

# Pulse

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Marshfield Clinic Health System

## DOD medical team to depart this week—after assisting at Health System hospitals

Marshfield, Eau Claire, Beaver Dam and Rice Lake hospitals are saying farewell this week to about 50 U.S. Army medical personnel, part of a Department of Defense (DOD) COVID-19 operation that has been helping hospital staff during the recent COVID-19 surge. DOD medical personnel had been onsite since mid-December. The DOD's final day of work was Wednesday (Jan.13). The DOD departed Rice Lake Wednesday and left Marshfield, Rice Lake, Eau Claire and Beaver Dam today (Jan. 14).

At the time of the DOD's arrival at our hospitals, there were over 100 COVID-19 patients throughout Health System hospitals. As of Wednesday (Feb. 13), our total number of COVID-19 inpatients was at 43.

"The Department of Defense have been of great service to this hospital and patients, and I know everyone here thanks them for their service to us and our country," said Pat Board, Marshfield Medical Center CAO.

The DOD assisted not only patients, but our front line staff with relief to help prevent burnout. Any help to staff, who are feeling mentally and physically exhausted at our System, across the state of Wisconsin and the country, is important.

The DOD's last shift in Marshfield ended at 7 a.m. Thursday where a brief socially distanced celebration was held with DOD members on the helipad.

A request for extending the DOD resources was not approved as COVID-19 is increasing in other parts of the country. The four weeks of aid the DOD provided to Health System hospitals is time we won't forget, said Pam Jochimsen, Regional Chief Nursing Officer - West.



"It was an absolute pleasure to work with the DOD nurses and respiratory therapists these past four weeks," Jochimsen said.

"These individuals presented to us as skilled professionals who readily adapted to our work environment and work flows. They embraced our team members and our patients as though they had been part of our team all along.

"As we say goodbye to the troops we realize we have been part of an experience that has been positive beyond

our expectations. Our time with the DOD team has been a bright spot during the daily challenges faced during COVID."

# Health System newborns by the numbers; spotlight on popular names

It was a busy year at birth centers across the Health System as we assisted in welcoming the next generation into the world. In 2020, there were 2,114 babies born at Health System birthing centers.

Marshfield led the way with 895 babies followed by Eau Claire with 492. Marshfield brought into the world 485 baby boys and 417 baby girls with the smallest baby being just 1 pound, six ounces. The largest baby delivered in Marshfield was 11 pounds, 12 ounces. Also of note, there were 23 sets of twins delivered.

Eau Claire delivered 260 boys and 232 girls and four sets of twins.

Rice Lake had 365 deliveries and between girls and boys, 185 were girls and 180 were boys. Rice Lake's smallest baby was 4 pounds, 2 ounces; the largest baby was 11 pounds, 7 ounces.

In Beaver Dam, there were 255 baby deliveries in 2020 and almost an even split boys and girls, at 128 and 127, respectively. Beaver Dam gets the nod for the largest baby born in the Health System with a newborn weighing 12 pounds, 1 ounce. The smallest baby delivered in Beaver Dam was 4 pounds, 12 ounces.

Our newest hospital, Minocqua, which opened in June, delivered 126 babies – 72 boys, 54 girls. The largest baby born at Minocqua was 11 pounds, 8 ounces, with the smallest at 4 pounds, 5 ounces.



## Popular names

It is always fun to look back at the baby names chosen by new parents.

According to BabyCenter, the top boy name for 2020 was Liam, while the most popular girl name was Sophia. Other popular girl names included Olivia, Riley and Emma. For boys, other popular names were Noah, Jackson and Aden. Some of these names surfaced as popular choices by Health System families.

The most popular boy name in Rice Lake was Jack followed by Jacob, Grayson and Finley, and for girls Aubree/Aubree was the most popular, followed by Madelyn/Madeline, Isabella/Isabel.

The most popular baby names in Marshfield were Sawyer for boys and Scarlett for girls. Oliver, Liam, Easton and Jaxson were close contenders for boys, and Harper, Olivia, Alexis and Nora were among frequent choices for girl's names.

Minocqua's most popular name for boys in 2020 was Jacob followed by Levi and Jackson. For girls, the most popular name was Harper and second was Gema/Gemma.

The most popular baby girl name in Eau Claire was Madeline/Madelyn/Madilyne/Maddilynn followed by Eleanor, Aliyah, Amari and June. The most popular boy name was Grayson/Greyson with Henry, Jack, Jackson/Jaxon/Jaxson and James as traditional contenders.

It will be interesting to see what names are popular when we look at these trends at the end of 2021.

## NIH's *All of Us* Research Program returns first genetic results to participants

The National Institutes of Health's *All of Us* Research Program has begun to return genetic results to participants who have donated biosamples for research. This reflects the program's priority to give back information to its research volunteers.

