

TRUE LOCAL TREASURES

# Honoring the Heart of Our Resale Stores

**SPOTLIGHT**



**Caring Quarterly**  
Spring 2025

“

This edition  
of *Caring  
Quarterly*  
highlights two  
special team  
members who  
have devoted  
their hearts  
and talents  
to managing  
our Treasures  
Resale Stores.

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Dear Friends and Supporters,

This spring, we are embracing new opportunities to serve, to grow, and to connect with our community in meaningful ways. I'm incredibly proud of the work we've accomplished together so far this year - and even more excited about what lies ahead. We continue to search for innovative ways to fulfill our mission, and it's your continued support and commitment that make it all possible.

In this edition of *Caring Quarterly*, we honor two special team members who have devoted their hearts and talents to managing our Treasures Resale Stores. As they prepare for retirement, we reflect with gratitude on their years of service, and the lasting impact they have made on our community. Their dedication has been a true treasure in every sense of the word.

At the same time, we are thrilled to welcome new faces to our team. Each brings fresh energy, new ideas, and a shared commitment to our mission. Their enthusiasm reminds us that every new beginning is a chance to grow stronger together.

We are profoundly grateful for the continued support of recent events benefiting the Tidewell Foundation, including the **16th Annual Signature Luncheon** and **Metamorphosis – A Gourmet Soiree**. The community's generosity for these fundraisers and others, such as the 7th Annual Chad Day Memorial Fishing Tournament and the Linens and Love Drive, held in partnership with Dignity Memorial, is truly remarkable.

Thank you for investing in our organization's programs and services. Each program is designed to provide comfort and hope for our community members. With your continued financial support, we are confident that we will brighten even more lives in the weeks and months to come.

With warm regards,



**Delesa Morris, MS, CFRE**

President  
Tidewell Foundation





## OCCASIONS

# That Warm the Heart

### Chad Day Fishing Tournament

The annual memorial fishing tournament to honor the memory of Chad Day was a big success. Held on April 5-6, 2025, this year's catch-and-release tournament brought in \$35,000 (setting a new record!) in donations for the Tidewell Foundation. Chad Day was a Tidewell patient who died at age 24 from an aggressive brain cancer. His mother, Joann, organizes this annual tournament in celebration of Chad's love for fishing and to pay it forward, making it possible for other families to receive care when needed.



### Veterans Patriot Gala

Held in tribute to our veterans and active service members, the event brought together community leaders, supporters, and organizations united in their shared commitment to patriotism and service. Gary Butler, Tidewell Hospice and Tidewell Foundation Board member, was recognized with the 2025 Civilian of the Year Award. Gary celebrated 50 consecutive years of service working for non-profit organizations. We are grateful to the Military Heritage Museum for its ongoing dedication to preserving military history and honoring our heroes. It was a privilege to be part of this unforgettable event.



 **empath**  
**TIDEWELL  
FOUNDATION**

## A Simple, Powerful Way You Can Make an Impact

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 for years to come.

### 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.

## I Can Help

Delesa Morris, M.S., CFRE

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# Honoring the Heart of Our Resale Stores

When Debbie Kenny saw the “Help Wanted” ad for the Tidewell Treasures resale store, **she felt it was a sign from her late husband, who had passed away in hospice care in New York.** With more than 25 years of retail experience, Debbie found a meaningful way to give back. She joined the Venice store, later becoming manager and leading it to first place in the Venice Gondolier’s annual awards.



**Now, after 14 years for Debbie and 10 for Jamie, they are retiring—leaving behind thriving stores and a legacy of compassionate leadership.** While their paths were different, both credit the stores’ success to committed volunteers, staff, and donors who helped weather hurricanes, building repairs, and the COVID-19 pandemic. “Amazing,”

“talented,” and deeply devoted, many have personal ties to hospice, fueling their passion for the mission. From strangers to friends, the volunteers, staff, and customers helped create something more than just stores—they built communities of care.

Jamie White’s journey began when a family friend encouraged him to explore opportunities with Tidewell Hospice. After learning about the mission, he knew it was the right fit. Jamie started with the Facilities team before calling on his **30+ years of retail experience to help open the Sarasota Treasures location.** He eventually stepped into the manager role, drawing from his background as a former store owner.

