

SPOTLIGHT

Marlene and Sadie

A full-circle Tidewell story of
compassion, service, and dedication
to the Tidewell mission.

page 4



“

This edition of Caring Quarterly highlights the inspiring story of Dr. Marlene Spencer, a dedicated volunteer who generously gave both her time and resources to Tidewell.

”

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we begin the new year, we are excited for the opportunities ahead. There is much more to be done, and with your continued support, we are confident we can make an even greater impact.

Empath Health and Tidewell are set to expand the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) to Sarasota and Manatee area this month. Providing comprehensive care to seniors, this new center allows frail seniors to receive medical care, social services, and therapeutic support in a coordinated and community-based setting, helping individuals live well independently. The new Stratum Life Center is adjacent to the Tidewell Hospice Simulation Lab and is located at 303 13th Avenue E, Bradenton, FL.

This edition of Caring Quarterly highlights the inspiring story of **Dr. Marlene Spencer**, a dedicated volunteer who generously gave both her time and resources to Tidewell. Through her estate gift, she will leave a legacy, and her 392 hours of volunteer service directly impacted 552 patients during her lifetime. We are deeply grateful for her contributions.

Additionally, we invite you to explore the exciting events coming up in 2025. I look forward to the opportunity to connect with you at one of our upcoming gatherings, including **Tea with Tidewell**, the **16th Annual Signature Luncheon**, or **Metamorphosis—A Gourmet Soirée**.

Thank you for investing in a fresh chapter in the organization's journey, new possibilities for impact, and the opportunity to continue building on past successes with your financial support. We are confident that together, we will brighten more lives in the weeks and months ahead.

With warm regards,



Delesa Morris, MS, CFRE

President
Tidewell Foundation





Giving Through Donor Advised Funds

Donor advised funds (DAFs) are one of the most popular giving methods in the country, and with good reason.

Individuals who open a DAF enjoy the following benefits:

- **Convenience**—Take a tax deduction when you make a gift to the fund, without having to choose the charities to support.
- **Simplicity**—Support the Tidewell Foundation without having to retain records for separate contributions.
- **Family philanthropy**—You can build a tradition of giving back within your family.

I Can Help

Delesa Morris, M.S., CFRE

Cell: (941) 735-7155 • Office: (941) 552-7685

delesamorris@tidewellfoundation.org



A Tribute to Dr. Marlene Spencer and Sadie

Caregiver, Volunteer, Donor, and Dog Mom Marlene Spencer's Legacy of Giving.

Imagine a gentle touch, a warm presence, and a pair of soulful eyes offering comfort in a time of need. For countless patients at the Venice Hospice House, this is what an extraordinary volunteer and her beloved therapy dog provided. **Dr. Marlene A. Spencer**, a Tidewell Foundation Legacy Society member and donor for nearly 15 years, shared her canine companion, Sadie, with those nearing the end of life.

Sadie, a Quiet Friend
Sadie provided compassionate end-of-life care to Tidewell Hospice patients. She welcomed every touch with patience and every tear with fur to cry on. Sadie was a quiet friend standing vigil, seeming to whisper, "It's okay. I'm here." She also helped comfort family members, remaining steady as she was hugged tightly.

One patient, a veteran about to be celebrated for his service to our country, insisted that Sadie sit by his side as he was photographed. Of all the people in the room, the patient wanted Sadie; she had become his comrade in this final battle.

Another patient, who had become especially close to Sadie, asked to have a picture taken with her. When Sadie and Marlene arrived, the patient was out of bed in a dressing gown, hair brushed and ready with a big smile. That moment was clearly a bright spot in her last days.



Thank You, Dr. Spencer


Dr. Spencer passed away in June 2024 at the Venice Hospice House. She dedicated years of service to Tidewell as a donor and a Pet Therapy volunteer. Her mother, Louise, died at the same hospice house. From 2010–2016, Marlene and Sadie logged an incredible 392 volunteer hours, bringing comfort and companionship to 552 patients.

Dr. Spencer was a selfless and dedicated volunteer, whose legacy will live on.


To learn more about volunteering, making a donation, or honoring your loved one with a Remembrance Walkway Brick, visit [TidewellFoundation.org](https://www.tidewellfoundation.org)





From 2010–2016, Marlene and Sadie logged an incredible 392 volunteer hours, bringing comfort and companionship to 552 patients. 



Marlene's legacy of love and service is forever enshrined at the Venice Hospice House. 



