


WINTER 2019

BenchMarks

Stories about your impact through Marshfield Clinic Health System Foundation

A white dog, possibly a Golden Retriever, is lying on a light-colored wooden floor in a hospital setting. The dog is looking directly at the camera with a calm expression. In the background, a person in a white hospital gown is standing near a hospital bed, and another person is partially visible on the right. The scene is softly lit, creating a warm and comforting atmosphere.

**‘Man’s best friend’
may be the best therapy
for hospitalized patients**

pg. 4

FEATURE

Innovative after-school
program helps kids be VIVID
pg. 9

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Pet therapy volunteers enrich lives for Marshfield Medical Center patients. **COVER FEATURE**



FEATURE

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Michael Schulein, Ph.D., and Kelsie-Marie Offenwanger, Psy.D., provide social emotional support for kids through the Life Tools program.

Season’s Greetings & Introducing the Power of Moments

DEAR FRIENDS,

Picture the moments that matter most to you, the moments that make you smile, laugh, cry and take your breath away. The moments that change your life.

Because of generous people like you, Marshfield Clinic Health System patients experience these powerful moments every day.

The moment a cancer survivor rings the bell to signify the end of treatment at a Marshfield Clinic Cancer Center...

The moment struggling parents cry tears of relief when they receive gas cards to afford the long drive to and from appointments...

The moment new parents smile as they use specialized cameras to watch their baby in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit...

The moment a sick child at Marshfield Children’s Hospital creates a work of art with the help of a Child Life Specialist...

The moment a cancer patient finds hope through a clinical trial...

You bring the power of moments to families in need, sick and injured kids, brave people fighting cancer and so many others cared for through Marshfield Clinic Health System. You’ll read about some of these moments in this issue of BenchMarks, but there are so many more you make possible.

That’s why this year and going forward, we’re asking you to help create more moments for the patients who need them most.

So as you reflect during this season of gratitude, know that we are grateful for you and all you do for our patients. Every gift, of any size, enriches lives for families in our communities.

In gratitude,

**Marshfield Clinic Health System Foundation Board and Staff
Teri M. Wilczek, C.F.R.E, Chief Philanthropy Officer**

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Learn more about the Power of Moments: marshfieldclinic.org/giving/moments



From right: MCHS Foundation Board executive committee - William Hocking, M.D., Teri M. Wilczek, C.F.R.E, Chief Philanthropy Officer, Jessica Wernberg, M.D., Vice Chair, and Michael Schmidt, Chair (not pictured: Michael Smith).

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‘Man’s best friend’ may be the best therapy for hospitalized patients

Pet therapy volunteers bring smiles and healing to patients at Marshfield Medical Center locations

Whoever said “laughter is the best medicine” never met a dog, because some would argue dogs are really the best medicine.

Thanks to pet therapy volunteers - the two-legged and four-legged kinds - patients and employees at Marshfield Medical Center locations know the healing power of wagging tails, slobbery kisses and wet noses.

Volunteer Services teams developed this program over the years and with the addition of hospitals to Marshfield Clinic Health System, the program has grown.

“Our pet therapy program is a favorite for staff, patients and volunteers,” said Keresa Kilty, Volunteer Services manager, Marshfield Clinic Health System Foundation. “When people can combine a desire to give back with their love of dogs, it’s a win-win for everyone.”

Currently, 17 certified pet therapy volunteers serve throughout the Health System. They visit patients on a rotating schedule several times a week at Health System hospitals in Marshfield, Eau Claire and Rice Lake. They can be found at Marshfield

Children’s Hospital, cancer centers, surgical recovery units, hospice rooms, waiting areas and more.

Many areas pet therapy volunteers visit are supported by your donations which fund equipment, comfort and education items, support groups and special services.

The human volunteers are required to get their dogs certified through national pet therapy programs. Once a dog passes the test, the pooch can work his magic and visit patients.

The program is meaningful for dog handlers, many of whom have had prior experiences as patients or providers. As dog lovers, this is a special way to share their gratitude. Bringing their dogs to visit offers patients smiles and a distraction from the hospital setting.

“There’s something magical about dogs,” said John Francosky, a pet therapy volunteer at Marshfield Medical Center-Eau Claire who is also a retired Marshfield Clinic Health System physician assistant. “Patients light up when we come in. Often, as soon as they start interacting with the dog, they begin to share their stories with us. It’s an incredibly healing experience.”

Therapy dog Bailey and handler John Francosky visit with a cancer patient at Marshfield Medical Center-Eau Claire Cancer Center.

Staff members can't wait for pet therapy volunteers to visit.