**Debbie and Jamie may be stepping away, but the spirit they cultivated will continue to shine through every act of generosity at Tidewell Treasures.**

*To learn more about volunteering, visit [TidewellFoundation.org](https://TidewellFoundation.org)*



# The Tidewell Foundation is Excited to Welcome New Members to the Team!

Kristen has spent the past decade delivering graphic design and creative services throughout the Sarasota community, bringing a deep well of talent, experience, and passion to everything she does. Originally from Buffalo, NY, she relocated to Florida in 2014 after earning her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Design. With over 12 years of experience, Kristen has focused primarily on print marketing and is a true expert in Adobe Creative Suite along with a wide range of design platforms. Her skill set spans the full spectrum of graphic design, from concept to execution, covering print, web, social media content, branding, and beyond. Outside of work, Kristen stays active by volunteering as a soccer coach, golfing with her husband, and traveling with her family of three, even if it's just a quick trip up to Dunedin.

**For her, every second counts.**



**Kristen Falzone**  
**Creative Services**  
**Manager**

Kristen joined the team in March.

She has a B.A. in Graphic Design from SUNY Buffalo State University.



**Joan Di Blanda**  
**Director of Resale Operations**  
*Suncoast Hospice Foundation*



**Tisha Przybylski**  
**Manager Resale Store**  
*Sarasota Location*



RECENT

# Events THAT Brighten Lives

Sharing a Meal. Sharing the Mission.  
Supporting the Blue Butterfly Program.

## Metamorphosis – A Gourmet Soiree

“Metamorphosis – A Gourmet Soiree” unfolded into a memorable evening of delicious cuisine and heartfelt celebration of the hope and healing provided to children and families in the Blue Butterfly Family Grief Program.

Held on Thursday, March 27, 2025 at the Family Grief Center in Ellenton, this interactive event was the first of its kind on campus. Guests enjoyed cooking a gourmet meal at their tables with expert guidance from the chefs at **Michael's on East**. Proceeds from this fun evening will support children who have experienced the death of a loved one. Each child in the Blue Butterfly program will receive a comforting teddy bear, families in

group counseling sessions can share a meal together, teens needing individual therapy can get specialized support, and so much more. Thank you to all those who attended or supported this event!



UPCOMING

# Bubbles AND Butterflies

**SATURDAY, MAY 31**  
Blue Butterfly families join for an afternoon of lunch, Tidewell clowns, arts & crafts and more!

MICHAEL'S  
EVENTS & CATERING







## Celebrating the Movement. Feeling the Impact.

### 16th Annual Signature Luncheon

The Tidewell Foundation's 16th Annual Signature Luncheon took place on Friday, March 7, 2025, featuring colorful butterflies, moving testimonials, and meaningful insights. Co-chairs Julie Delaney and Kathy Martella welcomed over 500 guests to The Ritz-Carlton Sarasota, to learn about the impact of programs the Tidewell Foundation makes possible. Dr. BJ Miller, a globally renowned advocate for holistic well-being and resilience, shared his message about living a full life and embracing vulnerability to find strength. A new video featuring the Tidewell Foundation's grief services was unveiled, which you can see on the Tidewell Foundation's YouTube channel. Delesa Morris, President of the Tidewell Foundation and Jonathan Fleece, President & CEO of Empath Health addressed the crowd, as did Melissa Caldwell of **Caldwell Trust Company**, the Exclusive Signature Sponsor. The event raised \$315,500 for Tidewell Hospice and Empath Health services, which brighten the lives of more than 10,000 people annually in Charlotte, DeSoto, Manatee and Sarasota counties!

### Linens and Love

For hospice patients, the simple comfort of clean bedding makes a big difference, which is why the Tidewell Foundation partners with **Dignity Memorial** for the annual Linens and Love drive! Thousands of linens were donated, including Extra Long Twin sheets, which hospital beds require. Thank you to all those who supported this campaign through donated items, purchases from the Amazon wish list, and financial contributions. You can still donate through our website to support this initiative.







## 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  
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**Dignity**<sup>®</sup>  
MEMORIAL

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