



OAK PARK RIVER FOREST

# Infant Welfare Society

*Sponsors of IWS Children's Clinic*

## HELPING THOMAS

After waiting for an appointment at a community mental health center for 6 months, Thomas' foster mother found the help her son needed at the IWS Children's Clinic. She had been referred to another agency for follow up treatment after her 12-year old son's hospitalization for self-harming but gave up after 6 long months on their waiting list. Because Thomas has a physical health issue -- a benign tumor -- she was looking for a clinic that could provide all of the health services he needed in a single location and was relieved to find the IWS Clinic in her own backyard.

At his school physical this summer, our Director of Social Services, who attends all well-child medical visits, gave Thomas a referral to our Family Service therapist and our psychiatrist. Then she helped him identify triggers for his emotional issues, strategies for addressing his sleep problems, and coping mechanisms for his struggles in school. She was also able to help his foster mother find a mentoring program for Thomas.

Now Thomas has a medical home where he sees a therapist for behavior modification therapy, a psychiatrist for medication monitoring, and a medical practitioner for regular monitoring of his health condition.

## Clinic adds New Social Service Staff & Expands Hours

As early as 1920, the IWS Children's Clinic has been in the vanguard of health services integration, by having social services embedded in the medical visit. Then, four years ago we took our commitment to holistic health care to a new level by establishing a formal partnership with Family Service and Mental Health Center of Cicero. This unique collaboration embeds a therapist and a psychiatrist in the Clinic, eliminating the stigma associated with seeking help at a mental health center. This integrated model of care is a major distinguishing feature of the health care provided in the Clinic.

In FY 2014

- Developmental and social/emotional screens were given at 1,713 well-child visits
- 14 individuals and 35 families received long-term therapy in 275 visits
- 21 patients received psychiatric care in 56 visits

We welcome new members to our mental health team. Denise Vidal Gonzalez, Director of Social Services has taken the helm from Sandy St. Pierre who retired after 23 years at the Clinic. She joins social worker, Judy Crivolio, Cicero Family Service therapist Stephanie Gurewitz and Psychiatrist Dr. Daniel Martinez.



*Denise Vidal Gonzalez, our new Director of Social Services*



*Therapist Stephanie Gurewitz talks with a young client*

In addition, thanks to a capacity grant from the Community Mental Health Board of Oak Park Township, the Clinic is now open for therapeutic services on a third weekday evening. The funds cover the cost of having a second staff person on site during the new hours as the Clinic is normally closed on Thursday nights. The new hours will be more convenient for working parents.

## Letter from the President and Executive Director

As the Oak Park River Forest Infant Welfare Society's fiscal year ended on June 30, we reflect on much progress for both the Society and its Children's Clinic. The Society maintained its excellent tradition of fundraising to support health services for children in need, while also building its future through accomplishing many of its major strategic goals. The Society's 120 members raised over 10% of the annual budget for the Children's Clinic, which served close to 3,229 children with over 10,000 medical, dental and social services visits.

Of recent, some have asked whether the IWS Children's Clinic continues to need financial assistance from the public with the advent of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) (ObamaCare). The answer is a resounding yes! Illinois expanded Medicaid funding of health services for children in 2006, unlike many states that are just now expanding eligibility for pediatric services under the ACA. But, as is always the case, reimbursements from the State of Illinois do not meet the cost of quality care. Our health services are sustained by the combination of Medicaid reimbursement, grants, fundraising and donations.



*IWS Leaders greet golfers at Tee It Up Fore Kids in June (pictured left to right; IWS Auxiliary Chair Debbie Blanco, IWS Board President Lynne Williams, Brett Samuels, Co-chair Tee it Up Fore Kids Golf Classic, Elizabeth Lippitt, Executive Director)*

We hope as you read through this issue of our newsletter, you will be touched by the stories of parents who have received much needed healthcare for their children, and come to appreciate the vital impact your support has on the lives of many children. With your help, we are improving the health of children, one child at a time.

Lynne Williams  
President,  
OPRFIWS

Elizabeth Lippitt  
Executive Director,  
IWS Children's Clinic



### *Has the Affordable Care Act (ACA) changed the need for Clinic services?*

The Affordable Care Act expands health care coverage for children and adults throughout the country. With 1.1 million to 1.2 million uninsured in Illinois, it was projected that half would be eligible to buy insurance on the health care exchange and the others would qualify for Medicaid because their income levels were below the poverty line.

In 2006, Governor Rod Blagoavich expanded Medicaid eligibility for children. At that time, the number of Clinic pediatric patients on Medicaid was 38%; today it is 90%. Illinois became one of the top four states in the country for insuring its low income children. Consequently, under the ACA, the biggest expansion for health care coverage in Illinois will be for adults, not for children.

### *How will the changes in the State Medicaid system affect the Clinic?*

Illinois has obtained a special waiver from the federal government to change the way it pays its Medicaid providers. The state hopes to improve quality and lower costs by funneling the Medicaid reimbursement through insurance companies which will then act as the insurer for the patient. In September, our patients will receive a letter from the state instructing them to sign up with one of 20 insurance companies. If they do not they will be auto-assigned a provider.