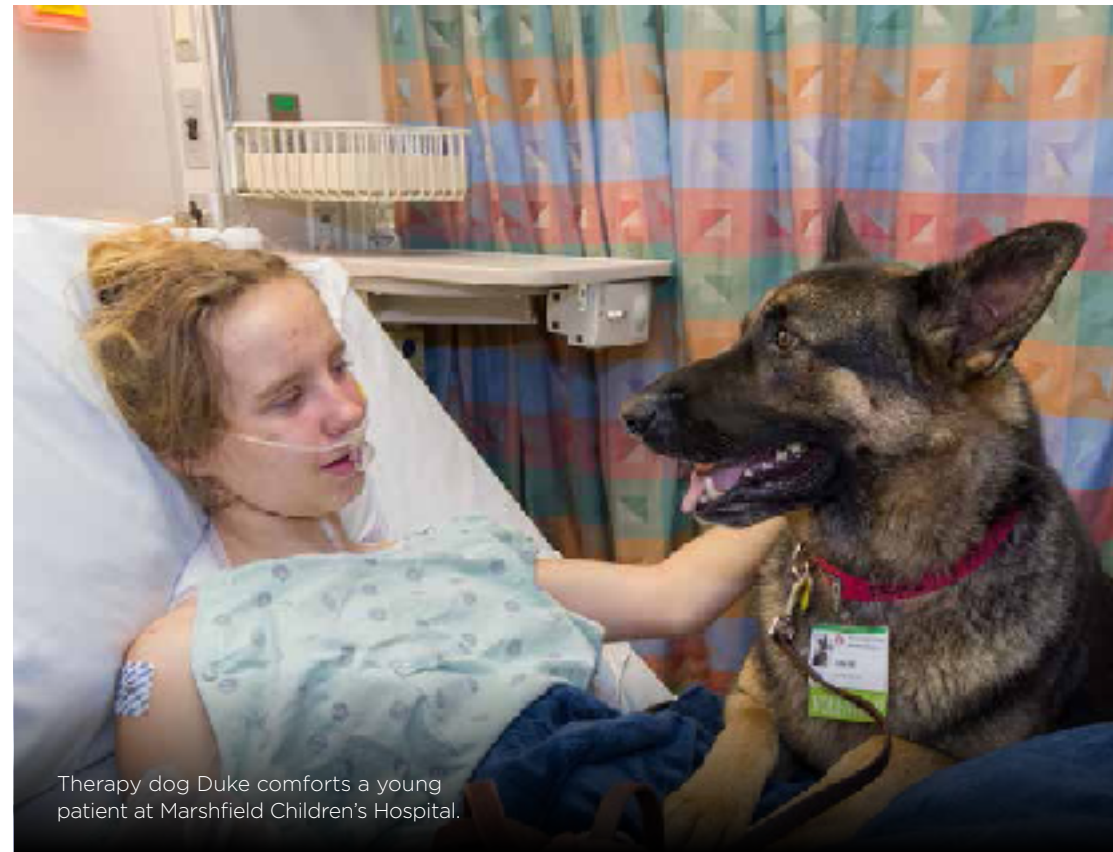
"Dogs brighten our day," said a nurse at Marshfield Medical Center-Rice Lake. "The whole staff gets excited when the dogs come in. We know most of them by name and everyone pauses their work to get some loves and pets. They reduce stress and bring a lot of joy."

And what do the dogs think of being pet therapists?

While they can't speak for themselves, their gentle, calm and happy demeanors when they interact with patients say it all. These dogs enjoy their work and take their jobs very seriously. They communicate - and heal - without words. ♦

Meet the pet therapy volunteers!

Marshfield Clinic Health System Foundation interviewed pet therapy volunteers at Marshfield Medical Center locations in Eau Claire, Marshfield and Rice Lake.



Therapy dog Duke comforts a young patient at Marshfield Children's Hospital.



John Francosky and Bailey

VOLUNTEER LOCATION: Marshfield Medical Center-Eau Claire and Marshfield Clinic Cancer Center-Eau Claire

John Francosky retired from the Health System after 10 years as an Emergency Department physician assistant. The pet therapy program gives this lifelong dog lover a great way to stay involved. He and his dog, Bailey, volunteer at Health System locations as well as the Wisconsin Veterans Home at Chippewa Falls.

He sees pet therapy as a continuation of his medical practice and a special way to care for patients.

"Dogs bring lots of smiles to people. For that brief time my dog is with patients, she gives them a bit of a boost. When someone is going through chemotherapy for cancer all kinds of issues come up, but visits with therapy dogs are helpful."

- John Francosky, retired Marshfield Clinic Health System physician assistant and pet therapy volunteer



Laura Weiler and Duke

VOLUNTEER LOCATION: Marshfield Children's Hospital

Laura Weiler first learned about pet therapy opportunities at Marshfield Children's Hospital from a friend who works at Marshfield Clinic Health System Foundation. She thought her dog, Duke, would be a great fit for the program and took him for testing in December 2018. He passed with flying colors and the pair began volunteering at the Children's Hospital shortly after.

