

# CELEBRATING BenchMarks

WINTER 2025

A new beginning



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# Celebrating BenchMarks: A new beginning

## DEAR FRIENDS,

This fall, I dropped off both my son and daughter at college. My husband and I are down to just one child left in high school. In a few short years, she will be off to college as well. Life has been very different with one kid in our home, and we've all been adjusting. I would be lying if I said I haven't shed a few tears in the last few months. But many of them are happy tears because I am so proud of my children and who they're growing up to be.

Marshfield Clinic has been on a growth journey too. Much of our time and energy this year has been devoted to integrating with Sanford Health. When I last wrote to you, we were just starting the integration process and while we knew the path forward, we had a lot to learn. We still have a long way to go, but we are much closer to becoming a unified system of care nearly a year into our partnership.

Marshfield Clinic Foundation is now part of Sanford Health Foundation. Each region has its own separate foundation within Sanford Health Foundation, meaning that your gifts stay local to support the Marshfield Clinic area of your choice. This has allowed our foundation team to collaborate and unify in remarkable ways with our Sanford colleagues. We have already made amazing progress behind the scenes and we are excited for you, our dedicated supporters, to start seeing exciting changes.

You'll have access to new and easier ways to make your gifts. You'll receive personalized updates on how your gifts make an impact. You'll see videos and stories of how you make a difference in our communities. Our goal is that you'll feel more connected than ever to your cause and our mission.

While this growth means adding new and improved experiences for you as a donor, we've also looked at what needs to change. BenchMarks has been a publication of our health system for more than 25 years, and I'm immensely proud of what we've been able to share with you in this magazine. We know that we cannot share every story that matters to you in just a few publications each year. That's why this will be the last BenchMarks magazine that you'll receive in the mail. Moving forward, you'll see stories and updates in more frequent mailings, online stories and in personal messages from our team. The stories of impact you care about will be delivered to you in real time.

We know there have been many changes lately, and we understand this is a big one. That said, we would not be making this change if we did not know that it will mean a better experience for you. You are committed to our mission to care, comfort and cure, and we promise to bring you in on that mission in the most meaningful way possible. I can't wait for you to see what we have in store.

As you read this final issue of BenchMarks, know that this is the beginning of our renewed commitment to our supporters. You'll continue to hear about the advances our donors make possible for patient care and research in new and exciting ways. I'm proud of the community we've created through BenchMarks, and that community will only grow from here.

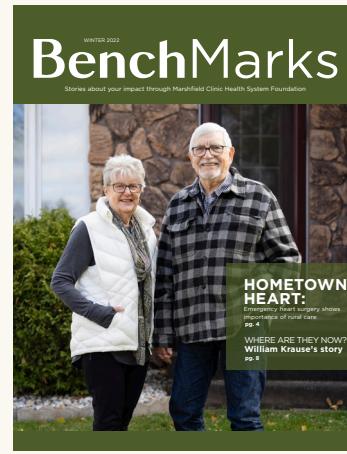
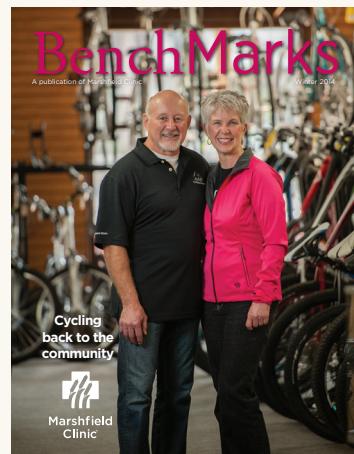
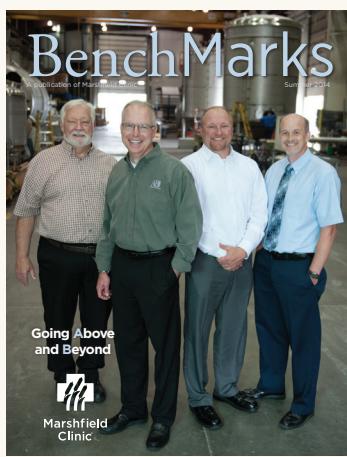
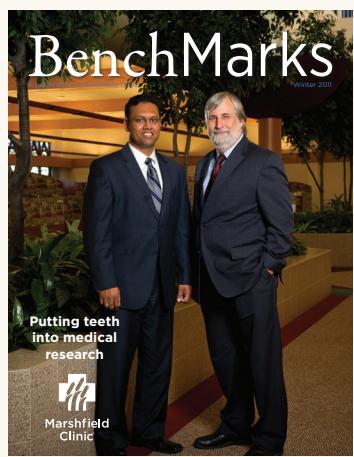
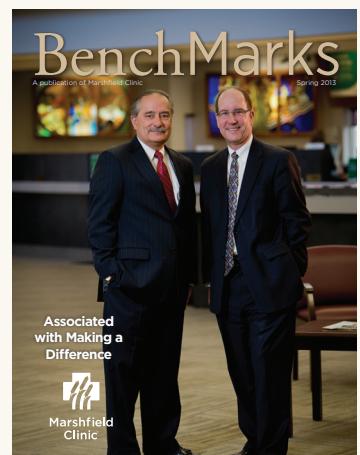
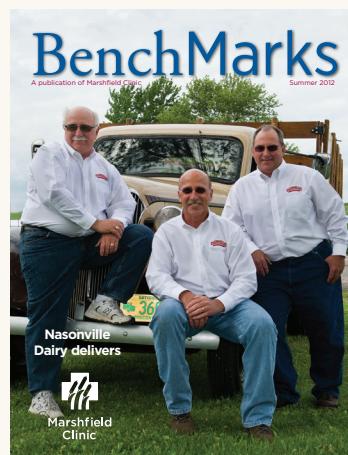
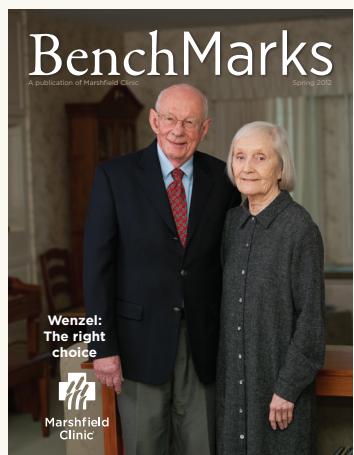
In celebration of all you've helped to contribute to BenchMarks and the amazing stories you've made possible, please enjoy a look back at a few memorable covers of the magazine. It's a legacy you've helped create, and we are immensely grateful.

