

# Hospital Clown Newsletter

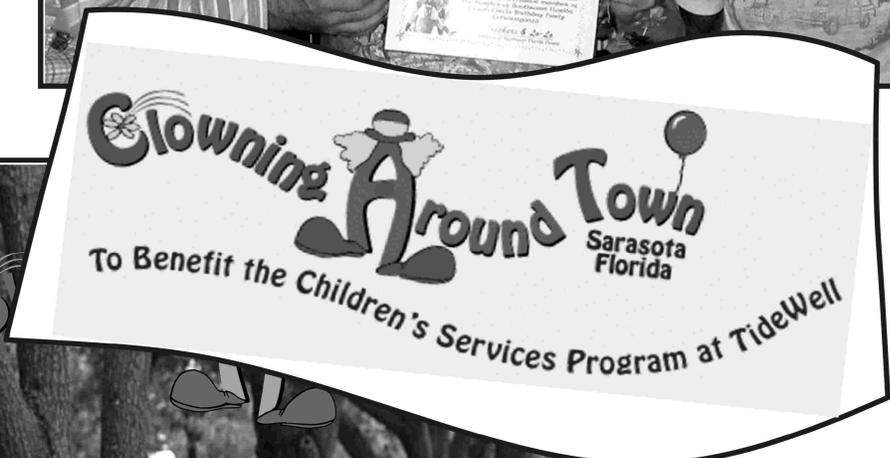
A Publication for Clowns In Community and World Service

www.HospitalClown.com PO Box 8957, Emeryville, CA 94608 - Vol. 11, No. 2

**TideWell's Clown Circle** began in 1995. In 2001 they became a COAI Clown Alley - the first hospice to receive such affiliation. There are presently 32 members in their clown alley. They cover four counties in Southwest Florida: Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte, and DeSoto. The Clown Alley comes under TideWell Hospice's Creative and Caring Connections Program. To the right are Crackers and Lolo (Paul and Muriel Norton) at a Birthday Party.

**TideWell's Clowning Around Town Project** was a Fun-Raisin' Fund-Raiser with proceeds funding an endowment for TideWell's Children's Hospice and Palliative Care Programs. This ambitious project had local artists creating 46 larger than life colorful clown statues which were on view around Sarasota, Florida from October 2006 through April 2006 and ended with an auction.

*Their story continues on Page 3*



The clown sculptures to the left are:

The Clown Wears Prada

Royal Clown

Corky Noir

Zoo Keeper

Miss Beady Buttons

Etc., Etc., Etc.

For a complete in color gallery viewing go their website [www.clowningaroundtown.org](http://www.clowningaroundtown.org) click on "clown gallery"

# Tidewell<sup>®</sup>

HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE CARE

Tidewell Hospice and Palliative Care is an independent, not-for-profit organization serving more than 1,000 patients a day in the Florida counties of Sarasota, Manatee, Charlotte and DeSoto. It was formerly known as Hospice of Southwest Florida

Home-based palliative care is the basic premise of the program, involving the support of physicians, registered nurses, social service counselors, home health aides and volunteers, all following a prescribed plan of care. Tidewell's services are available to everyone, regardless of ability to pay.

Founded in 1980, Tidewell has grown significantly in the past two decades. Any disease with a predictable prognosis of six months or less is within Tidewell's admission criteria.

Death with dignity is the goal of Tidewell Hospice and Palliative Care. It is accomplished through the expression of sensitivity in the care of individuals facing their final phase of life. By doing so, Tidewell is a team of professionals serving each family with an in-home centered philosophy.

A patient and family focus is on the greatest hopes for dying patients - to be pain-free and to have distressing symptoms controlled. Early on, hospice learned that quality of life revolves around these two factors, and only when they are controlled can people reach beyond to the comforts and therapeutic healing of mind and spirit. Decisions are made based on the individualized needs of patients, with the realization that something more can always be done to bring comfort and dignity to those dealing with advanced illness.

Rather than a place, hospice is a philosophy - a program of care and support wherever patients need us. Tidewell's services extend to any location - a home, the hospital, an assisted living facility (ALF), a nursing home or any of six Hospice Houses.

### Tidewell's Creative and Caring Connections

This department offers special programs that bring quality of life to those with advanced illness. The variety of complementary therapies - used together with conventional medicine - are designed to facilitate stress reduction for patient and caregiver, pain relief and distraction, opportunities for "joy" and healing of psycho-social issues for patients and their families.

The complementary therapies include: Caring Touch, Therapeutic Touch and Mind-Body Interventions which include: Expressive Arts, Music, Horticultural Therapy, Reminiscence and Life Review, Pet Therapy and

..... **Clowns!**

## Tidewell's Hospice Clown Circle .....



*Tidewell Clowns at the Sarasota opening of Clowning Around Town (See page 9). From the left: Betty "Cheetah" Sekely, Muriel "LoLo" Norton, Mady "Snow Bird" Iseman, Paul "Crackers" Norton, Anne Marie "AM" Chalmers, and Beverley "Flibbertigibbet" Harris.*

The Clown Circle's philosophy can be found within the "CIRCLE" acronym :

**C**lowning with  
**I**ntegrity,  
**R**espect,  
**C**ompassion and  
**L**aughter for  
**E**veryone.

Clowns visit up to 200 patients and participate in 4-5 community events during a month. The patients are seen in their homes, in the hospice houses and over a dozen long term care facilities.

The clowns initially receive volunteer hospice training from Tidewell plus over 24 hours of training in "Clowning for Hospice." Their Clown Alley meets monthly to plan events and share in training.

Their stories continue —>>>>