



OAK PARK RIVER FOREST
Infant Welfare Society
Sponsors of The Children's Clinic

This year the Oak Park River Forest Infant Welfare Society Children's Clinic has embarked on a new collaboration with Rush Oak Park Hospital and continues its collaboration with Family Service and Mental Health Center of Cicero, Hephzibah Children's Association, Parenthesis, and Salvation Army Anne's House.

"We value our relationships with many providers in the community. We all benefit when we work together to provide better health care for children."

– Elizabeth Lippitt
 Executive Director,
 IWS Children's Clinic

New Clinic Partnership with Rush Oak Park Hospital

As state resources shrink and patient demand increases, agency collaborations make the most sense to stretch limited dollars. IWS Auxiliary Board President Lynne Williams interviewed Rush Oak Park Hospital President Bruce Elegant as part of the Oak Park and River Forest Infant Welfare Society strategic planning process. Ms. Williams learned that the emergency room at Rush Oak Park experiences over 5,000 pediatric visits per year, but the hospital doesn't have a pediatrics department.



LCSW Ignacio Perez talking with a patient

While the hospital provides a referral list for follow up care, there was a need for a more direct link to primary care for their low income pediatric patients. In the months that followed, Rush Oak Park Hospital Emergency Department Unit Director Lisa Wilson, R.N. invited Clinic staff to meet with the ER Staff. The ER nurses also toured the IWS Children's Clinic.

As a result of these meetings the Clinic is now a primary care referral site for the hospital's pediatric ER patients. In January, the Clinic received a referral from the Rush ER that was a clear case of child abuse. The child did not have a primary care pediatrician so the ER referred him to the IWS Children's Clinic for a follow-up visit. The boy and his father came straight from the Rush Oak Park ER to the IWS Children's Clinic where they were seen immediately by pediatrician Dr. Weller and social worker Sandy St. Pierre. Now the child comes to the Clinic for weekly therapy sessions and the Clinic is his medical home.

"This exciting new partnership benefits both parties but the real winners are the children who now have a medical home at the IWS Children's Clinic," remarked Ms. Williams.

Our new partnership with Rush extends to fundraising and volunteer opportunities as well. Ms. Williams has met with the Auxiliary of Rush Oak Park Board about joining forces on fundraising projects. Rush staff are volunteering in the Clinic's education and outreach programs. Wilson was so impressed with the Infant Welfare

Society that she has since become a member and joined Circle 4, "Since our first meeting last fall this collaboration has been driven by the amazing energy of team leaders from both organizations. It has been an ongoing labor of love and we are excited to know that it will translate to better care for more kids in the communities we serve."

President's Letter

The Oak Park River Forest Infant Welfare Society is 97! That is such an in-between number but one that we take very seriously. For our organization it says that we have a long history serving the health needs of children in our community. Those of us involved with this organization also realize that it is our commitment to service and our rich history that keeps us engaged with the work we do.

As part of our 2013-2017 Strategic Plan, we are planning to focus on helping people understand this rich history and what we do to support the medical, dental and behavioral needs of children who cannot afford the cost of private care.

The Oak Park River Forest Infant Welfare Society is:

- A diverse member-driven organization with an abiding commitment to assuring the health and well being of children
- An organization that provides the highest quality medical, dental and social services through its Children's Clinic
- A group that is powered by dedicated members and volunteers, a highly competent professional staff, generous donors, engaged partners and enlightened communities
- Totally committed to knowing that sustaining the health of our children is a critical investment in the future.



Elizabeth Lippitt (far left) and Jennifer GoodSmith (far right) celebrate with award recipients at the 96th Annual Meeting and Appreciation Dinner. (l-r) Elizabeth A. Samore, D.D.S. (Clinic Staff Award), Jill Baskin, D.D. S. (The Angel Award), Gary Moscinski (Golden Paint Bucket Award), Chatka Ruggiero (The Ginny Holland Award) Grace Doucette (Golden Band-aid Award)

We are proud of our history and proud that our organization has made an impact in our communities. We hope that this newsletter will share the work of the IWS Children's Clinic and the OPRF Infant Welfare Society.

Jennifer GoodSmith

President

OPRF Infant Welfare Society

Handing over the Toothbrush Ceremony at the IWS Children's Clinic



(front row) Dr. Briney and Dr. Baskin join with staff, society members, and partners to celebrate.

After 15 years of service, Dr. Jill Baskin, DDS, passed the mantle of the Oral Health Director position to her former student, Dr. Lynse Briney, DDS, MS.