"I like seeing the looks on kids' faces when we visit. For a little while, they forget all about being in the hospital and just enjoy petting Duke."

- Laura Weiler, pet therapy volunteer

FUN FACTS ABOUT DUKE:

Breed: German Shepherd

Age: 4 years

Favorite trick: Laying on his back to have his belly scratched

Favorite treat: Eggs in the morning



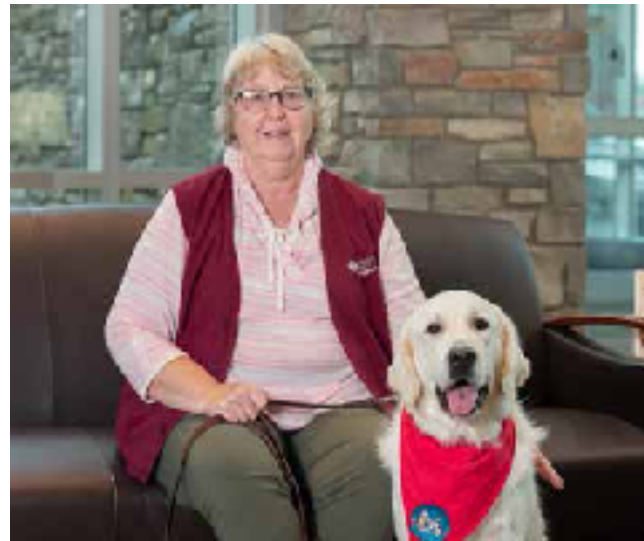
FUN FACTS ABOUT BAILEY:

Breed: Basset hound/beagle mix

Age: 2 years

Favorite trick: Sniffing out new smells

Favorite treats: Chicken sticks and chewing on bones



Therapy dog Roger on only his second day on the job, visiting with a hospital patient at Marshfield Medical Center-Rice Lake.

Lauri Engness and Roger

VOLUNTEER LOCATION: Marshfield Medical Center-Rice Lake and hospice

Lauri Engness helped start the pet therapy program for hospice patients in 2007 in Rice Lake. PAWS with Heart is a team of handlers with certified pet therapy dogs who volunteer in the Barron County area. They started visiting hospice patients in their homes but have expanded to nursing homes, assisted living, surgical units and other organizations.

Engness and other pet therapy volunteers raise awareness for the program by visiting the local library and other organizations. She has four dogs, three of them service dogs. For this interview, Roger was on his second day visiting patients and though he was new to the job he was a natural.

“People always thank us for coming in, but it’s us who should be thanking them. It can be heartbreaking when patients’ health declines but it’s also heartwarming to see how they light up when the dogs are around. When you volunteer in hospice you’re meeting people who are dying. You’d think that would be sad, but it’s not. It’s an honor to be there.”

- Lauri Engness, pet therapy volunteer

FUN FACTS ABOUT ROGER:

Breed: British crème golden retriever

Age: 1½ years

Favorite tricks: Anything for a treat

Favorite treats: Any food

YOUR GIFTS AT WORK



Volunteering

Volunteering is a special way to donate your time and talents to enrich lives for patients. Volunteers serve at Marshfield Medical Centers in Marshfield, Eau Claire, Rice Lake, Ladysmith, Stevens Point, Wausau, Neillsville and Minocqua, with more locations being added.

In 2018 alone:

- **OVER 750 VOLUNTEERS (INCLUDING MORE THAN 120 TEENS) SERVED**
- **VOLUNTEERS PROVIDED OVER 92,000 HOURS OF SERVICE**
- **VOLUNTEERS SERVED IN MORE THAN 100 AREAS ACROSS MARSHFIELD CLINIC HEALTH SYSTEM**

Get involved as a volunteer!

Are you interested in learning more about pet therapy or want to become a volunteer? To learn about volunteering opportunities, contact Volunteer Services at 715-387-7198 or visit marshfieldclinic.org/giving/volunteer

Innovative after-school program helps kids be VIVID

Your support expands access to Life Tools social-emotional learning program for at-risk youth

You are more valuable than cake.

That’s one of the first things kids learn when they start the Life Tools social emotional learning program through Youth Net. And it’s this lesson which often has the most lasting impact for kids and families.

Youth Net is a comprehensive after-school program for referred Marshfield-area youth ages 8-18. The Center for Community Health Advancement within Marshfield Clinic Health System oversees the program for nearly 300 children. It focuses on individual outcomes related to academic performance, social emotional learning and healthy active living. Located in the Marshfield Clinic Health System YMCA, Youth Net provides a safe environment for children.

Life Tools is the brainchild of Michael Schulein, Ph.D., a clinical psychologist specializing in child psychology. He has been with the Health System’s Behavioral Health team for over 30 years.

Dr. Schulein, working with Youth Net staff, started the Life Tools program three years ago. Initial funding was made possible by the generosity of the Marshfield community, including donations to Mike’s Run for mental health.

