Masters in the art of caring

It seems unfathomable that a family would experience the protracted death of a baby from genetic disease – or that a young mother of two pre-school children sees the impending loss of her husband to brain cancer as insurmountable. With no family nearby, an elderly man, in the end-stage of his illness, does not know how to tell his wife of 57 years that he is ready to let go.

Every one of us has experience with the loss of a loved one, often journeying with them through a lengthy process of treatment and caregiving. For many of us, it’s a journey we feel we are doing blindfolded – trying our best, yet overwhelmed by the physical, emotional, practical and financial implications at the end of life.

Those receiving hospice care quickly learn that they need not make the journey alone. Tidewell has turned end-of-life care into an art form thanks to Tidewell’s team of social workers.

Tidewell’s social workers provide the practical and emotional support patients and their families need to navigate this most difficult time. By caring for the whole person, Tidewell’s social workers provide highly attentive, coordinated care that is responsive to individuals and family needs and wants.

The relationship begins with an initial assessment of psychosocial and mental health status, spirituality, safety issues in the home and the possible need for caregiver respite. By listening to the patient and learning what is important to him or her, the social worker establishes a rapport as well as a sense of trust.

This trust allows the social worker to proceed to the second level of involvement, which is far more delicate. Advanced directives, do-not-resuscitate (DNR) orders and funeral arrangements are all in the social worker’s scope of care. These conversations can be challenging for any number of reasons.

Helping a family prepare a DNR for a child requires an empathetic ear and a gentle touch. The social worker may help the parents come to grips with losing the

“I have heard many people say that in their time of need they have learned who their real friends are. I am so proud that Tidewell can be counted on to ‘be there’ when possibly no one else is.”

– Julie Steiner, MSW, social worker
A note from Denise . . .

Most people know that in this little part of Florida, we have a “season” when snowbirds are here and the roads and restaurants are busier, and summer is the “quiet(er)” time. This time of year serves as an opportunity for us to think about the coming year, spend time talking with our donors and plan for the coming months.

During these conversations with our donors, I always learn something. I may learn something about Tidewell that I didn’t know from someone who has experienced our care first-hand; I may learn something about a part of the world I haven’t seen; I may learn why someone chooses to be philanthropic and what motivates them and inspires them to give.

I also sometimes have the opportunity to teach. People often think of their checkbook as the best way to make a gift, but that is usually not the best, or most tax-efficient, way. A few things you may consider when deciding how to make your gift to support Tidewell:

• Consider transferring matured stock. Transferring stocks that have a low cost basis, which have grown in value, are an excellent way to avoid capital gains and allow you to maximize both a charitable contribution and a charitable deduction.

• Look into your assets that are tax-deferred, such as 401(k) or 403(b) funds. Gifting from these funds may help minimize tax considerations.

• If you are 70½ and have to take a required minimum distribution from your IRA, consider allocating part (or all) of it to Tidewell. The IRA Charitable Rollover allows a tax-free transfer of up to $100,000 per year per taxpayer (married couples could transfer up to $200,000) directly from IRAs to qualified charities without income tax consequences.

I am happy to discuss these gift strategies (or others) with you personally. Or, we can just chat so I may learn something new from you. You can contact me directly at 941-552-7658 or at dpope@tidewell.org.

With my warmest regards,

Denise M. Pope, CFRE
Chief Philanthropy Officer

Ann Curry to Headline 8th Annual Signature Luncheon

Ann Curry, an award-winning journalist and former co-host of the “TODAY” show and “Dateline NBC,” will be the keynote speaker at Tidewell Hospice’s eighth annual Signature Luncheon on Feb. 10, 2017.

Ann has a personal connection to hospice. She was a caregiver to her late mother and late sister-in-law, both of whom received hospice services during their battles with cancer. The “TODAY” show received the Buchwald Spirit of Caring from the National Hospice Foundation in 2012 after Ann and co-host Matt Lauer shared personal family experiences with hospice. Ann was a frequent anchor on “NBC Nightly News” and served as a replacement anchor and newsreader for “TODAY” after joining NBC News in 1990. In 2005, she joined Stone Phillips as a co-host of “Dateline NBC.” In 2011, Ann replaced Meredith Vieira as a full-time anchor on “TODAY.” A year later, Ann left the show and continued to work for NBC News until January 2015, when she founded her own multi-platform media company. She and her husband, Brian Ross, have two children, McKenzie and William.

8th annual Signature Luncheon
11:30 a.m. Friday, February 10, 2017
The Ritz-Carlton, Sarasota
Tickets are $100, patron tickets $150 with sponsorship opportunities available.
Call 941-552-7660.

Columbia Community Harvest – making a difference deliciously

Supporting Tidewell Hospice has never been more delicious! Throughout September, the Columbia Restaurant will donate 5 percent of each lunch and dinner check to a non-profit group of the diner’s choice. It is part of the 19th annual Columbia Restaurant Community Harvest, and Tidewell is one of the designated recipients. Guests do not spend any additional money for the gift.

The donation is presented to Tidewell in the form of gift certificates to the restaurant. Tidewell uses the gift certificates to express appreciation to our colleagues and volunteers, who collaborated to care for more than 8,100 terminally ill patients and their families last year. The shared goal of Tidewell’s care team is to foster a peaceful end-of-life experience with dignity for all patients.

The Columbia Restaurant Community Harvest events have raised more than $1.8 million in 18 years.

Columbia Restaurants are in Sarasota at St. Armands Circle, Ybor City, Saint Augustine, Clearwater Beach, Celebration, the Café at Tampa Bay History Center on the Riverwalk in Tampa and at Tampa International Airport.
Tidewell honors contributions of Dr. Martin, Wayne Goff

Commitment to community and the description “true Southern gentleman” connect the lives of two Tidewell Hospice leaders who passed away recently.

