in
Sarasota,
Manatee,
Charlotte,
and Desoto
counties.
”

Dear Friends and Supporters,

A new year brings the opportunity for refreshing, reenergizing, or renewing one's goals. At Empath Health and Tidewell Foundation, we've embraced 2024 with a steadfast commitment to our mission of making lives brighter for the patients, families, and people of the communities we serve. Your continued support makes this possible. Because of you, Full Life Care, including hospice, home care, senior care services, and grief counseling is available alongside special complementary services to those in need.

It is an honor to share the impact of your generosity in this edition of *Caring Quarterly*. While there are countless examples of reasons to thank you, Tidewell's Nurse Residency Program is one that is truly impacting lives every day, through training and educating new hospice nurses to ensure that the community has never-ending access to extraordinary care. **In 2023, the Tidewell Foundation provided a total of \$1.9 Million in support to Tidewell Hospice and Community Grief Services, and approximately \$1 Million for hospice charity care to patients who otherwise would not be able to afford the services.** Thanks to our donors and community supporters, Tidewell serviced nearly 12,000 lives last year in Sarasota, Manatee, Charlotte, and Desoto counties.

The need for Tidewell's services is ongoing, and your support allows us to continue lighting the way, lightening the load, and lifting the spirits of our neighbors in their most challenging days. We are confident that together, we will brighten more lives in the weeks and months ahead.

With gratitude,

Jonathan D. Fleece

President & CEO, Empath Health
and Affiliate Programs



Delesa Morris, MS, CFRE

President
Tidewell Foundation





A Simple but Powerful Way to Give

A gift in your will is an easy way to make a big difference. By including the Tidewell Foundation in your will, you ensure that we can continue to brighten the lives of the patients, families and residents of communities we serve.

This type of gift is:

- **Flexible.** You can change your mind at any time.
- **Versatile.** You can structure the gift in many ways.
- **Convenient.** You have access to your assets throughout your lifetime.



Delesa Morris, MS, CFRE

Cell phone: (941) 735-7155 • Desk phone: (941) 552-7685
delesamorris@tidewellfoundation.org



Preparing the Way

Meet Maren Stevens, recent graduate in Tidewell's Nurse Residency Program

During her 12-hour shifts as a hospice nurse, **Maren Stevens** bonds with her patients and their families as she cares for them. While her primary concern is ensuring the patient is comfortable, her care extends to the whole family unit as she answers their questions and helps prepare them for the death of their loved one.

It's an incredibly important career—one that Maren felt called to embrace once she learned of it.

Tidewell began its Nurse Residency Program in 2018 to combat the nursing shortage in our region, providing mentorship and training for 23 newly licensed Registered Nurses to-date. In nursing school, hospice or “palliative care” typically doesn't get a lot of attention, so Tidewell's Nurse Residency Program also shines a light on this field. The program's curriculum was developed to teach novice nurses the specialty of hospice nursing and

prepare them to care for patients and families at the end of life.

“I didn't know this career was an option, just coming out of nursing school,” Maren shared. “Hospice care had always appealed to me, and after learning that Tidewell's residency program would provide all the necessary training, I applied right away.”

Maren was accepted into the program and began training immediately. Guided by a clinical coach, she gained the skills necessary to care for all aspects of patient health. Maren also trained in Tidewell's unique, high-tech Simulation Lab, where realistic scenarios with programmable manikins mimic what a hospice nurse may encounter on the job. In addition to administering medical care, hospice nurses facilitate requests for patient comfort including spiritual care or music, art, and pet therapies.

“People think it must be sad to be caring for



Grant Awards Making Lives Brighter

The Tidewell Foundation makes it possible for patients and community residents to participate in a variety of programs, thanks to the support of caring partners. We are so grateful to all our donors and are pleased to report that Tidewell Foundation was recently awarded the following grants.