“Youth Net wanted to provide additional behavioral health resources for at-risk kids, so I jumped in and adapted my experience as a clinician to create the group,” said Dr. Schulein.



Life Tools program leaders Michael Schulein, Ph.D., and Kelsie-Marie Offenwanger, Psy.D, empower kids to be VIVID.



GRATEFUL MOM SHARES HER EXPERIENCE WITH THE LIFE TOOLS PROGRAM:

My son and daughter both participated in Life Tools. They'd both been going to Youth Net and the staff there suggested that we try Life Tools for some of their social and emotional struggles. I can tell you that it changed our lives as a family.

My daughter was very withdrawn and always so hard on herself. She was often depressed and anxious. Life Tools gave her the tools she needed to identify her stressors and feel more confident.

My son is a good kid but he can lash out when he's anxious or nervous. He gets upset easily. He's struggled in the classroom, to the point where he had to be removed from the class. After doing the Life Tools program, he can verbalize when he's upset rather than just blowing up and we can work through it.

Life Tools wasn't just for my kids. It was for our whole family. We learned how to communicate better and help each other through things. We always start the day telling each other something positive we did the day before. Life Tools taught us that.

It's so simple, but I learned that I have to let my kids be kids. They are not miniature adults and I can't expect them to be. It's changed our whole dynamic. My kids' teachers have noticed improvement in both my kids as well.

If I could say anything to the donors who made this program possible, it would just be "thank you." You've changed our lives and made my family healthier and happier. I can never thank you enough.

Sincerely,

Grateful mom

Youth Net staff, educators and caregivers saw early success and the program grew exponentially after Kelsie-Marie Offenwanger, Psy.D., joined the project in 2018.

“Because Marshfield Clinic Health System has a robust education program through its Division of Education, we had the good fortune to have Dr. Offenwanger come here for her fellowship in child/adolescent behavioral health,” said Dr. Schulein. “I introduced her to Life Tools and she developed a passion for the program. She took it on as her research project and made it what it is today.”

Life Tools’ goal is to increase access to social and emotional resources for at-risk youth and families in rural communities. Life Tools offers eight group sessions for small groups of kids ages 8-14. Children are recommended to Life Tools by Youth Net staff based on their need for extra social and emotional guidance. The program teaches mindfulness, coping, communication and emotional fitness strategies. By conducting the program in a group setting, kids can learn from one another and from group facilitators.

Drs. Schulein and Offenwanger start each session by leading the group through an acronym called “VIVID” (see figure 1).

“We’ve found a lot of kids only have the ‘IVID’ when they begin the program,” said Dr. Schulein, “but they’re missing the first ‘V.’ Many children don’t see themselves as valuable. By starting with VIVID, we can teach children to value themselves and grow from where they are.”

“There is a lot of pressure and demands placed on children’s caregivers and teachers in our society and that filters down to the kids,” said Dr. Offenwanger. “We expect kids to act like miniature adults. We need to let them know it’s O.K. to be vulnerable, it’s O.K. to need help, it’s O.K. to be kids. Kids need to know they are valuable.”

Parents and guardians can learn along with the kids, thanks to an innovative addition from Dr. Offenwanger. After each session, Dr. Offenwanger uploads video recaps to YouTube and provides a traditional written report. Parents say this is invaluable and helps their families learn and grow together.

“Videos allowed me to learn along with my child,” said a mom whose child completed Life Tools. “This program has helped us communicate as a family. I notice my daughter using the tools she’s learned and it’s helped me understand her life, too.”

V	= every child is VALUABLE and deserves to be told that and treated that way
I	= every child is IMPERFECT and deserves to know that mistakes are okay
V	= every child is VULNERABLE and deserves a safe place to be real
I	= every child is IMMATURE and needs to experience opportunities to grow up
D	= every child is DEPENDENT and deserves to have his/her needs met

Figure 1

The results of the program speak for themselves. Life Tools participants complete a survey at the beginning and end of the program. The survey has shown that prior to the program, most kids rank themselves very low on the VIVID scale and struggle with emotional coping strategies. After the program, 100% of kids identify themselves as VIVID and most importantly as valuable.

Youth Net staff and volunteers see the Life Tools group’s positive impact for kids in the after-school program. Participants often reference tools they learned in the groups during subsequent interactions with other kids, staff and their caregivers.

Youth Net works closely with the School District of Marshfield and teachers report positive Life Tools results. Kids who complete the program have shown marked improvement in grades and social skills at school.

Over 75 kids have completed Life Tools in the Marshfield area. That number will triple as Life Tools expands to additional rural school districts in Wisconsin - Phillips, Park Falls, Chequamegon, Bayfield, Cornell, Chippewa Falls, Prentice Nekoosa and more.