Initially, participants can choose to receive information about their genetic ancestry and traits, with health-related results available at a later date.

The *All of Us* Research Program is working to build a diverse community of 1 million or more participant partners across the United States to help researchers learn more about how genetics, environment and lifestyle factors affect health

outcomes. Participants share information in a variety of ways, including surveys, electronic health records, biosamples (blood, urine and/or saliva) and more. Data is stripped of personal identifiers and made available for research through the *All of Us* Research Hub.

As part of its core values, the program is committed to ensuring that participants have access to their own information, and many participants have expressed a strong desire to understand what their DNA can tell them.

"We're changing the paradigm for research," said Josh Denny, M.D., *All of Us*'s chief executive officer. "Participants are our most important partners in this effort, and we know many of them are eager to get their genetic results and learn about the science they're making possible. We're working to provide that valuable information in a responsible way."

The program's in-depth genetic analyses include both whole genome sequencing and genotyping. Whole genome sequencing focuses on the more than 3 billion base pairs in the human genome, while genotyping looks at millions of genetic variants focused on people's most common genetic differences.

To return genetic information, the program has developed a robust informed consent process, giving participants information and choice about whether or not to receive results and which results they want to get back. The program also provides access to genetic counselors to help answer questions from participants and their health care providers.

*All of Us* teamed up with a network of awardees across the country to support this work, including the health technology company Color, to return the personalized results on genetic ancestry and traits, and a set of leading genome centers to generate the genetic



data: Baylor College of Medicine, the Broad Institute and the Northwest Genomics Center at the University of Washington, alongside their partners.

"With the *All of Us* Research Program, we're beginning to return results for a genomics program that is of unprecedented scale," said Alicia Zhou, Ph.D., chief science officer at Color. "For a long time, the research community has recruited participants into large-population genomics studies without returning any results back to them. With *All of Us*, we've provided the tools to do just that—in a convenient and accessible way. We now have a real opportunity to return value to participants."

*All of Us* is taking a phased approach to the return of genetic results and will offer additional results over time. In about a year, the program plans to begin offering participants the option to receive information about how their DNA may affect their body's response to certain types of medicines (pharmacogenetics), and about genetic variants associated with the increased risk of certain diseases, based on guidelines of the American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics. Participants will receive information back as their DNA samples are processed, so not everyone will receive information immediately.

Since *All of Us* opened enrollment nationwide in 2018, more than 270,000 people have contributed biosamples and more than 80 percent come from communities that are historically underrepresented in biomedical research. These include racial and ethnic minorities, sexual and gender minorities and other groups.

"We need programs like *All of Us* to build diverse datasets so that research findings ultimately benefit everyone," said Brad Ozenberger, Ph.D., *All of Us*'s genomics director. "Too many groups have been left out of research in the past, so much of what we know about genomics is based mainly on people of European ancestry. And often, genomic data are explored without critical context like environment, economics and other social determinants of health. We're trying to help change that, enabling the entire research community to help fill in these knowledge gaps."

*All of Us* plans to begin making genetic data available to researchers in about a year, with strict privacy and security safeguards in place to protect participants' information. The program seeks to engage researchers from diverse backgrounds to undertake a wide range of studies and learn more about how to tailor care to people's different needs.

The Wisconsin consortium led by Marshfield Clinic Research Institute and joined by the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin, and Gundersen Health System is spearheading enrollment in Wisconsin. The Wisconsin consortium is a partner of the *National Institutes of Health's All of Us* Research Program and is one of several regional networks across the country where individuals can enroll.

To start the participant journey, go to [JoinAllofUs.org](https://JoinAllofUs.org) to create an account, give your consent, agree to share your electronic health records and answer health surveys. An *All of Us* staff member may contact you for an in-person appointment to have your measurements (height, weight, blood pressure, etc.) taken and to give blood and urine samples. After completing these steps, you will receive a \$25 gift card. You can call

(888) 633-9987 or email [allofus@marshfieldresearch.org](mailto:allofus@marshfieldresearch.org) to set up an appointment where *All of Us* staff can walk you through the enrollment process.

## Grassland Dairy and Wuethrich family donate \$300,000 to new Neillsville hospital

In 2019, a small group of Clark County community members joined together to lead the capital campaign committee to build Marshfield Medical Center-Neillsville. They knew the new medical center and wellness center would be important to their rural community, but they had no idea how crucial improving health and wellness in Clark County and surrounding areas would become in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Trevor Wuethrich, CEO at Grassland Dairy Products, Inc., along with his wife, Tonia, were some of the first to join the capital campaign committee and help engage community support. As a lifelong resident of Greenwood and member of the Marshfield Clinic Health System Foundation Board of Directors, Wuethrich knew that philanthropy was essential to building Marshfield Medical Center-Neillsville for the future of Clark County.