- **Bishop Parker Foundation - \$75,000 for the Nurse Residency Program**
- **Bladel Foundation - \$7,000 for children's hospice services**
- **Etchepare Family Foundation - \$7,000 for music therapy**
- **Gulf Coast Community Foundation - \$15,000 for Blue Butterfly in Charlotte County**
- **India Benton Lesser Foundation - \$1,000 for general needs**

“It’s an honor to care for patients in their final days, ensuring they have the dignity and comfort they deserve.”

~Maren Stevens

patient who aren’t going to get better,” said Maren, who just accepted a full-time position with Tidewell, “But it’s so rewarding to know that I’m improving their quality of life. I feel truly honored that patients and families trust me to walk with them on the journey to a beautiful and peaceful transition.”

Thanks to the Tidewell Nurse Residency Program, dedicated and compassionate individuals like Maren gain the skills to excel in a hospice role. Funds provided by the Tidewell Foundation make this program possible and your support will ensure it continues to produce more qualified nurses for this invaluable career.

To learn more about the Tidewell Nurse Residency Program, visit [TidewellFoundation.org](https://www.tidewellfoundation.org)



SPEAKER SERIES

Advanced Care Planning

A gift to your loved ones

Every adult should be empowered to create, communicate, and have their medical care wishes honored; this information can help you. Join us at the Paradise Center on Longboat Key on **Wednesday, March 6 at 1:00 PM** for "Advance Care Planning: A Gift to your Loved Ones." We will discuss choosing a healthcare surrogate, making medical choices, and defining what a full life means to you. Advance Care Planning allows you to personalize your care and helps guide your family to honor your wishes. **A living will document and guides are provided by Tidwell Hospice.**

**WEDNESDAY,
MARCH 6**
1 pm
The Paradise Center
546 Bay Isles Rd.
Longboat Key

RSVP by calling (941) 383-6493
or emailing amy@theparadisecenter.org

6th Annual Chad Day Fishing Tournament

Chad Day was a vibrant young man who fought a fast-growing brain cancer for more than a year, ultimately needing Tidwell's care. Organized by his mother, Joann, this annual event honors Chad's legacy (and love of fishing), while benefiting Tidwell—last year's event raised \$20, 559!

APRIL 20-21
Tarpon Bay Grill & Tiki Bar
7150 N Tamiami Trail, Sarasota,

The family-friendly day includes a fishing tournament with prize money, a silent auction, and a chance drawing.

To participate, call Joann Day at (941) 228-5012 or visit Chadday.ProFishingtournaments.com



Blue Butterfly Lives Brightened Over the Holidays

On Saturday, December 16, 2023, children and their caregivers were transported to a winter wonderland to celebrate the holidays. Nearly 150 children in our Blue Butterfly program attended the party and created beautiful new holiday memories. They enjoyed a visit from Santa Claus, face painting, crafts, a photobooth, and, of course, presents! The group shared laughter, festive food, and seasonal

songs. There were also some tears shed, but that's what's so special about Blue Butterfly—the families had a support system at the ready.

After the event, children got together to sing a song of thanks to Blue Butterfly donors and volunteers.



To view the video, go to the Foundation's YouTube channel at [YouTube.com/@TidewellFoundation2028/Shorts](https://www.youtube.com/@TidewellFoundation2028/Shorts)

Thank You to Tidewell Fundraisers

From golf tournaments to sip and shop events, a variety of businesses and organizations came together over the holidays and winter season to support Tidewell. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who participated, including:

- LPGA Amateur Golf Association – Manatee Chapter

- Kirkwood Presbyterian Church
- Venetian Golf Club, Heritage Cares, and Absolute Window and Shutter
- J.McLaughlin – Longboat Key

To host an event to benefit Tidewell Foundation, please contact Megan Wenger at (941) 552-7515 or meganwenger@tidewellfoundation.org



 **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
President
Planned Giving, Corporate Sponsorships, Gifts from Foundations, DAF, and Individuals
delesamorris@tidewellfoundation.org
(941) 552-7685

Samantha McKee, ACP
Philanthropy Advisor - Grateful Families
samanthamckee@tidewellfoundation.org, (941) 840-5614

Chris Pfahler, CFRE, BSN, RN, Director of Philanthropy
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-021224-0314