Over the past year, Drs. Offenwanger and Schulein worked with Youth Net staff, educators, Health System practitioners and Wisconsin state education agencies to develop a Life Tools curriculum. The curriculum will help school districts replicate



The Life Tools program is expanding to serve kids and families in more rural Wisconsin communities.

the after-school mental health program in their communities. Educators will also complete a training facilitated by Youth Net staff and University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point School of Education to implement Life Tools.

Expanding to rural areas is intentional. Many small communities do not have access to behavioral health services, particularly for youth. Life Tools will give school counselors, teachers and parents the tools they need to support kids in their care.

It is rare for a health system to lead such an initiative, says Dr. Offenwanger. During her time developing Life Tools, she researched similar social emotional learning programs and found most were led by after-school groups or outside organizations.

Marshfield Clinic Health System demonstrates its commitment to the rural communities that it serves by embracing and expanding the Life Tools group, says Dr. Offenwanger. “We aren’t just waiting for patients to come to us. We are going into communities to proactively address health care for the whole person.”

“This program has broken down barriers for families and communities and within our system of care,” said Dr. Schulein. “Expansion of Life Tools shows Marshfield Clinic Health System is more than hospitals and clinics. Donors have helped make this possible.” ♦

Just as Life Tools got its start through philanthropy, the expansion is made possible by a generous donation from the Bonnie Jean Fund for Children. Thank you to all who continue to support the Life Tools program, Youth Net and behavioral health services.

YOUR GIFTS AT WORK



Behavioral health

The need for mental health services continues to grow, particularly in rural communities. In central and northern Wisconsin, children and families are struggling every day with mental health challenges. Here are just a few ways that your donations support mental health programs in our communities:

- **THE ZERO SUICIDE INITIATIVE**, a nationwide commitment to safer suicide care. This program trains a caring workforce, identifies patients at risk, engages individuals in suicide care management plans, treats suicidal thoughts, transitions individuals through care and improves procedures at every level.
- **QUESTION, PERSUADE, REFER (QPR)** training held across central and northern Wisconsin. Over 1,000 individuals have been educated to prevent suicide through this program.
- **THE LIFE TOOLS SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING PROGRAM** through Youth Net, giving young children and adolescents the tools they need to manage their thoughts, feelings and emotions to navigate a healthy life. Over 75 individuals have participated in this program, which is expanding to additional rural locations this fall.
- **ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAMS** provided in rural areas.
- **A NEW MENTAL HEALTH APP** is under development to offer on-demand support for those in need.
- A first-of-its-kind **MENTAL HEALTH PATIENT NAVIGATOR POSITION** is 100% funded through philanthropy.

Support mental health programs at Marshfield Clinic Health System: marshfieldclinic.org/giving/donate

Prevent, diagnose and treat: Five cancer research studies at Marshfield Clinic Research Institute

Your donations support cancer research that directly impacts care at Marshfield Clinic Health System

There is much to learn about cancer, but thanks to your support of Marshfield Clinic Research Institute, scientists and health care providers are discovering more about diagnosing, treating and preventing cancer every day.

Marshfield Clinic Health System’s newly-integrated Cancer Care and Research Center combines innovative research with compassionate care to serve patients across the Health System.

The Center gives patients the chance to access new treatments, specialty care and support services. They can opt to participate in clinical trials which offer treatment options and allow scientists to conduct research in real time.

Cancer research in the new Center and in other centers across the Research Institute goes beyond clinical trials, however.

“Our research spans the entire cancer continuum,” said Robert Greenlee, Ph.D., M.P.H., senior research scientist in the Research Institute’s Center for Clinical Epidemiology and Population Health. “We try to answer questions about prevention and who is at risk for cancer, early detection and diagnosis, which treatments to use and how best to deliver care to support cancer patients and survivors.”

To investigate these broader questions, epidemiologists like Dr. Greenlee look back at large populations of patients over time. This allows them to gather information and find answers more efficiently.

Large-scale observational cancer research studies are often done in collaboration with other health systems, in order to gather data from large and diverse groups.

“The Research Institute has an important role to play with these national partner organizations,” said Dr. Greenlee. “Some might be more well-known but our organization is

particularly recognized for having close relationships with our communities and patients who are very interested in supporting research. We have a sizeable rural population that distinguishes us from many of our research partners who tend to be in bigger cities. It’s important for us to have a seat at the table to represent the many people who do live in rural areas.”

Funding for cancer research studies often comes from national grants, but individual donations are vital to help recruit patients and assemble data. The Research Institute is known nationwide for its involvement in cancer research because of community support.

“I recognize there is an infrastructure and history here of engaging with patients for cancer research that makes the work we do possible,” said Dr. Greenlee. “We don’t get involved in these studies because of me and what I do. We can do this research because Marshfield Clinic has this history of community support from donors and engaged patients who got us where we are today.”