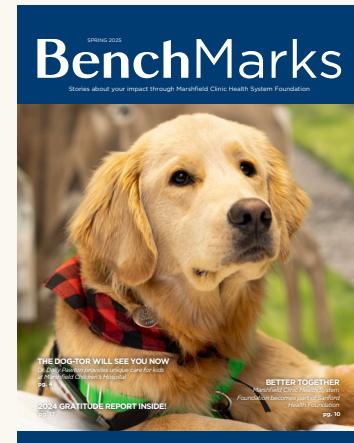
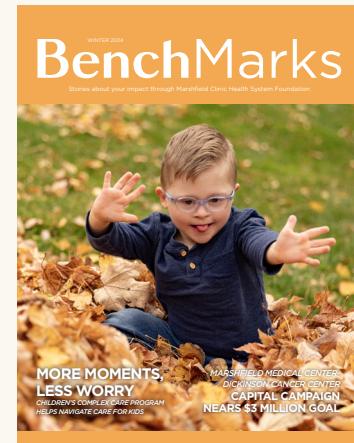
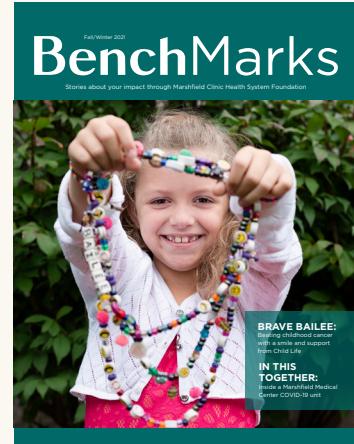
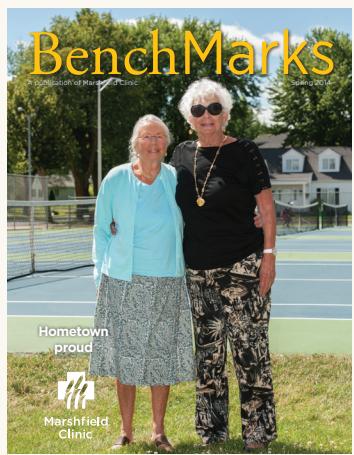
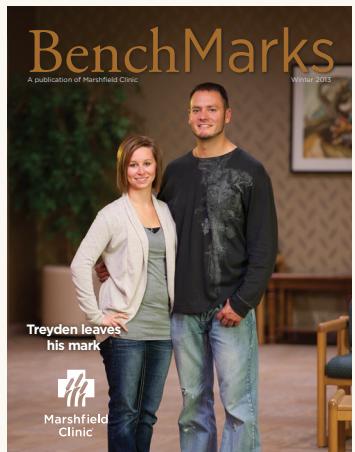
Thank you for reading. Thank you for being part of BenchMarks. Thank you for making our stories possible.



**Teri M. Wilczek, CFRE**  
**Chief Development Officer, Marshfield Clinic Foundation**









# Benson strong:

## Family experiences lifesaving care at Marshfield NICU

**A**t nearly 25 weeks pregnant with her first child, Brooklyn Frederick experienced one of the scariest moments an expectant mother can face—a fall down a flight of stairs. Brooklyn was uninjured, but just five days later, she woke up bleeding and rushed to Marshfield Medical Center-Eau Claire with her partner, Rob Juarez.

