

**Caring Quarterly** 



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**99** 

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we approach the season of Thanksgiving, we are deeply grateful for your compassionate support. Your generosity is at the heart of everything we do, and because of you, we can share three special updates with you.

# Introducing Our New Hospice President, Brad Perkins

This quarter, we are excited to introduce our new Tidewell Hospice President, Brad Perkins. In his first few months, Brad has reaffirmed his commitment to our mission and shared his vision for the future. He is motivated by the same values of empathy and care that inspire you to give, and he is eager to build on our foundation of community support. We invite you to read more about Brad's priorities and vision in this edition of Caring Quarterly.

# A Volunteer's Gentle Touch: Spotlight on Lin Oakerson

Every day, our dedicated volunteers embody the true spirit of hospice care. We want to celebrate one of these special individuals: Lin Oakerson. Lin brings calmness, compassion, and comfort to families during their hospice journey.

# Join Us for a Season of Giving

We invite you to join us at one of our upcoming community events this fall and holiday season. Your participation helps us continue our mission and provides opportunities to connect with the compassionate community you are part of.

- Lakeside Legacy Walk on November 1, 2025
- Thanksgiving Meal Drive for Hospice Patients on November 26, 2025
- Blue Butterfly Holiday Gift Drive
- Signature Luncheon with Joe Theismann, former NFL quarterback

Thank you for continuing to walk beside us. Your generosity brightens the lives of our community and helps us provide the absolute best care to those who need it most.

With gratitude,

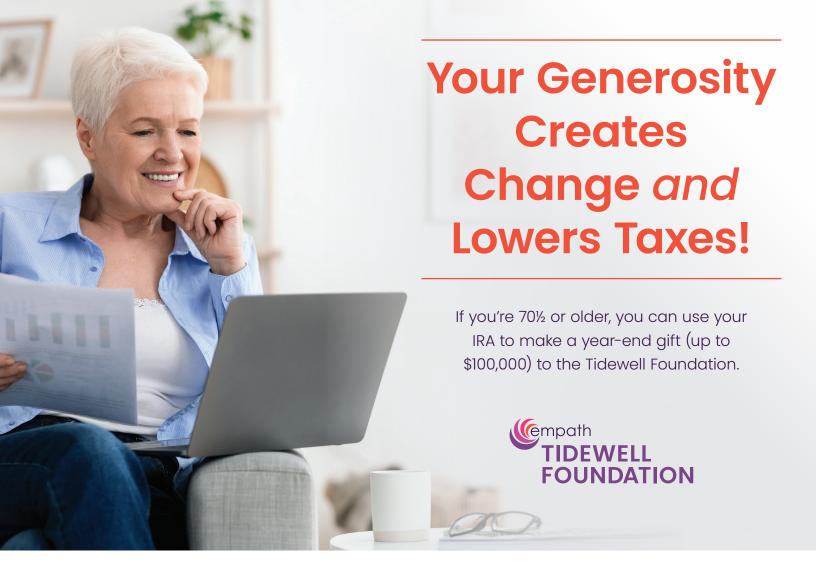
Delesa Morris, MS, CFRE

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President

Tidewell Foundation





This tax-smart way to make an impact at Tidewell is known as an IRA charitable rollover, or qualified charitable distribution.

## **Benefits Include:**

- You see the difference you're making today.
- You pay no income taxes on the gift. The transfer doesn't generate taxable income or a tax deduction.
- Your gift can satisfy all or part of your required minimum distribution.

It's more than a financial decision - it's a legacy of comfort, dignity, and love for families facing life's most tender moments.



CONTACT DELESA MORRIS TO LEARN MORE

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# Insights from Brad Perkins, President of Tidewell Hospice

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# Caring, loving, compassionate people doing the right thing.

That's how Brad Perkins,
President of Tidewell Hospice,
describes what he has
witnessed since joining
the organization in April.
With extensive operations
experience in regional
healthcare service providers,
Perkins brings a wealth of
knowledge and a fresh vision
to this vital leadership role.