The Clinic has signed up with three insurance providers. We have chosen insurance groups that we feel will offer the best coverage benefits to our patients. However, Clinic staff will need to learn a multitude of medical and dental insurance provider's benefits, quality measures and payment mechanisms. In addition, the state plans to move to a capitated system where the provider will be given a set amount per patient, per month, regardless of the patients health care condition. Medicaid reimbursement will not increase but the administrative costs of managing this new system will. The Medicaid program does not currently meet the costs of high quality health care yet the state hopes that this new system of payment will reduce costs in the future.

## 3rd Annual Tee It Up Fore Kids was a Great Success!

One hundred nine golfers enjoyed the Oak Park River Forest Infant Welfare Society's 3rd Annual Tee It Up Fore Kids event held on June 16th at Ruffled Feathers Golf Club in Lemont, Illinois. The fundraiser benefits the IWS Children's Clinic and included 18 holes of championship golf, grill lunch, challenge holes, 19th hole reception, silent auction, and prizes. The grand finale was a helicopter golf ball drop. "Our event is growing every year with more sponsors and more golfers. It's a fun outing for a great cause," noted Brett Samuels, co-chair. "We are grateful to all of our supporters for helping us raise money toward our goal of \$50,000 for the Oak Park River Forest Infant Welfare Society and our IWS Children's Clinic. These funds will give 3,200 children in our community the health care they need."



Event co-chairs Dianne Andrews (left) and Brett Samuels (right) thank participants for attending



Sue and Daniel Arends are awarded prizes for longest drive (men and women)



Golfers Thad Rasche and guest enjoy the 3rd Annual Tee It Up Fore Kids



Members and event volunteers welcome golfers on June 16th

## IWS Bids Farewell to Judy Bradeen



Judy Bradeen and Executive Director Elizabeth Lippitt

Judy Bradeen will leave the IWS Children's Clinic in September after 12 years as the Clinic's Director of Finance and Operations. Judy's imprint can be found in just about every facet of the Clinic's operations and the Society's fundraising. But her prowess with a calculator and remarkable institutional memory are only surpassed by her warmth and compassion for our patients and staff. IWS Treasurer Anne Sullivan remarked, "We have been so fortunate to have Judy on our staff. It has been a pleasure to have worked closely with her over the past couple of years. She is a most conscientious, dedicated worker and will certainly be missed."

### *How has the Clinic changed during your tenure?*

The Clinic has grown by leaps and bounds! We are open full-time now, here an additional 1,000 square feet of office and exam space, the Dental Clinic has expanded from 3 to 5 chairs, the reception area and Nurse's Station have been remodeled, we've successfully transitioned to Electronic Medical Records, the staff has grown from 6 to 37 people, and the budget has increased from \$350,000 to \$1.8 million. Twelve years ago, we had excess space to rent to the Oak Park Department of Health and the Collaboration for Early Childhood. Now we're sitting on each others' laps!

### *What is your proudest accomplishment?*

I'm proud of the fact that I've been able to manage the finances in such a way that the organization hasn't had to take on any debt and that our net assets have continued to increase.

### *Your favorite memory?*

I have fond memories of the early years when our entire staff of 8 or 10 would celebrate with high fives every time we received a grant award letter. And I remember feeling very proud when we unveiled the new awning at 320 Lake Street with our rebranded name back in 2008.

### *Any parting words?*

I am humbled by the kind words that have been said and written since my resignation was announced. I will miss you all!

## McClelland's Gift Will Impact the Clinic for Years



*"Just walk in the door; you will see why this place is so remarkable." ~Molly McClelland*

Development Director Naomi Tselepis sat down with Molly and Geoff McClelland to highlight their support of OPRF Infant Welfare Society.

**Q. Molly, how did you get involved in supporting the OPRF Infant Welfare Society, and what do you think people should know about our work helping kids?**

**A.** I joined as a member thirty years ago. It was quite a social group; we hosted lunch fundraisers at each other's houses. Since I'm a nurse, I also decided to volunteer at the clinic.

Most people in our community know that IWS Children's Clinic gives medical care to kids but people don't often understand the depth of those services. You offer dental, medical, social services and nutrition counseling, all in one place. And then you give each kid a book!

When I was volunteering at the Clinic, I met a 5 year-old boy with a mouthful of cavities. He had been going to bed with a bottle of juice for years, and had never seen a dentist before. Our dentists treated his cavities and they also referred him to our nutritionist. That's what I mean by depth of services.

**Q. Geoff, how have you been involved?**

**A.** I had been to cocktail parties for members and their spouses before, but it wasn't until the 90th Anniversary Gala that I understood the true impact of the Society. I learned more about the IWS Children's Clinic when I served on the local United Way board and since 2013 Molly and I have served as members of the Resource Development Committee.

**Q. You have planned to leave a bequest gift to OPRF IWS in your will. What motivated your gift?**

**A.** We felt the time had come in our lives to make this decision. Our gift will help the IWS Children's Clinic to have the funds they need to give children care for many years to come. Simply put, we are passionate about this worthwhile organization.