Elizabeth Lippitt thanked Dr. Baskin, "We greatly appreciate Dr. Baskin for her 'can do' attitude, great energy and willingness to promote the mission. Our clinic has grown to provide over 6,000 dental visits a year under her leadership. We are glad she will remain at the IWS Children's Clinic seeing patients and we welcome Dr. Briney as the new Oral Health Director."

Dr. Briney commented, "This is an amazing opportunity. I started at the Clinic when I was a University of Illinois dental student doing my community rotation. I fell in love with the Clinic's high standard of dental care and respect for the children it serves. I am proud to work at the Clinic and strive to bring that high standard of care to all the children I treat. This is where my heart is."

GRANT UPDATE

To date in FY2012/2013, in an effort to close the funding gap, we have secured \$387,382 for programs and services including: capital improvement, dental, general operating, health education and outreach, nutrition, literacy, medical, and mental health.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT

Westlake Health Foundation

DENTAL

Baxter International Foundation

Berwyn Community
Development Block Grant

Chicago Dental Society

Delta Dental Foundation of Illinois

Illinois Department of Public Health

Village of Oak Park Community
Development Block Grant

Washington Square Health Foundation

GENERAL OPERATING

Blowitz Ridgeway Foundation

Community Memorial Foundation

Fred J. Brunner Foundation

Grant Healthcare Foundation

John R. Housby Foundation

United Way of Metropolitan Chicago

Westlake Health Foundation

HEALTH EDUCATION AND OUTREACH/NUTRITION

Oak Park River Forest Community
Foundation

Seabury Foundation

Turano Foundation

LITERACY

Rotary Club of Oak Park River Forest

Target Early Childhood Reading Grant

The Donley Foundation

MEDICAL

CVS Caremark

MENTAL HEALTH

Community Mental Health Board of
Oak Park Township

Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation

Funding Challenges Test our Ability to be a Medical Home for Children

High Cost of Immunizations

IWS Children's Clinic doctors and nurses work hard to ensure that all of our patients are up-to-date on their vaccines. But this year, providing immunizations for all of the kids who come through our doors will cost the Oak Park River Forest Infant Welfare Society between \$6,000 to \$8,000 more than previous years due to recent changes in the state's Vaccines for Children Program.

This is a concern for our Medical Director, Dr. Walker, "We don't want to interrupt the services we provide, or splinter care for children. We want to have enough vaccines so we can continue to give each family a medical home regardless of their ability to pay." This



Two patients show their colorful bandages from their annual school physical and immunization visit

Spring, when low-income families bring their future kindergarteners to us, we aim to give them the vaccines they need.

Integrating Social Services in the Medical Setting

Over the past 3 years, the Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation has generously funded an expansion of the mental health services we offer our patients. Our Clinic partnered with Family Service and Mental Health Center of Cicero to provide therapy and psychiatry to our patients here at their medical home. This gives our patients seamless access to mental health services.

Last year, our therapist provided short-term therapy for 137 children and long-term therapy for 29 children and 59 families. Our psychiatrist worked with 31 patients over 146 visits. As this grant nears its end we will need to raise over \$60,000 in 2013 to continue this level of mental health services. "Unfortunately, we will be shouldering this drop in funding at a moment when our state



IWS Children's Clinic is a medical home for families

is making drastic cuts to behavioral health services," says Elizabeth Lippitt, Executive Director of IWS Children's Clinic. "Now, more than ever, we will rely on donations to continue to provide more than 3,000 children each year with the care they deserve."

Implementation Begins for IWS Strategic Plan

At its meeting on October 16, the Board of Directors of the Oak Park River Forest Infant Welfare Society adopted its 2013–2017 Strategic Plan. The plan reaffirms the commitment of the IWS to provide the highest quality medical, dental and social services to the children within the communities we serve.

The Strategic Plan was developed with significant input from IWS membership and community leaders. The process included a questionnaire to IWS members to which more than 90% of members responded. Interviews with community leaders provided additional information on how the IWS and its Children's Clinic are perceived in the community.

The Strategic Plan includes six overall goals:

- Build Infant Welfare Society membership
- Clarify and Strengthen Brand Awareness
- Enhance Community Awareness
- Sustain Fiscal Strength
- Ensure Program Development and Delivery
- Enhance IWS Operations

As we say, planning is good...but doing is better. With the plan approved, the next step is implementation. Detailed strategies and action steps for each goal have been developed and the organization is now in the process of prioritizing and assigning responsibility for the goals, strategies and actions. Implementing the plan and sharing the implementation successes and challenges will help keep the organization moving forward.

Thanks to the Strategic Planning Committee and planning consultant and IWS member Sarina Butler for their hard work and dedication in the development of this important document.

