**2025 Family Physician of the Year**

Dr. Mary Marshall

Each year, the Michigan Academy of Family Physicians honors a physician whose professional excellence, unwavering service, and dedication to the community represent the highest ideals of family medicine. Dr. Mary Marshall’s story is one of fierce determination, deep empathy, and an unwavering commitment to patient-centered care. Her path to family medicine was unconventional—but it laid a foundation of compassion and service that has remained the cornerstone of her work ever since.

Before she ever wore a white coat, Dr. Marshall began her career in health care as a nurse, nurturing her patients with quiet strength and grace. But her calling pushed her further. She graduated from Michigan State University’s College of Human Medicine in 1997, and soon completed her residency at Genesys Regional Medical Center in 2000. Rather than join an established group or seek security in numbers, Dr. Marshall returned home to Grand Blanc and did something remarkable: she opened her own solo family medicine practice.

It’s hard to overstate what that means. Running a solo practice today—especially as a woman, and especially in family medicine—requires a rare combination of vision, grit, and heart. For more than two decades, Dr. Marshall has been a steady, trusted presence in her community, providing comprehensive and continuous care to patients of all ages and walks of life. Through shifting regulations, insurance upheavals, and public health crises, she has remained focused on what matters most: her patients.

But the impact of her work doesn’t stop at her exam room door.

As a Clinical Professor at Michigan State University’s College of Human Medicine, Dr. Marshall has helped shape the next generation of family physicians, teaching not only the science of medicine, but the art of it. She emphasizes listening, respect, and presence—skills that can’t always be taught from a textbook, but that live in example. She has been an inspiration to students and residents alike, many of whom now carry her lessons into their own practices across Michigan. In fact, Marshall led joint efforts with two medical students to collect medical supplies for Ukraine at the beginning of the war.

In addition to her clinical and academic work, Dr. Marshall has played an active role in advancing our profession statewide and nationally. She served as President of the Michigan Academy of Family Physicians from 2018 to 2019, and led the Family Medicine Foundation of Michigan for two terms as president. She currently serves as a Delegate to the American Academy of Family Physicians Congress of Delegates, where her voice and perspective help shape national policies and priorities.

And her contributions have not gone unnoticed. In 2019, she was awarded the AAFP Degree of Fellow—a distinction given to members who have distinguished themselves through service to family medicine, education, and the advancement of health care.

While her professional accomplishments are numerous, it’s her humanity that truly sets her apart.

Colleagues describe her as grounded and warm. Patients speak of her as a constant. And her students know her as someone who cares—deeply—about their success and well-being. Whether she’s advocating for public health policies, offering mentorship to a young physician, or simply taking an extra moment with a patient in need, Dr. Marshall leads with heart.

Outside of her many roles, she finds joy in time with her family, exploring the arts, and traveling—a reminder that balance and renewal are essential ingredients in a lifelong career of care. In a time when family medicine is more important—and more strained—than ever, Dr. Mary Marshall stands as a beacon of what it can and should be.