Benny Earns Pet Hero of the Year Award

Volunteer Donna Smith and her therapy dog, Benny, were honored with the Pet Hero of the Year award on April 26, 2014 in Orlando.

The award is given to one dog in Florida, chosen by the American Veterinarian Committee. Benny received a beautiful plaque.

Benny was honored for his work with Tidewell Hospice. He attended all of the Gifts of Life Programs to greet attendees and was a regular visitor at the Sarasota Hospice House. He was also a great help to Donna, who raised Southeastern Guide Dogs. Benny taught them all impeccable manners!

Benny also volunteered at the Child Protection Agency, and sat in court alongside children who had to testify against their "abuser." The first time he did his court job, he sat with a 9-year-old girl and never moved from her side for two-and-a-half hours. When Benny was finished, the Judge told Donna that Benny was the best dog he had ever had in the court room.

Benny loved his pet therapy job at the hospice house. The nurses all loved him and vice versa. Benny always knew where the staff hid treats!

After more than nine years as a therapy dog for Tidewell, Benny lost his battle with cancer on July 2, 2014. We thank Benny (and Donna) for their service and congratulate them on this honor.

Richard Wellenberger Chosen as One of ABC’s “7 Who Care”

Bradenton volunteer Richard Wellenberger was selected as one of this year’s “7 Who Care” on WWSB ABC 7. Richard works at Tidewell’s Bradenton Hospice House every Monday morning and also is very active in Tidewell Honors, performing pinning ceremonies. He spends time volunteering at the local VA office as well, reminding veterans of scheduled appointments.

Rick has a truly amazing story. Several years ago, he had a major health incident that left him with a very small chance of emerging from a coma. Richard beat the odds, made it through substantial rehab and now gives his time to volunteer activities for Tidewell and the VA.

He was honored with a video tribute at a luncheon at Michaels on East restaurant on July 14, and his story aired on the ABC 7 newscast July 21. You can read Richard’s story and see the full video at www.mysuncoast.com (search for ABC 7 Who Care). Congratulations! (pictured is Richard with ABC 7 anchorman Scott Dennis)
Do you have a friend who might make a good Tidewell volunteer? Bring them to one of our educational presentations. If you have someone you would like to bring along, please check with your volunteer coordinator first, just to make sure there won’t be discussion of private patient information. The more the merrier. We’d love to expand our volunteer family!

---

From the Director of Volunteer Services - Stacy Groff

I want to express a huge thank you to all of the volunteers who lend an extra hand during our summer months. As you know, many of our volunteers return north from May through September – yet our patients’ needs do not decrease. We have several volunteer orientations coming up soon, so please feel free to refer your friends, neighbors, and relatives to join our Tidewell volunteer family!

Our volunteer program is looking at several exciting things coming up! First, we look forward to unveiling our new on-line learning system, which will allow new volunteers with a high-speed internet connection to complete portions of volunteer training at home. Of course, not everything can be completed via computer, but we do hope to make training more accessible to prospective volunteers.

Second, we are looking to hold Competency Fairs. These would take the place (for most) of the joint visits in the field that can be difficult to arrange.

If you have any ideas about how we can make our compliance requirements easier for you to accomplish, please don’t hesitate to make suggestions. We will try our best!

Thank you again for all that you do for Tidewell.
Service Opportunities

Tidewell is looking for volunteers who are willing to make quarterly calls to mobile home parks and churches to inquire about potential speaking opportunities, establish contacts to promote our volunteer program, and make sure that the communities and churches have our literature available, if applicable. Please contact your volunteer coordinator if you are able to do this. This task can be done from home if you have access to Excel and email. Times are completely flexible.

Volunteers are needed to help update Transitions resource lists. This can be done from home with an internet connection, access to Excel and ability to email.

Complementary Services Classes Are Starting Soon!

REIKI Training at the Rand Boulevard office
Reiki, Level 1: Oct. 11 and 12 at Rand from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Reiki, Level 2: Nov. 15 and 16 at Rand from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Cost: $75. Please make reservation with Judy Wallace by calling (941) 921-1586.

Clown Training
Clown training will run for seven weeks, starting Oct. 4, at the Sarasota Rand Boulevard office.
Please contact Kathy Bergen for details at (941) 552-5914.

Reiki Shares
• Saturday, Oct. 18, 2 - 4:30 p.m.
• Saturday, Nov. 22, 2 - 4:30 p.m.
Both at the Rand Blvd. office.
Contact Judy Wallace (941) 921-1586

A NEW HOME IN SARASOTA!

Tidewell is proud to announce the recent purchase of a new office for the Sarasota home team, the ALF Central team and the LTC Central team. The office building, located at 3550 S. Tamiami Trail, is across the street from the Westfield Southgate Mall.

“This building presents an outstanding opportunity for us and a great improvement over our current location on Mound Street. With all the additional space, better parking, access and visibility it is a much better fit for Tidewell,” President and CEO Gerry Radford said. “The building is also more centrally located to many of the homes and facilities these teams serve, including Sarasota Memorial Hospital.”

Improvements planned for the new space will take a few months, so we do not expect to start moving teams until the fall. In the meantime, please take a look at the site when you are in that area.
Matching Gift Programs

Did you know that your generosity has the potential to be doubled or even tripled? Many companies increase the value of their employees’ and retirees’ charitable contributions through matching gift programs. If you are currently employed and have (or are considering) a charitable gift to Tidewell, please ask your human resources office if your company offers donation matching. There will usually be a form to complete (from your employer) which can be emailed to matchinggifts@tidewell.org or faxed to (941) 552-7588. Many companies will also contribute to a charitable cause in acknowledgement of an employee’s volunteer work. Ask your HR office if this is a program in your workplace!

COLUMBIA RESTAURANT COMMUNITY HARVEST

Let your appetite guide you to a great meal while supporting Tidewell! During September, the 17th Annual Columbia Restaurant Community Harvest program is celebrated at all Columbia locations. Guests who have lunch or dinner can choose a non-profit group to receive a donation of 5-percent of their check in the form of gift certificates to the restaurant – the guest does not spend any additional money for this donation. Columbia Restaurants are located in Sarasota at St. Armand’s Circle, Tampa’s Historic Ybor City, St. Augustine, Clearwater Beach, Celebration, the Café at Tampa Bay History Center on the Riverwalk, Tampa and The Columbia Restaurant Café at Tampa International Airport.

CONTAC T INFO

Director:
Stacy Groff
941-552-5945
sgroff@tidewell.org

Bradenton:
Linda Anderson
941-782-4900
landerson@tidewell.org

Complementary Services:
Kathy Bergen
941-552-5914
kbergen@tidewell.org

Ellenton:
Jeannette Richemond
941-845-3002
jrichemond@tidewell.org

Englewood:
Carole “Lynette” Melchior
941-548-2336
lmelchior@tidewell.org

Port Charlotte/DeSoto County:
Nancy Vollmer
941-979-4304
nvollmer@tidewell.org
Kim Hartshorne
941-979-4324
khartshorne@tidewell.org

Sarasota/Mound:
Mary Bodner
941-487-3156
mebodner@tidewell.org
Linda Miller
941-487-3184
lmiller@tidewell.org

Transitions:
Janie Bennett
941-552-5922
jbennett@tidewell.org
Sarah Clark
941-552-5962
sclark@tidewell.org
Joyce Papke
941-552-5962
japke@tidewell.org

Venice:
Linda Pierce
941-441-2003
lpierce@tidewell.org
Ginny Armington
941-441-2021
garmington@tidewell.org