“Our 97-year mission remains the same. The new plan updates that mission and provides a detailed roadmap for the next five years.”
Mary Anderson, Strategic Planning Committee Chair

Portable Dentistry Program

Portable Dentistry is a dental clinic that travels to schools, providing preventive dental care—exams, cleanings, fluoride treatments and sealants—for elementary school children who are not currently receiving preventive care and who have little access to oral health care.

Our Health Education Outreach Coordinator Rebecca Rubin coordinates the Portable Dentistry team. Students identified as having urgent oral health needs are referred to the Clinic for restorative care—a seamless flow from diagnosis to referral to treatment. The Clinic follows up with urgent need patients to ensure that the children receive restorative care.

“I love this program because we help bridge the gap between low-income children and affordable healthcare,” remarked Ms. Rubin. “Portable Dentistry brings oral health care directly to children in a fun and nonthreatening way.”

The program has grown since its inception in 2005 when we served only two schools. The program took off in 2010 when Infant Welfare received a grant from the Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation to purchase a van for transporting the dental equipment to the schools. In FY 2012, the Portable Dentistry Program provided 996 dental exams, 604 cleanings,



Portable Dentistry in the library at a Chicago School

762 sealants, and 344 fluoride treatments to school children at 20 schools and 5 health fairs in Berwyn, Cicero, Chicago, Melrose Park, Oak Park, and Summit.

14th Annual Holiday Housewalk and Market

Thanks to the wonderful support of the community, the Oak Park River Forest Infant Welfare Society Children's Clinic 14th Annual Holiday Housewalk and Market raised over \$87,000, resulting in the most successful event ever.

Over 1,400 people attended the two-day event that included tours of five private homes in Oak Park and River Forest that had been decorated for the holidays and a market that featured 45 specialty vendors.

Proceeds benefit the IWS Children's Clinic and help to fill the funding gap in providing medical and dental care to over 3,200 children whose families cannot afford the costs of private care.



Event co-chairs Becky Brofman, Deb Blanco and Dianne Andrews (l-r)



Homeowners David Neubecker, Doug Cotsamire, Lee Neubecker and Ron Roman (l-r) join member Lynn Kirsch (center)



Volunteers and members Jamie Sullivan, Nancy Wohlford, Molly Frank Stewart, Nancy Van Der Griend, Mary Cate Walker, and Christine Baumbach (l-r)

Holiday Party for our Kids

In December, Circle 80 hosted the Clinic Holiday party. Over 100 children and their families enjoyed photos with Santa, crafts, a reading room, refreshments, and all received a stocking full of gifts.



Circle 80 members hosted the children's party.



Photos with Santa were a highlight of the holiday party

JOIN US!

Founded in 1916, the Oak Park River Forest Infant Welfare Society has been keeping children healthy for 97 years.

Today, 130 IWS members lead fundraising for the IWS Children's Clinic.

IWS members are community leaders who want to make a difference in the lives of low-income children in Oak Park, River Forest, and the surrounding communities.

We are always looking for new members.

Interested in joining us?

For more information please contact Kelly Turner at robnkelly2002@yahoo.com 708-751-1633 or visit our website at www.childrenscliniwv.org.

THANK YOU

Our 2012 Holiday Annual Fund Raised \$44,937

We exceeded our goal of \$35,000!

Your gifts directly impact low-income children in our community.

Your support helps us deliver medical, dental and behavioral health services to more than 3,000 children in over 10,000 visits this year.

You have made a wise investment in the OPRF Infant Welfare Society, proud sponsors of the IWS Children's Clinic.

85% of your donations go directly to services for children.





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Tee It Up **FORE** Kids
MONDAY JUNE 17, 2013

Second Annual Golf Classic Benefiting The Children's Clinic

Support the OPRF Infant Welfare Society

Last year the Clinic provided 3,169 children with 10,024 medical and dental visits. In 2012, our first annual golf classic, raised \$35,000 to help fund these critical services. Join us for the second annual Tee It Up Fore Kids Golf Classic as we aim to raise more than \$50,000 to keep kids healthy!

Annual TEE IT UP FORE KIDS Golf Classic

Monday June 17, 2013
Ruffled Feathers Golf Club in Lemont, IL
18 holes of championship golf, food and prizes

Becoming a Sponsor is Easy

Sponsorship levels start at \$100
Sponsorships with 4 Golfers start at \$1,500

Players Wanted!

Join us for a fun day of golf and camaraderie, all in support of the IWS Children's Clinic.

Information online at www.golfinvite.com/teeitupforekids