“We drove to the hospital, and I was admitted right away,” said Brooklyn. “The doctor walked in and looked at the ultrasound for barely two seconds before telling us that the placenta was almost completely detached, I was bleeding out and my baby’s heart rate was dropping.”

There was a flurry of activity as care teams rushed into Brooklyn’s room. The neonatal intensive care unit transport team and several other specialists happened to be on site in Eau Claire that day for a patient stabilization training class. Their presence was comforting to Brooklyn and Rob, who knew their premature baby would have the best care possible.

Less than an hour after arriving at the hospital, baby Benson was born via c-section at just 25 weeks old, weighing just over one pound. When Brooklyn woke up from surgery, she had just enough time to sign paperwork and see Benson briefly before he was transported to the NICU by the on-site transport team.

“It was such a whirlwind,” said Brooklyn. “The doctors told me my fall had nothing to do with the placenta detaching, but it was still so stressful and I was so worried. My care team was amazing and when you look back at that day, we were so lucky that the transport team was already there and everything went smoothly.”

Because Brooklyn had to remain hospitalized for her recovery, she was unable to join Benson in Marshfield for a few days. The couple watched live video of Benson in his NICU isolette using the Marshfield Children’s Hospital NICView cameras. The cameras, funded by donations to Children’s Miracle Network, allow family members to check in on their baby when they can’t be at their bedside using a secure 24/7 video link. NICU staff also provided ongoing updates to the couple on Benson’s condition until they could travel to Marshfield.

Seeing Benson in the NICU for the first time was a surreal experience.

“I looked at him and just started crying,” said Brooklyn. “I thought, ‘how is he even surviving right now?’ It was shocking for both of us.”

The couple coordinated work schedules and care for Rob’s son, Aston, between their visits to Marshfield. They were able to stay at the Ronald McDonald House in Marshfield in between driving back and forth from home. They were also in the middle of the home buying process, which added to the stress of their situation.

During that time, the NICU team kept Brooklyn and Rob updated on Benson’s progress. They sent photos and called regularly with updates on his condition.

“They cared for him like he was their own kid,” said Brooklyn. “Everyone was amazing.”

Benson had many hurdles to overcome. He had stage 4 brain bleeds along with a patent ductus arteriosus (PDA), a persistent opening between the two major blood vessels leading from the heart. He struggled with respiratory challenges and had to remain on an endotracheal (ET) tube until he reached 32 weeks. He was also at risk for blindness and underwent laser eye surgery. The Marshfield Children's Hospital NICU is a Level III facility connected to a dedicated children's hospital, which gives families like Benson's access to on-site specialists and advanced medical procedures. Many of Benson's tests and surgeries could be performed at his bedside, reducing his risk of complications.

"So many of his issues felt like mountains at the time," said Brooklyn. "Everything that they told us about, we wondered if it would be life-altering for him. But even though he was at risk for so many things, he really did end up with the best-case scenario for a lot of it. The physical therapist said from day one that he was super strong. He surprised everybody."

Still, there were days when the wait to take Benson home felt endless.

"I remember seeing other parents in the NICU getting their car seats ready, taking off all the monitors and taking their babies home and saying, 'Do you think we will ever be able to do that?' It was heartbreaking," said Brooklyn.

With the help of the NICU care team, Benson steadily improved. After 99 days, he celebrated his NICU graduation and his parents brought him home for the first time.

As part of the Marshfield Clinic integrated system, providers continue to coordinate Benson's care near his home in Eau Claire and at Marshfield Children's Hospital. The family has ongoing care from many specialists, including cardiology and neurology. Benson is still at risk for development issues and potential blindness later in life, but so far, he is doing well. Brooklyn, Rob and Benson's big brother are happy to have him home.

Though Benson's family says that traveling to the NICU in Marshfield was a challenge, they were happy to have access to specialized care in a rural community.



"We are very grateful and fortunate to have Marshfield Clinic," said Brooklyn. "I would not have wanted to travel to a big city, and I don't think we would have gotten the same experience in the Twin Cities or Rochester. I'd much rather get care in a smaller town like Marshfield. Having Benson in the NICU is our worst memory, but it's our most favorite memory at the same time because of the care we got as a family."

While Benson still has mountains to climb, he continues to prove his strength.

"Our motto is 'Benson strong,'" said Brooklyn. "We are Benson strong."

## YOUR GIFTS AT WORK



### NEONATAL INTENSIVE CARE UNIT AT MARSHFIELD CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Marshfield Children's Hospital cares for high-risk infants at central Wisconsin's only Level III neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) located within a designated children's hospital. The board-certified NICU team has cared for thousands of infants from 24-42 weeks gestational-age in the current 24-bed facility for more than 50 years. The Marshfield Children's Hospital NICU offers surgeries and specialty services on site, and the Marshfield Medical Center Birth Center provides access to board-certified Maternal Fetal Medicine Specialists who work in tandem with our NICU. The NICU transport team is on standby 24 hours a day, seven days a week to offer safe transportation for infants throughout central and northern Wisconsin.

