



Fall/Winter 2015

# Sharing

in the mission

Bob and Lissie Krauss

INFORMATION FOR DONORS AND FRIENDS OF TIDEWELL HOSPICE

## *A Legacy of Unparalleled Capacity for Caring*

Lissie Krauss began volunteering with Tidewell 14 years ago, but the seeds of that commitment were sown in 1993 while she was still living in Columbus, Ohio, and a dear friend who lived alone was in the final stages of AIDS.

"A small group of friends gathered around Chuck to provide support but we couldn't be there all the time because we all worked," explains Lissie. "Someone suggested reaching out to the local hospice for a respite volunteer. It turned out to be such a wonderful thing. He received companionship, someone to care for him as his friends did. It also provided relief for those of us who were caring for him."

That hospice volunteer made quite an impression on Lissie and after retiring to Sarasota, she contacted Tidewell and completed the volunteer training program.

"I was very impressed with the organization and embraced it wholeheartedly," recalls Lissie.

Within a few months she was a vigil and respite volunteer. As a vigil volunteer she would sit bedside for the last hours of a patient's life, offering companionship for a patient when family is not present or to support family members during this trying time.

As a respite volunteer she visited with patients and caregivers, offering companionship and support in whatever way was required.

"By observing and listening to them I learned how I could be of service. It may be reading the newspaper or a book to a patient or listening to the spouse reminisce about the 'good days,'" Lissie said. "I remember a woman with ALS, who as her disease progressed became distraught over any number of things. She was upset by the 'mess' her husband and son had made of the house. So I helped rearrange the closet by color and size and alphabetize her spices. And on those days, I witnessed her enjoy a little bit of peace."

Some respite assignments last only a few visits; others are longer. One relationship went on for 18 months. In this case, the wife had been caring for her immobilized, stroke-impaired husband by herself for five years. Her son contacted Tidewell, against her wishes, to get his mother some help. Lissie recalls that the reluctant woman agreed to meet with her but was emphatic that she was not leaving her husband in anyone's care, that she didn't need or want any help.

"We chatted for about two hours and I asked her if I could return. She agreed and I was back the next week when she again stated that she was not leaving. After several weeks she asked if she could leave me with her husband for just fifteen minutes so she could run an errand. The next week she left for about forty minutes.

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## A note from Denise . . .

Another fiscal year has passed for Tidewell Hospice. As I think back over the past year, I think of the patients we served, the families we touched and the communities we impacted through the care, comfort and compassion given by our skilled staff and dedicated volunteers. I pause for a moment of reflection in honor of those patients we have supported as they have made their final journey and I empathize with the grief felt by those who have lost a loved one this past year.

I also celebrate the donors to Tidewell, who, through their generosity, assisted our staff and volunteers in providing memories and keepsakes to those for whom we care. A few specific moments come to mind:

- The symphony performance for the 105-year-old patient who had attended for years, but hadn't been able to go for the past several years.
- The last family trip to the beach where the family had annually vacationed since their now adult daughter was 5. After the patient fell ill, they had not been able to take any vacation.

- The taking of a patient's manuscript about his illness, caregiver and hospice care and publishing a book.
- The purchase of a CD player to bring classical music and audio books into the room of a patient.
- The replacement of a favorite nightgown which was worn thin.
- The trip to Universal for an 18-year-old patient and a surprise visit from his girlfriend who lives in New Jersey.
- The family portrait for a 38-year-old patient's young children to have for the rest of their lives.
- The many wedding anniversaries, birthday celebrations and family reunions.

Thank you again for making an immediate difference and a lasting impact to so many. As always, if I can ever be of assistance to you, or should you wish to discuss your investment in Tidewell, please contact me directly at (941) 552-7658 or at [dpope@tidewell.org](mailto:dpope@tidewell.org).

With my warmest regards,

Denise M. Pope, CFRE  
Chief Philanthropy Officer



### Board of Trustees Profile

## Meet Jan Miller

Jan Miller, executive vice president and trust officer at Caldwell Trust Company, was first approached to serve on Tidewell's board in 2004 by a colleague. Jan obliged believing that she would never join the board.

"I went to the meeting thinking, like many people, that it would be depressing and sad. But, after hearing this woman speak so exuberantly about the quality of life Tidewell brings to its patients, I realized that hospice is more about living than it is about death," Jan said.

Jan enthusiastically joined the board and is currently serving her second six-year term. She brings professional expertise to Tidewell's governance in both financial services and philanthropy. A past board chair, Jan now serves on five committees, including finance,

stewarding donations and guiding investments.

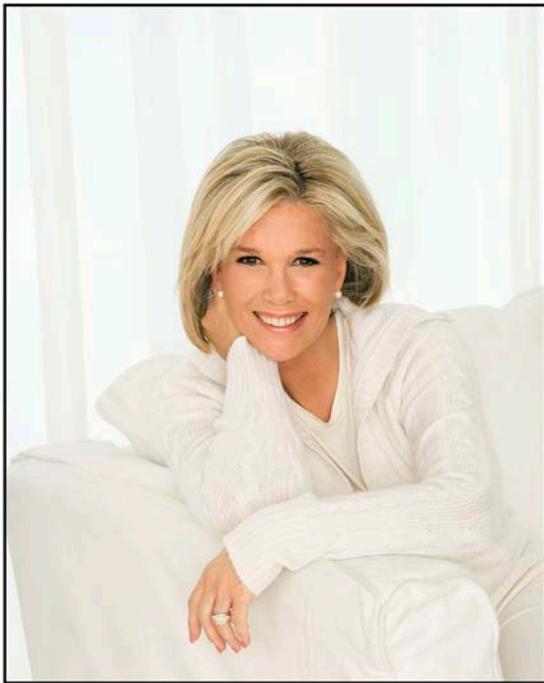
"I feel strongly about the dollars that come in through the philanthropy department," she said. "It is these dollars that allow us to think strategically and meet special needs like bereavement services and the humanitarian fund. I love philanthropy and am a huge proponent of charitable giving. These gifts allow Tidewell to offer a dimension of care that for-profit hospices can't offer. Private donor dollars allow Tidewell to fund the extra services that make such a difference in our patients' lives."

