

CARING QUARTERLY

WHERE COMPASSION COMES TO LIFE

Nurse Residency at Tidewell Hospice



WINTER 2026

Spotlight An Investment in Nurses, An Investment in Community

Upcoming Events

Courageously Impactful Moments

Dear Donors and Friends,

As we welcome a new year, I want to begin by expressing my heartfelt gratitude to each of you. January invites reflection and renewal — a moment to look ahead with hope while honoring the compassion and generosity that carried us through the year behind us. Because of you, our Foundation enters this new chapter strong, inspired, and deeply committed to those we serve.

This quarter, we are proud to shine a spotlight on the **Bank of America Nurses Station Naming**, a meaningful tribute that honors the extraordinary nurses who provide comfort, dignity, and expert care at life's most tender moments. Support like this not only recognizes our workforce of caregivers but also strengthens the environment where compassionate care comes to life every day.

Throughout this issue, you will read about **courageously impactful moments** — stories that reflect the heart of our work and the lives touched through your generosity. From patients and families to caregivers and colleagues, your support creates moments of comfort, healing, and hope when they are needed most.

One such example is our **Nurse Residency Program**, fully supported by philanthropy. This program ensures that newly licensed nurses receive the training, mentorship, and confidence needed to deliver exceptional care. By investing in our nurses, you are investing in the future of compassionate healthcare for our community.

We are also excited about the **upcoming events** that will bring our community together. These gatherings offer opportunities to connect, celebrate impact, and continue building the relationships that make our mission possible.

We look forward to all that we will accomplish together in the months ahead. With gratitude and best wishes for a bright new year.

Warm regards,



Delesa Morris, MS, CFRE
President
Tidewell Foundation

Brightening Lives for Full Life Care.

A Legacy That Lives



Tidewell Hospice provided care for my wife that went far beyond medical care. They treated her with compassion and dignity and supported our family with kindness through the most difficult time of our lives. Including Tidewell Foundation in my charitable giving plan is my way of giving back — to honor what they did for us, and to help ensure that others receive the same level of care and compassion. I encourage anyone touched by their work to consider supporting Tidewell Foundation through lifetime or legacy giving. It truly makes a lasting difference in the lives of patients and their families.

—Jon Griffie and Family

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.

A Legacy Gift: The Gift That Lives On

- **Meaningful.** Your gift ensures compassionate care for families for generations to come.
- **Personal.** You can structure the gift in many ways.
- **Reassuring.** You have access to your assets throughout your lifetime.



Questions on Gifts in your Will or Living Trusts? Scan the QR Code!

If you have already included Tidewell Foundation in your estate plans, please let us know so we can welcome you into our Legacy Society.

CONTACT DELESA MORRIS TO LEARN MORE
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TidewellFoundation.org | Stay Connected at   

Nurse Residency at Tidewell Hospice



“This program opens doors to positions these nurses wouldn’t have otherwise pursued”

Celebrating Generosity

On December 4, 2025, Tidewell Foundation President, Delesa Morris and Director of Philanthropy, Valerie Vitale, gathered at the Lakewood Ranch Care Center with members of the Nurse Residency Program and representatives from Bank of America to unveil the Nurses Station naming plaque recognizing the Bank of America Charitable Foundation.

The Bank of America Charitable Foundation awards grants to several impactful organizations, including the Tidewell Foundation. This funding in workforce development creates a ripple effect that continues to benefit local communities. Emma Smolek, Nurse Residency Program Clinical Instructor, spoke to the group about the importance of workforce development programs that allow individuals to

fulfill career aspirations and gain stable employment.

An Investment in the Future

When you think of the Tidewell Foundation, you may not immediately connect the organization's impact on workforce development. However, the Nurse Residency Program plays a major role in providing a strong career path for many individuals in our region. Nurse Residency Programs prepare nurses through structured rotations, classroom education, simulation lab training, individualized mentorship, and full salary and benefits during training.

