

By Pat Williams

Linda Houston AND Tom Lytle JOIN THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION MARTIN-ST. LUCIE BOARD

Non-profit boards can be dull or dazzling, depending on who is at the table, or these days, who is on the Zoom call.

The Community Foundation Martin - St. Lucie recently appointed two new board members, both Sailfish Point residents, whose professional bios crackle with drive, accomplishment, and commitment. Linda Huston and Tom Lytle will join the 11-member board of local luminaries, chaired by Ellyn Stevenson of Sewall's Point.



Linda Houston

"Tom and Linda bring their A-game to board service. They are dynamic people with business acumen and a solid commitment to growing The Foundation," Elizabeth Barbella, President & CEO of The Foundation, said.

Both Tom and Linda put down roots in Sailfish Point after high power careers in the Northeast, Linda in wealth management, and Tom in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries.

It was spring training that brought Linda and her husband

Tom to Stuart, "He is a Met's fan, I love the Cardinals. Stuart was right in the middle," she said. Linda retired after a 33-year career with Merrill Lynch as Division Executive for the New England Market that managed \$165 billion in assets. Up north, she served on the board of the Alvin Ailey Dance

Theatre and was honored as a Woman of Merit for her service to Girl Scouts of Connecticut.

"Earlier this year, I was on a call representing a group of donors as Elizabeth was building the funding consortiums to respond to COVID 19. I saw first-hand how she and The Foundation make things happen. I thought, "That's it, I am in." I like to be involved with things that matter and make a real difference," Linda said.

Tom was a career executive in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries, where he held senior positions at Pfizer and Amgen. Tom founded and led two companies, including Melanovus Oncology, a pre-clinical stage company focused on melanoma and other skin cancers. He most recently was Chief Executive Officer for Assuage Pharmaceuticals, a spin-out from the Torrey Pines Institute for Molecular Studies, working to develop first-in-class products for multiple addictive diseases. He retired as an Army Colonel after 26 years of active and reserve service.

After moving 17 times during his 40-year career Tom and his wife settled in Sailfish Point ten years ago as year-round residents. Moving so much, they had no deep ties to any charities but felt that in retirement, it was time to get serious about giving back.

"It was through friends that I learned that The Community Foundation isn't a charity, but a vehicle that helps people make smart and tax-efficient investments in charitable causes. As I learned more, my respect for and trust in The Foundation grew," Tom said. "In my view, The Foundation is about helping people match their philanthropic desires with causes that matter and make a difference in our community," he added.

"With Tom and Linda, we've tapped people with expertise and vision. They see not just where we are now, but where we can take The Foundation in the coming years," Ellyn Stevenson said.



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