**Please consider remembering OPRF Infant Welfare Society in your will.**



## Visit us Online and See Our New Web Page Design



This summer, we unveiled a fresh new web redesign for our [www.childrensclinicws.org](http://www.childrensclinicws.org) web pages. The changes included improvements to navigation of the site, a fresh layout with a focus on more graphics and consistent layout, expansion of the functionality features, and an increase in content to highlight the society, our clinic, news and info, giving, and our fundraising events.

Now visitors to [www.childrensclinicws.org](http://www.childrensclinicws.org) can:

- Sign up to become a member
- Donate online
- Purchase event tickets
- Read our news stories
- View our Annual Report
- Locate our Board and Auxiliary listings
- Find our Clinic hours and appointment information
- Sponsor events
- See our staff credentials
- Gain a better understanding of our organization & mission
- Connect with us on social media



*Pictured: Leah Beckwith, Fran Sullivan, K.T. Sullivan, Paul Beckwith*

## DONOR APPRECIATION RECEPTION

Thank you to our Board President, Lynne Williams, for hosting a Donor Appreciation Reception for OPRF Infant Welfare Society supporters at her charming Oak Park home in June. Fifty-six guests mingled during this intimate reception and heard first-hand the impact of their giving on the lives of children from our medical, dental and social work staff. Because of their support, we remain a multi-service medical home for children who continue to need our help.



## Highlighting FY 2014 Impact Numbers

- 3,229 unduplicated children received medical and/or dental care in 9,996 visits
- 1,218 patients received medical care in 3,312 visits
- 2,699 patients received dental care in 6,684 visits
- 1,315 students at 20 schools and 2 health fairs received preventive dental care through the Portable Dentistry Program
- 71 high Body Mass Index (BMI) patients received nutrition counseling
- 5,244 students at 38 schools and 2 after-school programs attended 46 Oral Health and Nutrition Education workshops
- The Clinic participated in 26 community health/resource fairs, reaching 1,554 attendees
- 20 fourth-year dental students from the University of Illinois-College of Dentistry and 3 nurse practitioner students completed a rotation in the Clinic



*Rebecca Rubio, Health Education Outreach Coordinator*

The biggest growth was in outreach and education. We increased the number of children reached through our classroom-based Oral Health and Nutrition Education Workshops by an astounding 50%, from 2,615 to 5,244 students. In addition, there was a 21% increase in the number of children served by our Portable Dentistry Program this year: from 1,028 to 1,315 students. The credit for the remarkable success of these programs goes to our Health Education Outreach Coordinator, Rebecca Rubin, who has done an excellent job of strengthening our relationships with local school administrators and developed creative ways to market Portable Dentistry directly to the families.

## Focus on Mental Health at IWS Spring Appeal

The IWS hosted a reception at the 19th Century Club on May 1st to kick off our Spring Appeal. Guest speaker Colette Lueck, an Oak Park Village Trustee and the Managing Director for the Illinois Children's Mental Health Partnership, spoke about the importance of early identification and treatment for mental health issues and lauded the Clinic for doing just that: "The IWS Children's Clinic is a treasure. You are the only clinic in this area that I know of offering mental health screens and access to therapy, integrated into your medical care for children. You are an invaluable and



*At the May reception, Colette Lueck addresses mental health issues in Illinois.*

innovative resource in our community." Thanks to many generous donors, we raised \$62,795 for this year's Spring Appeal to fund mental health services as well as dental and medical services.



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## Caring for Others



*"Last year our Social Worker attended every well-child visit & screened children for developmental delays as well as emotional health issues. This process gives our patients a smooth, comfortable link to receive the additional service they need instead of a referral to another organization's intake process & waiting list."*

- Dr. Karen Walker, Medical Director



## 16th Annual Holiday Housewalk & Market 2014

*Presented by*  
**Oak Park River Forest  
Infant Welfare Society**  
*Benefitting*  
**IWS Children's Clinic**

### ***Holiday Housewalk & Market***

The Holiday Housewalk tour begins at The Nineteenth Century Club and includes tours through private homes in Oak Park and River Forest that have been specially decorated for the holidays. Held on Friday evening December 5th and Saturday afternoon, December 6th.

### ***Holiday Market***

A unique holiday shopping experience held at The Nineteenth Century Club. Juried artisan vendors with "one of a kind" gifts. Open on Friday, December 5, and Saturday, December 6th.

### ***Sugar Plum Preview Party***

The Market opens with a special party on Thursday evening, December 4th, at The Nineteenth Century Club. Tickets will be available on-line and at the door the evening of the party.

### ***Celebration Tablescapes***

Five themed decorated tables are featured at the Holiday Market. Tickets available for purchase are available at the market and online for a chance to win the décor on the table.

### ***Chef's Tastings***

As you tour the homes on Saturday, December 6th, enjoy samples of local Chef's Tastings. Area restaurants provide bite-size portions of their food specialties in our holiday-decorated kitchens.

### ***Tickets & Information***

Tickets for the Housewalk and Market are available in advance and at the door. For more information and to purchase tickets online visit: [www.childrenscliniws.org](http://www.childrenscliniws.org).