#### Donations to Children's Miracle Network Hospitals at Marshfield Children's Hospital fund NICU programs and services including:

- Specialized equipment to support high-risk infants, including phototherapy equipment, neonatal brain monitoring systems, Giraffe Warmer beds and more
- Programs like child life and expressive therapies along with music therapy to ease the stress of being in the hospital for families
- Lactation specialists to support transitions home for families
- Financial assistance for families in need to decrease the financial burden of NICU hospitalization

*Donate to support our littlest patients:  
[marshfieldclinic.org/giving/donate](http://marshfieldclinic.org/giving/donate)*

# Langs find their calling creating a home at Cattails Place

**A**n exhausted woman walks through the doors of Cattails Place, where she will be staying for the next few weeks while her husband undergoes cancer treatment at Marshfield Medical Center. She sinks down onto one of the cozy chairs in the lobby and sends a message to her kids, who are with their grandparents back at home. She looks up and sees someone arranging decorations near the fireplace.

The decorator pauses, turns around with a big smile and introduces herself as Julie. The two strike up a conversation. The woman who is staying at Cattails Place finds herself sharing her family's story with Julie, grateful for the comforting surroundings and someone to talk to.

Julie Lang can often be found visiting Cattails Place, and she has had many chance meetings like this one. Each inspires her to continue her calling: making the space a home away from home for cancer patients and their families.

“I love visiting with the people here,” said Julie. “They are amazing. Giving people a safe and comfortable place to connect with others—it’s our passion.”

Julie is an interior designer with her own consulting business, MaryKnoll Designs. She and her husband, Lyle, also own Lang Furniture, a commercial furniture manufacturing company near Marshfield, WI. The couple share a passion for their work and for helping others, so when they were first approached in 2020 to help furnish and decorate housing for cancer patients and families, they jumped at the opportunity.

At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the existing facility for cancer patient lodging in Marshfield closed unexpectedly. Traveling for cancer treatment is overwhelming for families, and the cost of housing adds to this burden. Marshfield Clinic Foundation immediately rallied the community to help renovate a building into a no-cost lodging option for families traveling to Marshfield for cancer treatment.





Teri Wilczek, chief development officer at Marshfield Clinic Foundation, knew one of her first calls had to be to Lyle and Julie Lang.

“When facing the unexpected closure of Hope Lodge, the Foundation was tasked with opening Cattails Cottage—both quickly and fully supported by donations,” said Teri. “I reached out to my friends the Langs and requested some time to simply get their input about the situation we were facing. Immediately, Julie’s creativity was inspired and they jumped right in and haven’t looked back.”

“It was really a crisis situation in the community,” said Julie. “There are people who come from all over for cancer treatment in Marshfield, and very few families can afford to stay in hotels for weeks at a time. We knew we had to help.”

The project had personal significance for Lyle. When he was just 18, his younger brother was diagnosed with cancer and his family had to travel to Rochester, Minnesota for treatment at Mayo Clinic. They were able to stay at the Ronald McDonald House for free during his brother’s cancer journey. His brother ultimately passed away, but Lyle never forgot the support his family received.

“This project pulls at our heartstrings,” said Lyle. “I can remember my family getting the news of my brother’s cancer, and we didn’t have any money to speak of and we had to pack up and go to Rochester right away. My parents were welcomed with open arms at the Ronald McDonald House. I’ve always had in the back of my mind what a tremendous gift my family was given back then, so when this opportunity presented itself, we felt called upon to help.”

The initial cancer patient lodging renovation project was a huge undertaking. Hundreds of volunteers helped clean out the facility, while the Langs got to work imagining the future space.

“Our first impression was that it was a very outdated building,” said Julie. “But I could see a vision right away.”

After the facility was cleared, the work began. Teri shared Julie’s vision boards with donors who were inspired to help, inspiring more donations. Lang Furniture designed and created custom-made furniture to fit each of the bedrooms. Julie’s design talents created a cozy space with a cottage feel. In just eight short weeks, Cattails Cottage opened to house cancer patients and families.

“People were so generous to make it happen,” said Julie. “It just came together and it was meant to be.”

For the next three years, Cattails Cottage housed hundreds of families receiving cancer treatments at Marshfield Medical Center, but the need was greater than the space could hold. In 2023, Marshfield Clinic acquired the cancer patient lodging facility which had previously closed. While Cattails Cottage had 11 rooms, this facility included 12 suites and 10 bedrooms, private bathrooms and more capacity for families.

“I didn’t even have to ask the Langs to help,” said Teri. “I invited them to tour the space and they immediately committed to supporting the project.”

The couple once again helped bring the vision to life, with Cattails Place opening in February 2024. Julie put her talents to work to refresh the main floor, including the living room,

library and kitchens, with new decor and special touches to warm the space. The upper levels, which each include 11 private rooms and bathrooms, needed a transformation. While the Langs committed to donating all of the bedroom furniture for the facility, funding was needed for new flooring, paint, window treatments, decorations and more.

