



IMPACT

YOUR GIFT MAKES A DIFFERENCE | FALL 2024



**Fighting
the Good
Fight**

How your
generosity helps
local families
triumph

Christine's Inspiring Determination



"I've learned
that every day
is a gift."

Christine Carper

Despite these setbacks, she remained focused on recovery.

Almost nine years ago, Christine Carper battled cancer and emerged victorious. Then, one night in late April 2023, she awoke in excruciating pain. Within a few days, she would learn that once again, she was facing a fight for her life. And she was determined to win.

The treatment journey

Christine's treatment journey was rigorous.

Starting in June, she began six months of chemotherapy. The first session, held at the Three Rivers Specialty Clinic, was particularly daunting, lasting around seven hours.

"The nurses were incredible," Christine recalled. "They talked me through every step, making a frightening experience more manageable."

In January 2024, following months of chemotherapy, Christine underwent an extensive surgery to remove the cancerous tissue. After surgery, she faced challenges with healing, requiring additional surgery in February and weekly visits to the wound clinic throughout March.

Starting a new chapter

April marked the beginning of Christine's immunotherapy, a precaution to prevent the cancer from returning. She was determined to leave no stone unturned in her fight against the disease.

Her experience has highlighted the importance of compassionate care. "The doctors and nurses at Beacon were wonderful. They treated me with kindness and respect, answering all my questions and making me feel understood."

Now 66 years old, Christine is looking forward to the future and focusing on what truly matters: her health and her loved ones. Her journey is a testament to her strength, resilience, and the exceptional care provided by Beacon Health System.

"Through it all, I've learned that every day is a gift," Christine reflects. "You have to hold on to hope, lean on those who love you, and trust in the incredible care and support of people like those at Beacon Health System. They saved my life, and for that, I am forever grateful."

These stories of exceptional, compassionate care are made possible through generous gifts from people like you. Your donations are part of the fabric of caring in our community, and a pillar of support for people like Christine, who exemplifies the unwavering human spirit.



Thanks to your support, this year Beacon provided 49 staff scholarships totaling \$232,924, helping employees further their formal education.

Back in the Game After Beating Cancer

Michaela describes her son Brantley as a sweet, caring child who looks out for others. If he sees a classmate being picked on, he steps in to befriend them. Plus, he has a passion for playing sports, especially baseball.

However, in 2022, Brantley kept getting sick. His cycle of illness involved frequent doctor visits, antibiotics, brief recoveries and then falling ill again.

Solving a mystery

Concerned that something more serious was at play, Brantley's parents requested additional lab work. The results led his doctor to refer him to Beacon Children's Hospital for further evaluations, where the family discovered Brantley had cancer.

Brantley was diagnosed with B-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia. He spent 31 days at Beacon Children's Hospital during the initial phase of his treatment. The treatment was successful, and on April 16, 2022, the family received the news that he was in remission.

Brantley was now able to shift to the maintenance phase of his treatment.