Dr. Greenlee is leading the Research Institute’s participation in five collaborative national cancer research studies. They take aim at five diverse questions about cancer prevention, diagnosis and care delivery. With your support, results of these studies will help more people avoid cancer and more cancer patients become survivors. ♦



CONNECT Study for Cancer Prevention



STATUS: In year 2 (planning phase) of a 12-year-plus project. Study recruitment is expected to launch in early 2021.

PARTNERS:

- Kaiser Permanente (4 locations)
- Sanford Health
- University of Chicago
- Henry Ford Health System
- Health Partners
- Marshfield Clinic Research Institute
- National Cancer Institute

WHY: Cancer is the second leading cause of death nationwide with substantial negative impact on human health and well-being. Yet much is unknown regarding factors that influence a person's risk of developing or dying from cancer.

GOAL: Participating United States health systems will recruit 200,000 older adults and follow them for 10 years. Researchers will identify genomic, clinical, behavioral and environmental factors and the interplay between them that influence the risk and outcomes of cancer.

RESULTS: Help people prevent cancer while improving survival and quality of life for those affected.



LOTUS - Lung Cancer Screening Optimization in the United States



STATUS: In year 2 of a 5-year-plus project

PARTNERS:

- Kaiser Permanente (2 locations)
- Henry Ford Health System
- University of Pennsylvania
- Marshfield Clinic Research Institute
- National Cancer Institute

WHY: Annual screening with low-dose CT imaging has been shown to reduce lung cancer deaths in long-term heavy smokers. Marshfield Clinic Health System participated in the clinical trial to demonstrate this finding. However, national uptake for this new screening approach is low and unevenly distributed across the population.

GOAL: To describe the delivery of lung cancer screening and develop interventions to improve patient outcomes and reduce health disparities in lung cancer. This study will also explore how best to incorporate smoking cessation counseling along with CT imaging.

RESULTS: Provide policy makers, health system leaders, providers and patients with information needed to optimize lung cancer screening impact for patient health.

The Effectiveness, Safety and Costs of Guideline-Concordant Lung Nodule Care

STATUS: In year 2 of a 5-year-plus project

PARTNERS:

- Kaiser Permanente Washington
- University of Washington
- Marshfield Clinic Research Institute
- National Cancer Institute

WHY: Proper clinical management of incidentally-detected lung nodules is not well established. More evidence is needed to determine the right amount of medical intervention for lung nodules so patients with lung cancer are identified promptly and patients without lung cancer avoid unnecessary invasive procedures and adverse effects.

GOAL: This observational study will look back at the follow-up care of 20,000 patients with lung nodules to assess optimal strategies.

RESULTS: Improve clinical guidelines and provide clinicians and patients with more confidence in their decision making for managing lung nodules.

Molecular Markers of Risk of Subsequent Invasive Breast Cancer in Women with Ductal Carcinoma in Situ (DCIS)

STATUS: In year 3 of 5-year-plus project

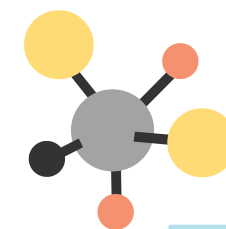
PARTNERS:

- Kaiser Permanente (2 locations)
- Einstein College of Medicine, New York
- Henry Ford Health System
- Mayo Clinic
- Marshfield Clinic Research Institute
- National Cancer Institute

WHY: Currently, it is difficult to predict which women with non-invasive DCIS breast cancer may go on to develop invasive breast cancer.

GOAL: This study will compare genetics of tumor tissue and patient characteristics between several hundred women with DCIS who went on to develop invasive breast cancer vs. similar women with DCIS who did not progress to invasive breast cancer.

RESULTS: Attempt to identify biomarkers or other risk factors that can be used to help clinicians and patients make difficult treatment decisions about DCIS. May help women with DCIS reduce the risk of invasive breast cancer and avoid unnecessary interventions in women of lower risk.