Welcome Valerie Vitale

Tidewell Foundation is pleased to announce the addition of a new Director of Philanthropy. Valerie Vitale joins the Foundation after serving at the Trustbridge Hospice Foundation in West Palm Beach [an affiliate of Empath Health]. She brings with her over 20 years of transformative philanthropy experience including planned giving, donor and community relations, and strategic planning.

Valerie is a collaborative and innovative community leader dedicated to helping build organizations that strengthen and transform communities.

To contact Valerie, call (941) 552-7651 or email her at valerievitale@tidewellfoundation.org

UPCOMING

Events that Brighten Lives



You are invited to join in the following upcoming events, benefiting hospice patients, their families, and those needing grief support.

Tea With Tidewell

This speaker series kicks off on **February 24, 2025**, with **Dr. Dan Deems M.D., PhD**, a Healthcare Innovator, Neuroscientist, Physician, and Author. He will speak on *“Longevity and the Fountain Of Youth: Improving Your Healthspan at ANY Age.”*

Time and Location:

10:30 – 11:30 a.m. at the Tidewell Foundation Building, 3550 S. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota.

Stay tuned for details of the next presentation, scheduled for March 24, 2025!

RSVP by February 18, 2025 to (941) 552-7569 or LisaAdams@TidewellFoundation.org

Linens and Love

The annual *Linens and Love* linen drive will take place **March 1-31, 2025**. In partnership with **Dignity Memorial**, the Tidewell Foundation collects new linens for hospice patients receiving care at home. They often need linens, such as XL twin sheets to fit a hospital bed, towels, blankets, and pillows.

Visit TidewellFoundation.org for more details.



Signature Luncheon

The 16th Annual Signature Luncheon takes place **Friday, March 7, 2025**, at The Ritz-Carlton Sarasota. Featured speaker, **Dr. BJ Miller**, is a renowned advocate for holistic wellbeing, resilience, and building a life of meaning.

Limited tickets are still available! Visit TidewellFoundation.org/SL16 or call 941-552-7569. Special thanks to Signature Sponsor, Caldwell Trust.



Metamorphosis—A Gourmet Soiree'

Metamorphosis—A Gourmet Soiree' is happening **Thursday, March 27, 2025**, to benefit the Blue Butterfly Family Grief Program. In this interactive cooking experience held at the **Ellenton Family Grief Center**, 4151 37th St. E., Palmetto, guests will cook at their tables, guided by renowned chefs from **Michael's on East**.

For sponsorship and ticket information, visit TidewellFoundation.org/BBtable





RECENT

Events that Brighten Lives

The power of compassion, empathy, and community was in full force recently, with several community initiatives to benefit Tidewell Hospice patients, their families, and individuals receiving grief support.

Blue Butterfly Gift Drive

Thanks to generous donors, over 60 families in the Blue Butterfly Family Grief Program enjoyed a festive holiday gathering on **December 14, 2024**, with gifts for every child! The Candy Land-themed party included a candy bar, visits with Santa, face painting, music, clowns, and more.

Thanksgiving Meal Drive

Volunteers and Tidewell Foundation staff delivered smiles and warm wishes along with over 500 ready-to-heat turkey dinners. Tidewell Hospice patients and their families enjoyed quality time together without the stress or expense of shopping and cooking. This fifth Thanksgiving Meal Drive was made possible by donors and community partners, including **Morton's Market, the Venice Yacht Club, and Michael's On East.**



Volunteers, Steve Rinder and Patricia Wingenfeld with helper Benson, pause to sit for a photo for Foundation staff at the 2024 Thanksgiving Meal Drive. 37 volunteers assisted in delivering meals to patients for Thanksgiving.

Remembrance Walk

Hundreds of people gathered on **November 9, 2024** at the 2nd Annual Tidewell Foundation Remembrance Walk, presented by Acrisure, to celebrate the lives of loved ones. Tidewell Foundation President, **Delesa Morris**, welcomed the participants and presented awards. An extra special moment was a live performance of "Somewhere Over the Rainbow", sung by **L.T.**, a Blue Butterfly program participant, accompanied on the guitar by Tidewell music therapist, **Ethan Howland.**

navigate straighter



 **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 philanthropy advisors are available to help you plan your gift.



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

Valerie Vitale
Director of Philanthropy
valerievitale@tidewellfoundation.org, (941) 552-7651

Rebecca Blitz
Sr. Philanthropy Advisor
rebeccablitz@tidewellfoundation.org, (941) 552-7537

Megan Wenger, CFRE, M.N.M.
Sr. Philanthropy Advisor for Annual Giving
meganwenger@tidewellfoundation.org, (941) 552-7515

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

Dignity[®]
MEMORIAL

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**