Associate Medical Director Calvin Martin, MD, and Board of Trustees member Wayne B. Goff were dedicated to the communities they served as well as the patients and families at Tidewell Hospice.

Dr. Martin passed away June 4 at age 88 after a six-decade medical career in Arcadia and DeSoto County. Wayne, a Charlotte County businessman and respected leader in Punta Gorda and Charlotte County, died July 16 at age 78.

Both men used their hands, in different ways, to improve the places they lived.

Dr. Martin served Tidewell for more than 12 years as the Associate Medical Director in the Arcadia area. Beginning in 1960, Dr. Martin spent 36 years as a private-practice physician in Arcadia. He was medical director of DeSoto Memorial Hospital for eight years before joining Tidewell Hospice in 2003.

Dr. Martin looked the part of a traditional rural doctor with the starched white lab coat over a shirt and tie, outfitted by his loving wife of 63 years, Genie. But, according to his daughter, Dr. Martin was a sophisticated practitioner who went the extra mile for his patients.

“My daddy was very humble,” said Lewellyn Cassels, a nurse practitioner who started her career working with her father. “I don’t think anybody referred to my dad as a country doctor but my dad. He was not caught up in any kind of spotlight.

“He demanded excellence of everyone around him. He didn’t cut corners, and he didn’t accept people around him who did.”

When he wasn’t treating patients, Dr. Martin enjoyed being outdoors. He tended a vineyard, split wood, laid brick and repaired tractors.

Still, his hands remained gentle and smooth, though years of vigorous hand-washing rubbed off his fingerprints. He always encouraged doctors to touch their patients during every examination.

“His hands were really warm. For all the work he did, his hands were soft and warm. He would touch you. That was his communication,” Lewellyn said.

A story in Tidewell’s 2014 annual report illustrated Dr. Martin’s bedside manner. He befriended Jack Davis, an Alzheimer’s patient, and agreed to continue work on a large sailboat model after Jack became unable to finish it. Though he had no experience building a model, Dr. Martin completed the sailboat at the request of Jack’s daughter, Dorothy Hunt. The model, along with a plaque dedicated to the patient and Dr. Martin, remains on display at the Arcadia Hospice House.

“Things like that are important to people and if you can make them feel better, why not do it? It was important to Jack and Dorothy, and I guess I’m a sentimentalist,” Dr. Martin said at the time.

Wayne’s life was intertwined with Charlotte County from the beginning. He was a fourth-generation Floridian, and his great, great uncle was the first settler of Englewood. He was an ardent supporter of Charlotte High School, where he was class president and played football, basketball and baseball. He married the homecoming queen, Donna Litton, and raised three children.

Wayne’s hands were the tools of a builder. He was the president of Goff Construction and Church Growth and Building Consultants. Late in his life, Wayne was proud to take on the Vietnam Memorial Wall project at Laishley Park in Punta Gorda as general contractor. Fifty years earlier, he laid the first brick at the Cultural Center of Charlotte County and later served as president.

“The word that comes to mind is icon,” Wayne Sallade, a football announcer at Wayne’s beloved Charlotte High, told the Charlotte Sun. “He was a Punta Gorda rock.”

Wayne had served on the Tidewell board since 2005 and was the secretary at the time of his passing. Wayne also chaired Tidewell’s Audit, Governance and Building and Property committee.

“He will forever live within the walls of Tidewell,” President and CEO Gerry Radford said. “His friendship, his commitment to the hospice mission and to the Tidewell Hospice Board of Trustees will never be forgotten. We were blessed to call him a friend and a colleague.”

An excerpt from his biography in the Tidewell board retreat booklet also represents a life well lived: “Wayne’s claims to fame are being grandfather to Jensen and Connor, and holding the world record in continuous sit-ups – 5,000. His hobby is enjoying life.”
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

dreams and hopes they held for their child – or help a patient
discuss his or her own final wishes with a spouse or child
reluctant to listen.

Often, illness and poverty go hand in hand. First, the patient
must give up work, followed by the spouse (or parent) who
must provide round-the-clock care. This drastic drop in income
impacts ability to pay for basic necessities. The social worker may
help the family apply for disability or Medicaid and make referrals
to agencies equipped to help them obtain support.

Through the generosity of Tidewell’s donors, the Harold &
Evelyn R. Davis Humanitarian Fund provides assistance with
such things as utility bills, rent, supplemental food, building a
wheelchair ramp or funeral arrangements. Donors have also
made the Tidewell’s Wishes Fund possible. These funds bring
joy to those for whom their illness has stolen so much. Gifts
have included airfare so brothers can say their final goodbyes,
an anniversary dinner for a couple married 65 years and a set of
Legos for a homebound 11-year-old boy.

Tidewell’s Humanitarian and Wishes funds set the organization
apart – elevating the level of care and compassion and providing
the social workers with the ability to fulfill a dying wish.

“I have heard many people say that in their time of need
they have learned who their real friends are. I am so proud that
Tidewell can be counted on to ‘be there’ when possibly no one
else is,” said Julie Steiner, MSW, social worker.

The social worker remains with the patient and family through
the end-of-life process, guiding them through the various stages
of active dying. For those with no family, the social worker may
assume the role of family surrogate, literally and figuratively
holding their hands through the end.

Tidewell’s social workers represent a vital component of the
comprehensive care team that brings solace, comfort and peace
of mind to those facing their final days. They are masters in the
art of caring.

In loving memory of
former Philanthropy colleague
Debbie Frey – 1957-2016