The RIC (Radiation Induced Cancers) Study

STATUS: In year 3 of a 4-year-plus project

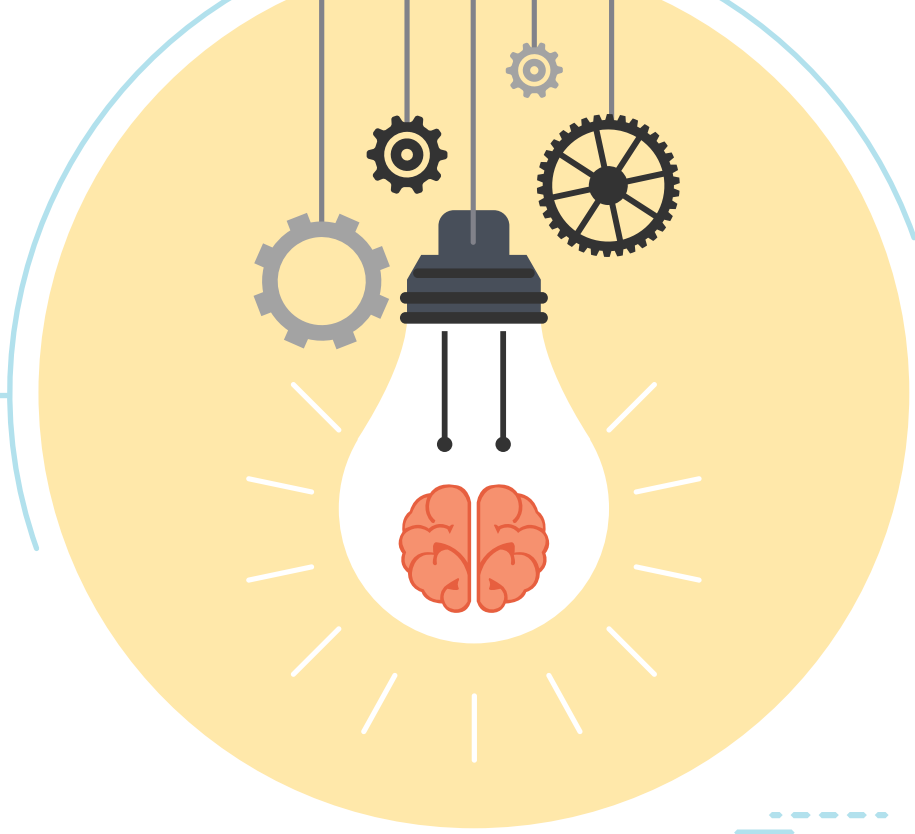
PARTNERS:

- Kaiser Permanente (3 locations)
- University of California-San Francisco
- Harvard Pilgrim
- Geisinger Health System
- University of Florida
- Ontario, Canada
- Marshfield Clinic Research Institute
- National Cancer Institute

WHY: Advanced medical imaging (e.g., CT imaging) can be essential to proper assessment and diagnosis in many clinical situations. However, use of this imaging has greatly expanded. Medical professionals have raised concerns about the extent of radiation exposure and reducing its potential influence on cancer risk.

GOAL: Measure the extent of advanced imaging procedures among a study cohort of more than 15 million children and adult patients. Assess the organ-specific dose of radiation received by pregnant women and children (including in utero) and their risk of cancer over time.

RESULTS: Determine the association between levels of imaging-associated radiation exposure and future cancer risk. This study will also explore optimization of imaging radiation exposure to reduce risk of cancer while maintaining the benefits of this important diagnostic tool for patient health.



Angel Funds are a lifeline for families in need

Your support provides financial assistance for families facing health challenges

No one plans for a health crisis. When it happens, family members lean on each other as they try to heal and move forward.

Families facing financial hardship may find the way forward is even more uncertain and many hesitate to ask for help.

Thanks to you, they don't have to.

Angel Funds at Marshfield Clinic Health System are a lifeline for patients in need. Donations from people like you help patients experiencing a health crisis and their families with transportation, lodging, utilities, food and gas cards and other non-medical needs.

Over \$200,000 is granted to families each year from Angel Funds, helping families in 28 Wisconsin counties and supporting families facing health challenges, from children in treatment for cancer to the elderly and disabled.

"These are families who work hard and are very proud. They never imagined they'd be in this type of situation," said Lorrie Busche, a Marshfield Medical Center social worker. "Some families are literally faced with choosing between paying for their children's cancer treatment or paying the mortgage. They should never have to make that choice which is why we have Angel Funds."

Most Angel Funds are granted based on financial need and intended to provide temporary, non-medical assistance. Others, like the Compassionate Care Angel Fund, address patients' immediate medical needs. The Compassionate Care Angel Fund helps hospitalized patients who lack resources to go home.

"It might surprise people to know there are a lot of unexpected costs associated with leaving the hospital," said Val Dehline, a Marshfield Medical Center case manager. "Transportation costs, especially for the elderly on disability and veterans, can be high. Specialized transportation services are often not covered by insurance and many of our patients struggle to pay out of pocket. Compassionate Care Angel Funds allow us to help lift that burden when other options aren't available."

The need for Angel Funds is compounded by many Marshfield Clinic Health System patients living in rural communities. Some patients have to drive several hours to

appointments and patients living in a Health System community often do not have access to public transportation.

"Think of it this way," said Busche. "Maybe it costs you \$5 to ride the taxi to the Clinic for your appointment. Then you have to take the taxi home. That's another \$5. Now imagine you are in treatment for a

condition and have appointments five days a week for five or six weeks. It adds up so fast. Even a \$20 donation can help patients significantly with these costs."

Angel Funds are granted throughout the year but are particularly needed during the holiday season.

"Financial burdens tend to compound over the holidays and stress increases," said Busche. "Assistance from Angel Funds can help families focus on spending time together over the holidays."