As part of Empath Health

- the country's largest
nonprofit health system
delivering hospice, home
health, and palliative care

- Tidewell Hospice is a key
piece of the broader vision of
Full Life Care. This approach
supports every dimension
of well-being: physical,
emotional, and spiritual.

He recognizes that hospice care requires special people. "It's a calling," he says. "The people who do it love it."

Perkins also noted that Empath Health (which oversees Tidewell Hospice and several other providers in Florida) stands out because the leadership is truly mission-driven-not profit-driven.

### **LEADING WITH PURPOSE**

# Perkins' priorities for his first year include:

- Expanding access to Full Life Care services, including home health, Empath LIFE (Living Independently For the Elderly), palliative care, and more.
- Enhancing employee recruitment and retention to make Tidewell an "employer of choice" in healthcare.
- Increasing community awareness of

the benefits and availability of hospice and palliative care.

One of the biggest challenges, Perkins notes, is ensuring families understand what hospice offers. "Too often, people wait too long to request hospice care or accept a referral. They don't realize there's an entire team ready to serve with comfort, compassion, and dignity. We meet people where they are, at one of the most vulnerable times of their lives."

## **GROUNDED IN VALUES**

When asked what motivates him in his work, Perkins offered four guiding principles:

- Everyone deserves a "good death"
  never alone, afraid or in pain.
- Each patient is treated by the "Mom rule": care for them as if they were your own mother.
- Doing the right thing is always the goal.
- More than 1,000 employees are counting on leadership to make the best decisions.

### THE ROLE OF THE TIDEWELL FOUNDATION

"The Tidewell Foundation is an integral part of the services available for patients and families," Perkins says. In the last year alone, the Foundation funded almost \$1.5 million in charitable care and more than \$2.5 million in grief counseling services for the adults and children in our community. These programs, including the unique Blue Butterfly Family Grief Program, are donor -supported and available at no cost to families.

"I don't think there's a better place to put your money," Perkins adds. "When you give to the Tidewell Foundation, you become part of the mission: Unified in empathy, serving communities through extraordinary Full Life Care for all."

To learn more, visit TidewellFoundation.org



Join us in congratulating
Lin Oakerson, an Empath Tidewell
volunteer who was recently honored
by the Manatee Chamber of
Commerce as the Adult Volunteer of
the Year at the 2025 Champions of
Healthcare Awards! We were thrilled
to see Lin's recognition, as she has
touched so many hearts.

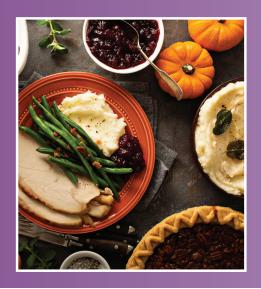
Thanks to generous Tidewell
Foundation donors, Lin received
training as an end-of-life doula.
In this role, she brings calm,
compassion, and comfort to families
during some of life's most tender
moments. She helps patients explore
final wishes, create legacy projects,
and find peace in saying goodbye.

Interested in becoming a volunteer?
Whether you choose to support

patients and families directly or serve in another role, your contribution can profoundly impact the lives of others—and your own.

Tidewellfoundation.org/volunteering/

# Events Events Brighten Lives





LAST CHANCE



Start the Day with Family Fun, November 1
Funds raised support vital community programs such as adult grief counseling, the Blue Butterfly Family Grief Program, and free, compassionate care for children with advanced illness—along with guidance and support for their families during the most difficult times.