"We created a prototype room with all new furnishings and decor for donors to see what a completely renovated space could look like," said Julie. "That space inspired other donors to help because they could see first-hand how their gift would make a difference."

"All of the funding needed for the second and third floor renovations has been committed," said Teri. "The outpouring of support from donors like Tom Wenzel and others was overwhelming. We are excited as the renovations are nearing completion."

Cattails Place is 100% supported by philanthropy with an operating cost of more than \$200,000 per year. Generous donors like the Langs ensure this important resource is available for cancer patients and families in need. The old Cattails Cottage facility is planned to reopen as a housing option for families of trauma patients, also supported by donations.

Seeing this project take shape continues to be meaningful for the Langs. Last year, Lyle toured a group of his Lang Furniture sales team through Cattails Place. It was gratifying for his staff to see how their work can make a difference for families.

"They don't get to see the finished product very often, so this was a pretty cool experience for them," said Lyle. "They were really impressed by the space and commented how it felt like home."

Julie coordinates seasonal decorations in collaboration with volunteer Donna Fetting and helps with the design of each new sponsored room. She visits Cattails Place as often as she can, working to make it a healing environment. Her favorite part of these visits remains the people she meets. Hearing their stories brings her joy and purpose.

"One of the biggest surprises for me has been how you bond with the people," said Julie. "Some of them I've really grown close with. Their stories are really tough and hard to hear sometimes. But if you can just sit and talk to somebody, that's all people really need—a support system. You wouldn't get that in a hotel."

Thanks to the Langs, Cattails Place is truly a home.

## YOUR GIFTS AT WORK



### CATTAILS PLACE

Because Marshfield Clinic serves rural Wisconsin communities, cancer patients often travel to receive care at Marshfield Medical Center. For many of these families, the burden of traveling far from home for treatment can be overwhelming.

Cattails Place provides no-cost lodging for cancer patients and their families traveling to Marshfield Medical Center for treatment. The facility offers 12 suites and 10 bedrooms, all equipped with private bathrooms and communal spaces for patients and families to spend time together.

Cattails Place is 100% funded by donations, with an annual cost of more than \$200,000 per year. Your gifts to Cattails Place support:

- Patient support services to assist with logistics and amenities during each family's stay
- Snacks and meals for families to reduce the need for grocery shopping and ordering food
- Facility operations costs, upgrades and new equipment
- Updated furniture and artwork to create a healing environment
- Seasonal decorations to enhance the home setting

*Provide a home away from home for families fighting cancer: [marshfieldclinic.org/giving/donate](http://marshfieldclinic.org/giving/donate)*

# TICS study expands, tackling tickborne diseases with the help of citizen science

**S**pending time in nature is a favorite pastime for Midwestern residents. But in the woods and fields lurk small creatures that can cause very serious health problems: ticks.

Each year, people and pets throughout the Midwest are diagnosed with tickborne illnesses. The area is a hotbed for ticks and the diseases they may carry. In 2024, Marshfield Clinic Research Institute launched the Tick Inventory via Citizen Science (TICS) in an effort to identify the ticks that are found in the state. This information can be used to assess risk of encountering a tickborne disease and to learn more about who is being exposed and diagnosed with tickborne diseases.

The project is led by Jennifer Meece, PhD, chief research officer and executive director of Marshfield Clinic Research Institute, along with co-investigator Alexandra Linz, PhD, who started the study under the guidance of emeritus researcher Dr. Tom Fritsche. While the Research Institute has participated in tickborne illness research since the early 1990s with nearly 100 publications on the subject, the TICS study has grown far beyond expectations.

"We had the idea for the study, and we thought we'd probably get at least a couple hundred ticks sent in, but it got a little bigger than that," said Dr. Linz. "There is a lot of enthusiasm for ticks and researching tickborne diseases in our communities, and a lot of the current research is out of the New England area. We found a great area of concern for people in Wisconsin and Minnesota."

The project began by distributing collection kits around Wisconsin to allow citizens to send in ticks that they find to the research study. Since its inception, the institute has collected nearly 12,000 specimens. Recently the program has expanded to Bemidji, Minnesota through Marshfield Clinic's partnership with Sanford Health, allowing Minnesota residents to contribute ticks to the study.

Tick collection kits are available locally based on location. Those who wish to submit ticks to the study simply obtain a TICS kit, place ticks found on themselves or their pets inside the kit and mail it in for evaluation. Multiple ticks can be submitted, but identification of ticks is limited to 10 per kit. Each kit comes with a unique identification number that people can use to look up, via an online dashboard, the species of ticks they submitted. Those interested in learning more can contact [tics@marshfieldclinic.org](mailto:tics@marshfieldclinic.org) or 1-715-389-7796 (extension 16462).

Kits include optional survey questions including the types of precautions the person is taking to avoid ticks, if they have ever been diagnosed with a tickborne disease and if Marshfield Clinic Research Institute can follow up with the person for potential future studies.