"The Wuethrich family goes back three generations on the Neillsville hospital board," Wuethrich said. "I wanted to take that legacy and help build affordable, quality health care here in Clark County."

The \$1.75 million capital campaign set out to fund the Wellness Center and Infusion Suite in Marshfield Medical Center-Neillsville. Though the COVID-19 pandemic brought unprecedented challenges to the project, essential construction continued throughout 2020.

"The people of Clark County need accessible, expert, compassionate health care now more than ever," said Ryan Neville, chief administrative officer, Marshfield Medical Center-Neillsville. "Thanks to the generosity of our community and our Health System's commitment to rural health care, Marshfield Medical Center-Neillsville and the Wellness Center will be here to serve our residents through the pandemic and for generations to come."

Inspired to help their community during difficult times, Wuethrich, the rest of the capital campaign committee chairs, Wayne and Peggy Gross, Bob and Barb Petkovsek and Mike and Deb Perkl, doubled down on their efforts to fundraise for the new hospital. They found unique ways to connect with community members to support the project, but they also made personal commitments to ensure the success of the campaign.

The Wuethrich family and Grassland chose to make a leadership gift of \$300,000 to the campaign to name the Marshfield Medical Center-Neillsville lobby and large conference room in the medical center, which is the largest gift to the campaign. With this gift, the capital campaign is currently at 92% of the \$1.7 million goal.

"We are so proud to support the new Marshfield Medical Center-Neillsville," said Wuethrich. "It is our hope that this gift ensures not only our Grassland employees, but our community members, access to rural health care which is a true value to the area. I want to thank everybody who is out there supporting this campaign. I am so excited for the future of our community with this hospital, and this is just the first step."

"We have always said that Marshfield Medical Center-Neillsville is being built for the community and because of the community," said Teri Wilczek, chief philanthropy officer, Marshfield Clinic Health System Foundation. "Our capital campaign committee has been instrumental in seeing the new hospital and wellness center through to completion. The Wuethrich gift and other gifts to the campaign exemplify the strength and commitment of the Clark County community coming together to help one another even during difficult times. We are truly grateful for their generous support."

The 16-bed hospital, including access to 86 specialties through the Health System, and new Marshfield Clinic Health System YMCA Wellness Center are on track to be completed and open by May 2021. For more information or to support the capital campaign, contact Teri Wilczek at [wilczek.teri@marshfieldclinic.org](mailto:wilczek.teri@marshfieldclinic.org) or Sheri Dick at [dick.sheri@marshfieldclinic.org](mailto:dick.sheri@marshfieldclinic.org).

## Health Information Management file clerk retires after 33 years

Darlene McGiffin came to Marshfield and began her career in Health Information Management (HIM) in July 1987. On January 5, McGiffin retired after 33 years, including over 27 years at the Health System.

McGiffin started at Indianhead Medical Group as an HIM file clerk. In 1993, Indianhead Medical Group joined Marshfield Clinic and became Marshfield Clinic Indianhead. And with that, Darlene became part of the Health System family. She has been in the HIM field, as a HIM scanning/file clerk, collectively, for all of her 33 years.

McGiffin says she has learned so much along the way and that her biggest accomplishment is feeling she has always put the patient first.

"The patient comes first and you do whatever you can for that patient," she said.

While she has no specific plans for retirement, she knows without a doubt that she will be busy doing something. As she heads into retirement, Darlene's parting words to her colleagues are, "to treat each other like you are friends. Care about one another and be kind."



## Family Medicine Nurse Practitioner joins Oakwood Center team in Eau Claire

Holly Zanchetti, F.N.P., has joined Family Medicine at the Eau Claire Oakwood Center. Zanchetti previously worked in urgent care at Marshfield Clinic Lake Hallie Center as a registered nurse while going to school and completing her nurse practitioner degree.



Zanchetti knew nursing was for her, especially family medicine. She has a passion for working with children and helping people through all phases of life.

"I am naturally a caring and encouraging person. As a nurse, I enjoy being there for my patients to guide and encourage them to succeed in whatever challenges they may be facing," Zanchetti said. She is

proud to continue to be part of the care team with the Health System because she's enjoyed seeing the System's growth that's come from both successes and challenges.

While Zanchetti is an Eau Claire native, she took some time to "see the world" and moved to Georgia to work as a nurse there. Home was calling, though, and she returned to Eau Claire to work and raise her family.

Outside of medicine, Zanchetti enjoys spending time with family, and boating, downhill skiing and traveling.