Visit TidewellWalk.org



# Thanksgiving Meal Drive



Thanksgiving is a time to gather, reflect, and give thanks - but for families coping with serious illness, it can also be overwhelming

and stressful. The Tidewell Foundation's Thanksgiving Meal Drive helps lift that burden. In partnership with local restaurants including Morton's Gourmet Market, Michael's on East, and Apple Spice Catering, over 500 heat-and-serve meals are provided to patients and their loved ones. Volunteers and staff will personally deliver the meals on Wednesday,

#### November 26.

For some families, this meal may be part of their final Thanksgiving together. Your generosity helps ensure it's one filled with comfort, dignity, and togetherness. Thank you for helping us serve love, one meal at a time.

# **Blue Butterfly Holiday Gift Drive**

The holiday season can be a difficult time for those grieving the loss of a loved one, but especially for children. Many struggle to find joy in traditions that once brought comfort. At the Blue Butterfly Family Grief Program Holiday Party, children are welcomed into a space filled with warmth, understanding, and community. It's a chance for them to feel the spirit of the season, surrounded by others who truly understand their journey.

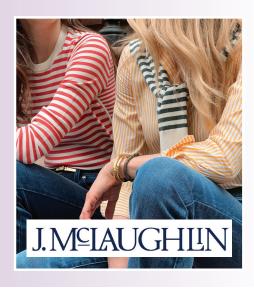
Each year, compassionate supporters help brighten these young hearts by fulfilling wishes from their holiday lists. These simple gifts carry a profound message: you are seen, you are loved, and you're not alone.

To sponsor a child or explore other ways to support, contact Valerie Vitale at ValerieVitale@tidewellfoundation.org.









# Tidewell Day at Anna Maria Oyster Bar



In celebration of World Kindness Day, join us in spreading positivity and honoring meaningful connections. At Anna Maria

Oyster Bar locations in Sarasota and Manatee Counties on Thursday, **November 13**, a \$10 donation will be made to the Tidewell Foundation with every order of Danish Baby Back Ribs, in honor of Old Man Jerry, Ann Horne, and Lynn Horne Sr.

# Sip and Shop

Join us at J.McLaughlin to Sip and Shop! A portion of the proceeds from each purchase will benefit the Tidewell Foundation. On **November 20**, we will be at the Boca Grande location and on **December 5**, we will be at the Longboat Key location. Both events will be from 12:00p.m. to 4:00p.m.

# Signature Luncheon



Mark your calendar for an inspiring afternoon at the 17th Annual Signature Luncheon on Friday, **March 6, 2026** in

the beautiful ballroom of The Ritz-Carlton,
Sarasota. This year's keynote speaker is
entrepreneur, football star, and NFL analyst

for over 2 decades, Joe Theismann, who will share his story of perseverance and resilience while navigating life's unexpected turns.

Guests will enjoy a gourmet lunch and inspiring program highlighting the comfort, hope, and healing, made possible by compassionate Tidewell Foundation donors. Join us and be part of a community that is making days brighter for so many across our region.

# Partnering with Manatee Performing Arts

We're excited to share that the Tidewell Foundation has been selected by the Manatee Performing Arts Center as a 2026 Action Through Acting Program Partner for Terms of Endearment on Stage — runs January 8, 2026 to January 25, 2026.

Based on the beloved novel and Academy Award–winning film, this touching stage adaptation will make you laugh, cry, and cherish every moment.

Action Through Acting uses live theater to raise awareness and spark conversations about meaningful social issues, empowering the community through art and storytelling.

Visit tickets.flculturalgroup.org for tickets and contact Valerie Vitale for more info at 941.552.7651



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The Tidewell Expressive Arts Program pairs professional artists and volunteers with patients to bring them the healing power of art. These clinically proven treatments effectively reduce pain and anxiety, while evoking a greater sense of well-being.

"When I'm making art, I forget about my pain! - Eloise, Tidewell Patient

# We're Here to Help You Plan

No matter how you donate—or how much—the philanthropy team is available to help you plan your gift.



Delesa Morris, M.S., CFRE **President** 

Planned Giving, Corporate Sponsorships, Gifts from Foundations, DAF, and Individuals

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

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.