Of the ticks collected in 2024, about 4,200, or more than 70%, were the American dog (wood) tick, and the majority of the remainder were deer (blacklegged) ticks. Much of that difference is likely due to the larger wood ticks being easier to spot than the smaller deer ticks.

Deer ticks carry pathogens that may cause diseases such as Lyme disease, anaplasmosis, ehrlichiosis and babesiosis. The large number of ticks already submitted has also allowed the research team to detect an influx of ticks from typically warmer climates. These include the lone star tick that spreads ehrlichiosis and could cause Alpha-gal Syndrome (also known as the meat allergy), and Brown dog ticks that spread Rocky Mountain spotted fever.

Over time, this data has the potential to impact public health by providing more information about tickborne diseases.

"My goal is to create detailed risk maps of where and when in the upper Midwest you're most likely to encounter a tick, as well as mapping common tickborne diseases. We might be able to do targeted recommendations for both clinicians and citizens to help avoid tickborne illnesses," said Dr. Linz.

Along with collecting and testing kits, TICS includes an educational component. Dr. Linz and other Research Institute team members attend events where they share information about tickborne diseases with the public through an interactive booth. They also monitor the TICS phone line, taking time to answer questions from citizens about the project and tick risks.

The impact of TICS goes beyond studying and providing education on tickborne pathogens. It's also brought citizens together in support of science.

"I spend a lot of time thinking about how to break down barriers to science and get people involved with research," said Dr. Meece. "Ticks are a common problem for people in this area. It's allowed us to do a lot more education and communication around science. It's an exciting citizen science program."

Study participants appreciate the program as well. Minocqua area resident Sandra Roggow has sent in multiple tick kits and plans to continue.

"It seems like everyone in the Northwoods is affected by ticks," said Sandra. "I'm glad Marshfield Clinic is doing this study to hopefully learn more about treating and

preventing tickborne diseases. I like knowing that the ticks my husband and I remove from ourselves and our pets are helping with local research. Plus it's satisfying to seal them up and send them away!"

The TICS study is largely funded by the Frank and Betty Koller Trust Infectious Disease Endowment. This endowment is funded in perpetuity thanks to a legacy gift from Frank and Betty Koller. The couple lived in the Northwoods and chose to support several local causes, including Marshfield Clinic, through planned giving.

The project has also been part of the Research Institute's Summer Research Internship Program (SRIP), a philanthropically-funded program which offers research opportunities to qualified students. One of the 2025 students focused their studies on the TICS project and it will likely be part of SRIP in the future.

"The more funding we have, the more we can grow the program," said Dr. Meece. "We have so much gratitude for participation in this program. We couldn't do it without our citizens, both sending in ticks and donating to research so the project can continue."

## YOUR GIFTS AT WORK

### MARSHFIELD CLINIC RESEARCH INSTITUTE

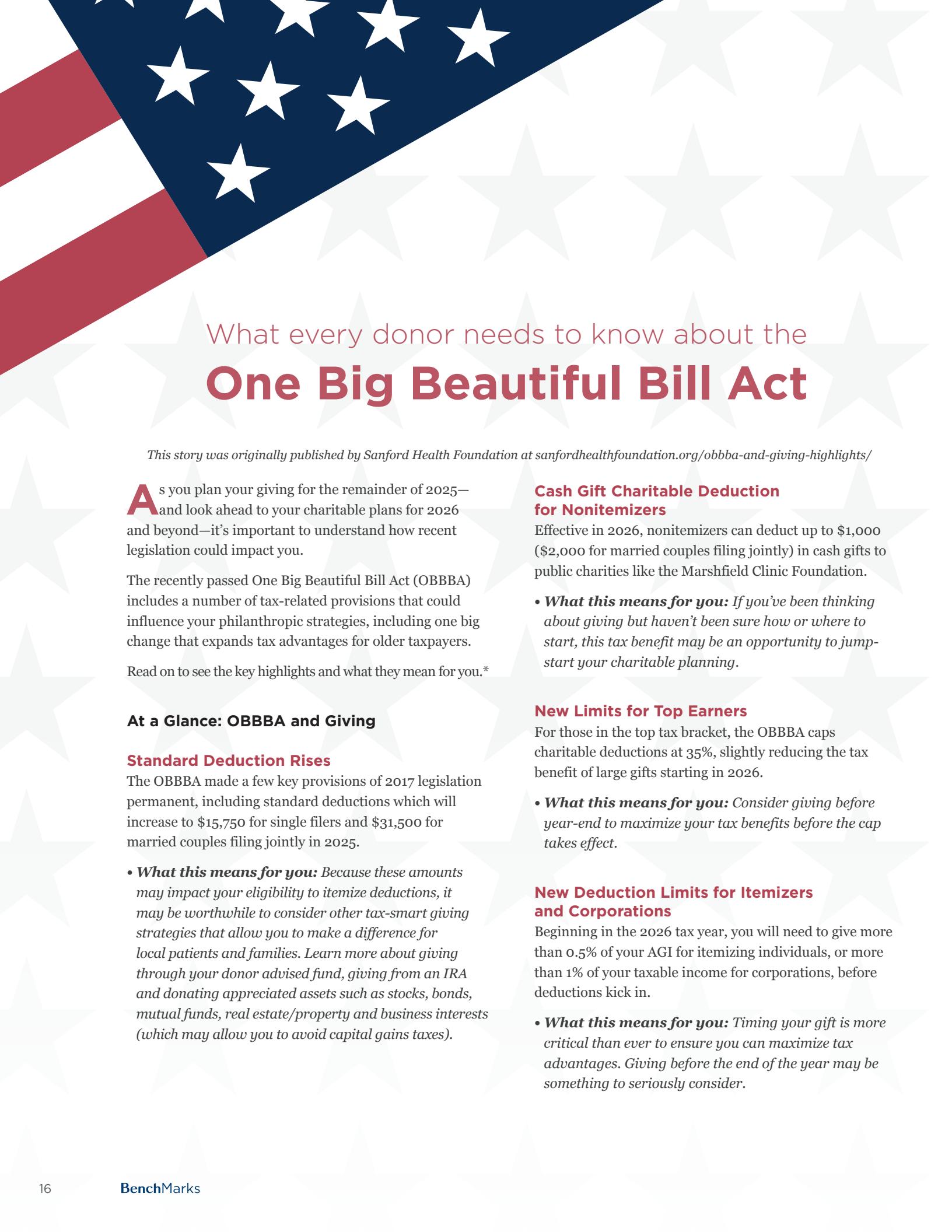
Scientists at Marshfield Clinic Research Institute conduct nationally recognized research that directly affects residents of Wisconsin and the upper Midwest. The Research Institute consists of research centers in clinical research, cancer research, epidemiology and population health, precision medicine and genetics and agricultural safety and health. Approximately 450 clinical trials and other research projects are active at any one time. Your gifts support impactful local research, including:

- Oncology clinical trials and research studies that help us better diagnose, treat and prevent cancer
- Rare disease studies to improve the lives of those living with understudied conditions



- Agricultural health and safety research, helping to keep farmers, farm families and emergency personnel happy, healthy and safe
- Research into diseases that directly impact the upper Midwest, such as tickborne illnesses
- Vaccine health and safety research to study the efficacy of available vaccines and make vaccine recommendations
- Clinician participation in research projects

***Support research at Marshfield Clinic Research Institute: [marshfieldclinic.org/giving/donate](http://marshfieldclinic.org/giving/donate)***



# What every donor needs to know about the **One Big Beautiful Bill Act**

*This story was originally published by Sanford Health Foundation at [sanfordhealthfoundation.org/obba-and-giving-highlights/](http://sanfordhealthfoundation.org/obba-and-giving-highlights/)*

**A**s you plan your giving for the remainder of 2025—and look ahead to your charitable plans for 2026 and beyond—it's important to understand how recent legislation could impact you.

The recently passed One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBA) includes a number of tax-related provisions that could influence your philanthropic strategies, including one big change that expands tax advantages for older taxpayers.

Read on to see the key highlights and what they mean for you.\*

## At a Glance: OBBBA and Giving

### Standard Deduction Rises

The OBBBA made a few key provisions of 2017 legislation permanent, including standard deductions which will increase to \$15,750 for single filers and \$31,500 for married couples filing jointly in 2025.

- What this means for you:** *Because these amounts may impact your eligibility to itemize deductions, it may be worthwhile to consider other tax-smart giving strategies that allow you to make a difference for local patients and families. Learn more about giving through your donor advised fund, giving from an IRA and donating appreciated assets such as stocks, bonds, mutual funds, real estate/property and business interests (which may allow you to avoid capital gains taxes).*

### Cash Gift Charitable Deduction for Nonitemizers

Effective in 2026, nonitemizers can deduct up to \$1,000 (\$2,000 for married couples filing jointly) in cash gifts to public charities like the Marshfield Clinic Foundation.

- What this means for you:** *If you've been thinking about giving but haven't been sure how or where to start, this tax benefit may be an opportunity to jump-start your charitable planning.*

### New Limits for Top Earners

For those in the top tax bracket, the OBBBA caps charitable deductions at 35%, slightly reducing the tax benefit of large gifts starting in 2026.

- What this means for you:** *Consider giving before year-end to maximize your tax benefits before the cap takes effect.*

### New Deduction Limits for Itemizers and Corporations

Beginning in the 2026 tax year, you will need to give more than 0.5% of your AGI for itemizing individuals, or more than 1% of your taxable income for corporations, before deductions kick in.

- What this means for you:** *Timing your gift is more critical than ever to ensure you can maximize tax advantages. Giving before the end of the year may be something to seriously consider.*

## Extension for Cash Gift Deductions

Effective in 2026, the ability to deduct 60% of your adjusted gross income (AGI) for cash gifts is now permanent.