In 2010 Jan's relationship with Tidewell evolved as her mother, diagnosed with end-stage cancer, was admitted.

"Up until this point I was one of the few board members who did not have a personal experience with hospice," explains Jan. "My mother had a tremendous quality of life for her final five months following the diagnosis. It was an unbelievably wonderful experience from start to finish, which is likely the only reason I can talk about it so comfortably today.

"Everyone treated my mother like she was their family member. There were times when she was angry and times when she was difficult. They made her feel like she was the only thing that was important at that moment — and that's what she wanted. My mother felt safe, she was as healthy as was possible and most importantly, she was happy. They provided the perfect balance of care, compassion and expertise. My sister and I were so well prepared for her passing, so well informed about the process that it was made so much easier for us," she continues.

"The best advice I can give someone regarding end of life is the sooner the individual gets into hospice care the better off they will be. Tidewell improves the quality of life for both patient and family."



Joan Lunden

## Joan Lunden to Headline Annual Luncheon

Joan Lunden, former host of *Good Morning America*, entrepreneur, and health and wellness advocate, will be the keynote speaker at Tidewell Hospice's annual luncheon on Feb. 12, 2016.

Lunden has been a trusted voice in American homes for more than three decades. As the longest-running host on *Good Morning America*, she reported from 26 countries, covered five presidents and five Olympic games, and provided insight into the top issues facing millions of Americans every day. She is also an experienced caregiver, providing care for her elderly mother, and care receiver after being diagnosed with triple-negative breast cancer in 2014.

Lunden's real-life experience has translated into a passion for caring for family and the elderly. She serves as spokesperson for the nation's leading senior referral service, A Place for Mom. She recently co-authored a new edition of *Chicken Soup for the Soul: Family Caregiving* and has published a number of books related to health and wellness, parenting, success and balance in life.

### 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Signature Luncheon

11:30 a.m. Friday, February 12, 2016

The Ritz-Carlton, Sarasota

Tickets are \$100, patron tickets \$150 with sponsorship opportunities available.

### The Power of Philanthropy

In 2008, as a result of a generous donation from the J. Milton and Nellie E. Hoffa Memorial Foundation, Tidewell launched a pilot program to evaluate the benefits of Telehealth. The pilot decisively demonstrated the positive impact on patient care and quality of life.

Telehealth technology allows Tidewell to provide daily monitoring of patients whose diagnosis and symptoms place them at high risk for a health crisis. Currently, the technology serves more than 20 diagnoses covering primarily pulmonary and coronary diseases. Tidewell's clinical staff monitors patient vital signs transmitted from the patients' homes through a wireless tablet. Patients are able to transmit their blood pressure, weight, pulse, blood oxygen level and heart rate to Tidewell's off-site monitoring nurse for daily assessment.

"Patients are comforted knowing that their health is being monitored so closely. This is especially true for patients who are homebound and feel isolated," explains Susan Bryant, RN, BSN, CIC and coordinator of the program.

In 2013, the Hoffa Foundation helped Tidewell begin the transition from landline technology to the current wireless tablets.

Telehealth is a shining example of the power of philanthropy to add quality and comfort to patients' end-of-life journey. Tidewell is enormously grateful to the Hoffa Foundation and all its philanthropic partners.

### Columbia Community Harvest – a great meal just got better.

When you dine at the Columbia Restaurant this September you will turn your meal into an act of kindness. The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Columbia Restaurant Community Harvest allows lunch and dinner guests to choose a non-profit group to receive a donation of 5 percent of their check. The guests do not spend any additional money for the donation. The gift is presented to Tidewell in the form of gift certificates to the restaurant.

Columbia Restaurants are located in Sarasota at St. Armands Circle, Ybor City, St. Augustine, Clearwater Beach, Celebration, the Café at Tampa Bay History Center on the Riverwalk, Tampa and at Tampa International Airport.



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This is your  
donor  
newsletter!

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

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When she returned she saw that everything was good and her husband was safe. The following week when I arrived, her purse, keys and sunglasses were waiting by the door and she was gone," Lissie said.

Before retiring, Lissie served as program manager of an inpatient/outpatient hospital-based drug and alcohol program. When asked about her extraordinary capacity for compassion, Lissie turns the focus to the families she has served.

"You often hear volunteers say that they get more than they give. Well that certainly was my experience. I've had the opportunity to meet remarkable people who were going through a most difficult time while still providing incredible care for their loved one. I felt privileged that these people would open their door to me."

In addition, she serves on Tidewell's Bioethics Committee and co-facilitates a monthly grief support group for mothers who have lost adult children. Lissie and her husband, Bob, have also made a legacy gift to Tidewell.

"Tidewell is privileged that Lissie and Bob have opened their hearts to us and our patients," says Denise Pope, Executive Vice President and Chief Philanthropy Officer. "They have created a legacy with each of the families whose lives they have touched. Through the establishment of their legacy gift, the Krauss' have assured their support to Tidewell families for years to come."

Lissie is a strong proponent of providing philanthropic support. "Funding is critically important so Tidewell can continue to provide many of its vital programs for both patients and families," explains Lissie. "This is particularly important for the array of bereavement services available for families before, during and after the loss of their loved one."

***"Tidewell works to make every day that a person has the very best possible day," says Lissie.***

The same can be said of Lissie.

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