"This program opens doors to positions these nurses wouldn't have otherwise pursued," Smolek said. "While they are trained at the hospice houses, they may go on to support home health, triage, or admissions." Since it began in 2018, enrollment in the program has continually increased, filling to capacity this past year with 12 nurse residents.

"Most of our nurses have had a personal experience with hospice that inspired them to seek this career path," Smolek shared. "They have a calling to do this work and the Nurse Residency Program provides the skills they need to succeed in their chosen role."

**To learn more or to support the
Nurse Residency Program, visit
TidewellFoundation.org**

At a Glance

Nurse Residency in Action

12
MONTHS

This paid training program is designed for recent nursing graduates who want to begin their careers in the specialty practice of hospice nursing.

43

Total number of nurses have completed the program since it began.



Graduates move directly into open nursing roles on Empath or Tidewell Hospice care teams, beginning their careers with purpose and stability.

PICTURE, LEFT TO RIGHT

Valerie Vitale – Tidewell Foundation Director of Philanthropy, Rebecca Bryant – Sr. VP, Leadership Development Consultant, Jamie Kahns, Local Market Executive for Sarasota/Manatee, Sofia Santos, Sarasota/Manatee Market Sponsor, Managing Director & Head of Consumer and Small Business Strategy, Stephenie Whitfield, President Sarasota/Manatee and Business Banking Executive for SWFL, Nicole Cassidy, Consumer Investment Leader

Upcoming Events



Tea with Tidewell

Our speaker series continues in 2026 with an inspiring session on **February 10** (Tidewell Hospice-Admin: 5955 Rand Blvd, Sarasota, FL 34238): *Kindness is Contagious – Be a “Spreader”* featuring Barbara Glanz CSP, CPAE. **April 21** (Northern Trust: 1515 Ringling Blvd, Sarasota, FL 34236) is “Securing Your Legacy,” which will feature an engaging and informative panel. These free events take place 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Linens and Love



Linens and Love Drive

There are few things more comforting than a warm blanket, crisp sheets, or a soft towel – especially when you’re not feeling well. You can provide that comfort for a hospice patient in need by participating in the annual Linens and Love drive, taking place **March 1 – 31, 2026**. This initiative is hosted in partnership with Dignity Memorial, to collect new linens, including XL Twin sheets to fit a hospital bed, towels, blankets, and pillows.



Red, White & Brave

A celebration of Veterans and their families. Join us in paying tribute to local heroes on Thursday, **March 26, 2026**, 4 p.m. – 6 p.m. at the Military Heritage Museum in Punta Gorda. The event will include a pinning ceremony, honoree recognition, and light fare.

Interested in learning more, becoming a sponsor, or registering? Visit tidewellfoundation.org/events

17TH ANNUAL

SIGNATURE LUNCHEON

empathy
TIDEWELL FOUNDATION

MARCH 6, 2026
The Ritz-Carlton, Sarasota

Your support makes it possible for us to continue providing Hospice care along with programs and services for full life care. Joining us is Super Bowl champion and inspirational speaker **Joe Theismann**, who will share his powerful story.

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 **Jan Miller and Jim Culter**

SIGN UP!





Courageously Impactful MOMENTS



Lakeside Legacy Walk



45
Volunteers
Caring

333
Walkers
Celebrating Life

\$59,000

Raised to serve grieving families,
veterans, music therapy and more!

50

Volunteers
Caring

487

Meals
Served

\$17,090

Raised to serve hospice patients
and families for Thanksgiving.



Thanksgiving Meal Drive



Blue Butterfly Holiday Gift Drive



38

Volunteer
Gift Wrappers

55+

Donors that
Adopted

76

Families
Supported

134

Children
Supported



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Nurse Residency



Tidewell Hospice is the “first” hospice-only nurse residency program to achieve ANCC PTAP accreditation, which not only lays the foundation for hospice nursing nationwide, but is a differentiating factor that sets us apart from other hospice programs.



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

—Maren Stevens, Graduate of the Program

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.



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

Dignity[®]
MEMORIAL



DONATE

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