- **What this means for you:** Since this ability has been in existence, this isn't a huge change; however, it may be an opportunity to think beyond a cash gift. Oftentimes, donating a mix of cash and non-cash gifts may provide greater tax advantages while also making a significant impact on health care in your community.

## Bonus Deduction for Seniors

From 2025-2028, donors age 65 and older can claim a \$6,000 deduction (\$12,000 if filing jointly) regardless of itemizing, if you meet income requirements. The new deduction is in addition to the standard deduction for 2025 and the existing additional standard deduction for those 65 and older.

- **What this means for you:** Depending on your income level and whether you itemize, this change could be a tax-smart giving opportunity. Connect with your professional advisor to learn more and, if you're age 70½ or older, don't forget about the tax advantages of making a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) through your IRA.

## Estate Tax Exemption Changes

Starting in 2026, estate tax exemption locks in at \$15M per person. Originally, this exemption was slated to drop down to \$6-7M in 2026, so this is a shift worth noting. Also important to note: each state is subject to its own estate tax.

- **What this means for you:** This could be an opportunity for you to consider how a gift through your estate could not only launch your legacy, but also provide important tax benefits — all while making a difference for patients and families right here in our community.

\* This information is provided for educational purposes only and is not intended as legal or tax advice. Consult your tax advisor to determine how tax laws impact your situation.

## YOUR GIFTS AT WORK

### TAX-ADVANTAGED GIVING

The teams at Marshfield Clinic Foundation and Sanford Health Foundation are here to help you maximize your philanthropic impact while also maximizing tax advantages. We can even work with your professional advisor to share more information, provide illustrations and explore more giving options.

*Learn more about planned giving options: [marshfieldclinic.org/giving/legacy](http://marshfieldclinic.org/giving/legacy)*



## Year-end giving guide

Whether you want to help brave people fight cancer, support local sick and injured kids, assist families in need or invest in innovative research, there are many ways to make a tax-deductible gift to advance local health care this holiday season. 100% of your donations to Marshfield Clinic Foundation will stay local to enrich lives for the families we serve. As you consider your year-end donations, here are some deadlines to be aware of:



### Gifts by mail

Gifts can be mailed to MCHS Foundation, 1000 N Oak Ave, Marshfield, WI 54449.

- Gifts of cash or check must be postmarked by Wednesday, December 31. Please check with your local post office to determine holiday hours.
- Credit card gifts must be received and processed by Wednesday, December 31. Please allow adequate mailing time.
- Gifts made using IRA checks must be received and processed by Wednesday, December 31. Please allow adequate mailing time.



### Gifts made in person

Cash or checks may be dropped off at our office by 12:00 pm on Wednesday, December 31 to meet year-end deadlines. Our office will be closed on the afternoon of December 24 and all day December 25.

- Marshfield: Lawton Center, 1st Floor  
Regular business hours:  
8:00 am-4:00 pm Monday - Friday



### Stock gifts & ACH transfers

- Stock gifts must be initiated by Wednesday, December 24, and must be received in our bank account by Wednesday, December 31, to receive a tax deduction for 2025.

- Mutual fund gifts must be initiated by Friday, December 19.

*\* Please note: Because of their complexity, these types of gifts should be initiated early. Please let [giving@marshfieldclinic.org](mailto:giving@marshfieldclinic.org) or your gift officer know of your plans to donate stock or mutual funds. If stock or mutual fund gift are not initiated properly, delays may be experienced.*



### Gifts online or by phone

- Online credit card gifts may be made until 11:59 pm Central Standard Time on Wednesday, December 31, by visiting [marshfieldclinic.org/giving/donate](http://marshfieldclinic.org/giving/donate)
- Credit card gifts via telephone may be made by calling 1-800-858-5220 or 715-387-9249 prior to 4:00 pm on Wednesday, December 31.

# SANFORD HEALTH

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## OUR MISSION

To care, comfort and cure.

## OUR VISION

To be the premier rural health system in the United States.

## OUR VALUES

*Service*

Doing our best every day to uphold and care for others.

*Courage*

Having the strength to persevere, problem solve and take action.

*Humility*

Respecting others and knowing there is more to learn.

*Stewardship*

Safeguarding the resources that have been entrusted to us.

*Family*

Honoring the commitment we have to each other through it all.

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## Better together

Marshfield Clinic Foundation is now part of Sanford Health Foundation, and 100% of your gifts will continue to stay local to support our communities.

Our commitment to you is that you'll feel more connected than ever to our mission to care, comfort and cure. This will be the final issue of our BenchMarks magazine. Going forward, you'll have access to new and easier ways to add your support. You'll receive personalized updates on how your gifts make an impact. You'll see more stories of how you make a difference. You'll hear about the advances you make possible for patient care and research in exciting ways.

Thank you for being part of BenchMarks. Thank you for making our stories possible.

**Support the future of local health care:**  
[marshfieldclinic.org/giving/donate](http://marshfieldclinic.org/giving/donate)



Marshfield Clinic  
Health System  
Foundation