For those who work with families in need, no two days are the same. Social workers and case managers are constantly

Every year, over
\$200,000
 is granted out to families in need through Angel Funds and Compassionate Care Angel Funds.

YOUR GIFTS AT WORK



Cancer care and research

The newly-integrated Cancer Care and Research Center combines innovative research with compassionate care to serve patients across the Health System. Thanks to your support, the Center gives patients the chance to access new treatments, specialty care and support services. Your gifts provide:

- **INNOVATIVE TREATMENTS** for patients, including access to clinical trials across the Health System
- **CANCER RESEARCH STUDIES** to support prevention, detection and treatment
- **EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES AND SUPPORT SERVICES** for patients
- **STATE-OF-THE-ART EQUIPMENT**

- **HEALING SPACES** and specially-designed treatment areas

- **MOBILE MAMMOGRAPHY AND SCREENING SERVICES**

The Cancer Care and Research Center is growing to serve cancer patients in central and northern Wisconsin. Cancer care and research initiatives need \$1.5 million in donor support each year to increase access to care. Thank you for helping brave people fight cancer every day in your communities.

Support cancer care and research at Marshfield Clinic Health System:
marshfieldclinic.org/giving/cancer

looking for ways to help patients. Some stories they encounter are truly heartbreaking but the gratitude families share makes their jobs worth it.

“I wish you could be there when we meet with these families,” said Busche. “They are so incredibly grateful. They often cry when we tell them that Angel Funds are available to help them

through the most difficult times of their lives. They want to thank the people who donated to help them. By giving to Angel Funds you are truly helping people in need.”

As for Busche, she’s just grateful.

“I always tell patients ‘thank you,’” she said. “It is truly a privilege to be a part of their journey. These families are amazing.” ♦

YOUR GIFTS AT WORK



Real people, real stories of your support.

Here are some recent examples of how your gifts to Angel Funds help patients in need:

1. A grandmother was diagnosed with cancer. She was the sole caretaker for her grandchildren as their parents had passed away. She lived on a limited income. Her car broke down and she needed to get to her chemotherapy appointments. Angel Funds assisted with car repair to help her get to her treatments and continue to care for her grandchildren.
2. A child who was diagnosed with cerebral palsy wanted to ride a bike “like everyone else.” However, the cost of adaptive bikes was not affordable for the family. Because of Angel Funds, this child was able to get an adaptive bike and is now biking with his family and friends like other kids his age. Plus, biking is a great therapy exercise for the child.
3. Angel Funds assisted a patient with multiple sclerosis to purchase a wheelchair for independence and continued ability to work. Insurance had denied the wheelchair, but thanks to Angel Funds the patient could still get the chair and continue to work.
4. A high-risk pregnant patient learned that her baby had a terminal diagnosis. She had many medical appointments and after the baby was born, she needed time off to grieve the loss of

her baby. She had used all of her medical leave and had no vacation time to cover her time off. Angel Funds assisted with rent until she could get back on her feet.

5. Angel Funds assisted with a mortgage payment for a family whose child was battling cancer. The family lives over two hours away and the child needed radiation therapy five days a week for six weeks. The parents attempted to work as much as possible, but they had exhausted FMLA and all vacation. They were struggling financially while trying to focus on caring for their child. The Angel Fund was able to assist with a mortgage payment to help this family keep their home.
6. Angel Funds assisted with purchasing a wheelchair ramp for a child’s home. The child was in a motor vehicle accident and as a result is now paralyzed. Angel Funds helped the family adapt to their new normal as their child healed from the trauma.
7. Angel Funds helped a domestic abuse victim leave her abusive home. The Funds provided safe housing and transportation so she could start her new life away from her abuser.

Support Angel Funds and Compassionate Care Angel Funds at Marshfield Clinic Health System: marshfieldclinic.org/giving/angel-fund

MARSHFIELD CLINIC HEALTH SYSTEM FOUNDATION

MISSION

We enrich lives to create healthy communities through meaningful relationships built on gratitude and philanthropy.

VISION

We will innovate and define the future of health care for generations as the trusted leader in health care philanthropy.

CORE VALUES

Patient centered: We promote a culture of gratitude that serves our patients.

Trust: We earn trust through stewardship, integrity and accountability.

Teamwork: We connect donor, patient and system needs.

Excellence: Through philanthropy, we enrich lives.

Affordability: We effectively manage resources to raise philanthropic support.

Marshfield Clinic Health System Foundation
1000 N Oak Ave
Marshfield, WI 54449-5790

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Give the power of moments this holiday season and throughout the year

Your gifts support the unique experiences, acts of kindness and compassionate, innovative care teams that define patient care at Marshfield Clinic Health System. Because of you, families in need, sick and injured kids, brave people fighting cancer and so many others experience powerful moments that enrich their lives.

**Give compassionate, innovative care
for families in your community:**

marshfieldclinic.org/giving/moments



Marshfield Clinic
Health System
Foundation