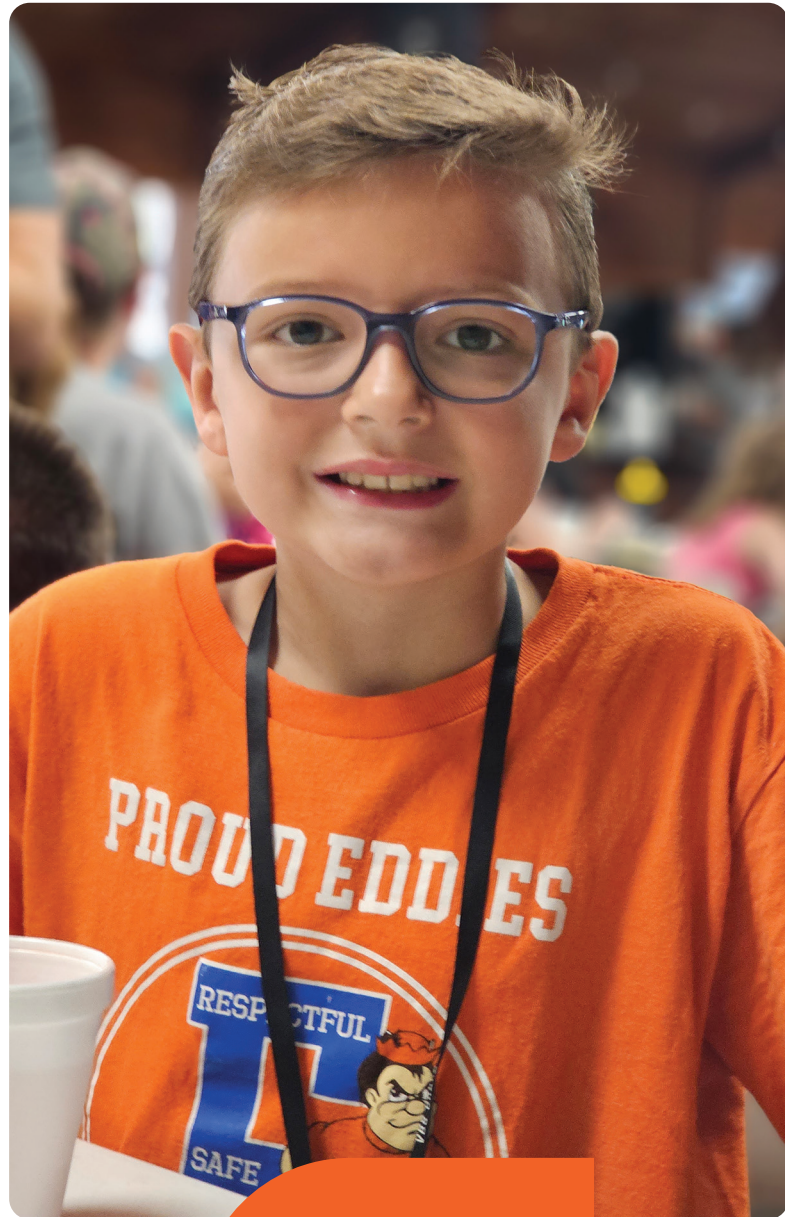
A caring team

"The team at Beacon Children's Hospital has been phenomenal," said his mother, Michaela. "All the physicians and nurses are like family to us now."

Michaela credits the care team with helping Brantley manage his month-long hospital stay. One of the first procedures was placing a port for his chemotherapy. Child life specialists at Beacon Children's Hospital used a doll to show him what the port would look like, explaining everything in a way he could understand.

"They work one-on-one with the child, so it becomes a less traumatic experience," explained Michaela.

Although it was a frightening time for Brantley, the family is forever grateful for the staff and their support during his fight.



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Brantley's mom

Hope's Adventurous Spirit Thrives



"It's just an incredible gift that under one roof Beacon has all of the specialists that are really trained well and work well with children."

Hope's mom

You'd never suspect Hope has experienced such difficulties, given her upbeat attitude toward life.

"She's the most amazing, strong, brilliant, resilient person I've ever met. She recovers from a huge surgery better than most people do from a cold," Melissa proudly shared. "She's always on the go. She loves exploring and just experiencing new things. Not much can keep her down."

Fourteen-year-old Hope embodies a love of adventure and a real zest for life.

At birth, she was diagnosed with an ultra-rare and severe genetic disorder. The doctors in Montana, where the family lived at the time, only expected her to live a few days. But Hope was a fighter.

Less than 50 people in the world have been diagnosed with Shprintzen-Goldberg syndrome, which affects the connective tissues, causing the body to be in a constant state of repair.

"Most of her life is just therapies and doctor's appointments," explained Hope's mother, Melissa.

A move brings better care

When Hope was three, the family moved to Indiana, giving them access to the health expertise she needed. She started physical, speech and occupational therapies at Beacon Children's Hospital

that have continued to this day. "The therapy department at Beacon Children's is just amazing and the therapists are phenomenal," said Melissa.

Hope's joints easily dislocate, so her therapy requires great care. "I know she's safe with them. I know they love her."

Hope's parents are also deeply grateful to pediatric neurosurgeon Daniel Fulkerson, MD, Beacon Medical Group North Central Neurosurgery South Bend. He performed lifesaving surgery to address severe spinal cord thinning and damage at Hope's brain stem, and he continues to monitor her spine.

An incredible gift

"It's just an incredible gift that under one roof Beacon has all of the specialists that are really trained well and work well with children. It's just a huge blessing," Melissa said.

Please Give Now

100% of your contribution to Beacon Health Foundation will be directed to the program or facility you specify. Contributions are not used to cover the administrative costs of the Foundation.



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What are Child Life Specialists?

Child Life Specialists are healthcare professionals dedicated to helping children understand and cope with their illness or injury. They provide comfort, support and information that kids can understand, so that hospital care isn't so scary.

While we know Child Life Specialists are essential to the well-being of young patients, their services are not covered by insurance. **Instead, the thousands of hours of care provided by these specialists are fully funded through community support, like your generous donations.**



We are the
only children's hospital in the region

Every year we care for
6,800 children from 20+ counties

Our physicians and other providers represent
20+ pediatric specialties

Nearly a third of our patients
come from neighborhoods affected by poverty, crowded housing, food scarcity or poor access to transportation

43% of kids in our care arrive
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know...



Under the tax law, if you are 70½ years or older, you can give any amount (up to a maximum of \$105,000) this year from your IRA directly to a qualified charity such as Beacon Health Foundation without paying income taxes. Since the gift doesn't count as income, it can reduce your annual income level. This may help lower your Medicare premiums and decrease the amount of Social Security income subject to tax. In addition, donations from your IRA do not require you to itemize your deductions.

Steps for making an IRA rollover gift to Beacon Health Foundation:

- Contact your IRA plan administrator for their specific transmittal form, or contact Beacon Health Foundation for assistance.
- For credit in 2024, please make your qualified charitable distributions on or before December 31, 2024.