

Dr. Wayne M. Detmer

Class of 1985

MCHS Hall of Fame Induction 2024

Dr. Wayne Detmer was born and raised in Madison where he graduated from MCHS in 1985. At Madison, he was a three-sport athlete and top academic student participating in football, basketball, and track and field. He still holds MCHS school records in the 110-meter high hurdles and 1600-meter relay, was all Hoosier Hills Conference in basketball, an indoor state qualifier in the 1600-meter relay, and a two-time state qualifier in the outdoor 110-meter hurdles.

Following high school, Dr. Detmer graduated from Yale University where he was also a student-athlete participating in football and track and field. He continued his education at the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine along with his wife, Gina, and trained in family medicine at the University of Cincinnati. Dr. Detmer is a board-certified family medicine physician living in the Lawndale neighborhood in Chicago, IL, where he and Gina have raised four amazing children.



Since 2001, Detmer has been the Chief Clinical Officer of Operations at Lawndale Christian Health. The health center's Family Medicine Residency is one of only three Illinois Teaching Health Centers and the only independently sponsored health center in the state. Detmer helped start this relatively new physician training model, where family medicine residents learn in community-based outpatient settings in underserved communities.

Outside the exam room, Dr. Detmer worked to create a partnership between the Chicago Botanic Garden and Lawndale Christian Health Center, which together built the Farm on Ogden. The Farm provides the community with locally-grown produce at affordable prices, as well as job training programs for people involved with the criminal justice system and a summer training program for local high school students. VeggieRx, a program initiated by Detmer and Angie Mason, enables medical providers to write prescriptions for boxes of locally-grown produce and includes access to nutrition counseling and cooking demonstrations. The program serves over 2,800 patients annually with over 80,000 pounds of produce. VeggieRx has received local and national attention as a model for providing locally grown, healthy, and affordable produce to urban communities.

In early 2020, during the COVID-19 outbreak, Dr. Detmer and his team worked with the Chicago Department of Public Health to temporarily house 259 high-risk people experiencing homelessness in a boutique hotel just off of Michigan Avenue. In December 2021, the health center published a study in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* which demonstrated that project participants were far less likely than people living in shelters to contract COVID-19, individual health markers significantly improved and more than half of the residents were able to achieve permanent supportive housing.

Dr. Wayne Detmer is an excellent role model and example of the power of healthy choices. While he still holds numerous top 10 finishes at both MCHS and Yale University in track and field, his early experiences in Madison, paved the way for a lifelong passion for health and wellness, which have impacted the lives of many people through his career. His ingenuity, passion, and grace will continue to make a mark in his community and beyond.