



OAK PARK RIVER FOREST

Infant Welfare Society

Sponsors of IWS Children's Clinic



Our Portable Dentistry Team spent 3 days in December providing free cleanings to children at Pershing Elementary School in Berwyn, including 8 year old Carlos. Carlos' tooth decay was so advanced that he needed to have five teeth extracted, including a molar.

Carlos was hiding his intense and growing tooth pain from his mother because he was terrified of seeing a dentist. When he came to the IWS Children's Clinic, we gave him nitrous oxide and worked to calm him down. He didn't even cry.

Carlos has begun the series of clinic visits he needs to leave him with a healthy body and a cheerful smile.

IWS Children's Clinic Chosen to launch Oral Health America's Brush-a-Thon

On February 6th, the IWS Children's Clinic hosted its very first Brush-a-Thon, a 2-minute frenzy of tooth brushing by 70 wildly enthusiastic second graders to promote National Children's Dental Health Month. The event at Pershing Elementary School in Berwyn was spearheaded by Oral Health America, a national oral health advocacy organization which recently awarded the Clinic with a Smiles Across America grant to expand our Portable Dentistry Program. Event partner Dr. Fresh donated over 1,000 Firefly toothbrushes which flash at the touch of a button for one minute --the length of time dentists recommend to thoroughly brush one row of teeth -- and colorful sports backpacks for the students.



Children learning the proper way to brush their teeth

The Clinic's Oral Health Director Dr. Lynse Briney emceed the event which included remarks from the Illinois Department of Public Health's Dr. David Miller, Berwyn Mayor Robert J. Lovero, Oral Health America's President and CEO Beth Truett, Pershing Principal Marilyn McManus, and State Representative Lisa Hernandez. Also attending were IWS President Lynne Williams, IWS members Kathy Haney and Michelle Moore, and District 100 Superintendent, Stan Fields.

Health Education Outreach Coordinator Rebecca Rubin and Stefanie Wilder Taylor, host of the NickMom TV show "Parental Discretion," talked to the children about how nutrition affects our dental health and the importance of maintaining a good oral health regimen. One of the highlights was a flossing demonstration which involved two young volunteers pulling a thick rope between the speakers, from the floor (the gum line) to their shoulders (the top of the teeth) and completely entangling them in the process!

Oral health education is central to the IWS Children's Clinic mission, both in clinic and out in the community. It is incorporated into every clinic dental visit and is the reason behind the classroom-based oral health and nutrition education workshops we provide to 4,000 area students each year. To promote National Children's Dental Health Month, Dr. Briney appeared on several media outlets to discuss the critical need for pediatric dental care and oral health education including a guest stint on "It's for Kids' Concerns," a weekly radio program on Radio Disney.

Letter from the President and Executive Director

Dear Friends,

As we have endured countless changes in the weather this Winter and are now eagerly anticipating the transition to Spring, so have we experienced a number of changes here at the OPRF Infant Welfare Society. A new board and a new board president, Lynne Williams, were elected in November. We are very pleased to introduce our new board members: Dean Politis, DDS, Lisa Gillis, Joy Fulton, Peggy Diamond and Debbie Blanco. We are looking forward to new and renewed opportunities to expand our medical, dental and behavioral health services to more children in need. We are also focused on growing the membership of the Infant Welfare Society and developing new partnerships within the communities we serve. The Infant Welfare Society always welcomes new members, and therefore encourages those interested in joining with us to advise us of their interest.

Federal and state health care changes are also creating a different health care landscape. The state is moving many of its Medicaid clients into managed care groups, and some patients will now be eligible for third party insurance through the Affordable Care Act. These patients will still be eligible to receive care at the IWS Children's Clinic. Electronic Health Records will be implemented at the Clinic this Spring, which will be a significant enhancement improving care and efficiency as we comply with the increased state and federal reporting requirements and changing health care treatment codes.

As a Clinic that strives to be a medical home for families, we know that behavioral health services, in addition to medical and dental services, are critical to the provision of comprehensive care. We are very excited to report that a group of our donors will be hosting a gathering on May 1, 2014, that will focus on the importance of identifying behavioral health needs in early childhood. We hope you will plan to join us.

As we look to the future, we are inspired by and very grateful for the wonderful support and involvement on the part of our friends in the community while we continue to serve the children and families who depend on us.



Lynne Williams
President

Elizabeth Lippitt
Executive Director

Annual Meeting and Member & Staff Appreciation Dinner



(l-r) Diana Rigas, Mary Deziel, Dr. Caswell Evans, Dr. Christine Hryhorczuk, Eva Perri

Congratulations to the recipients of awards at the 2013 Annual Meeting and Appreciation Dinner:

The Angel Award

Diana Rigas, Artemis Design

The Ginny Holland Award

Mary Deziel

Community Service Award

Dr. Caswell Evans, Dr. Christine Hryhorczuk,
UIC College of Dentistry Extramural Education Program

IWS Children's Clinic Staff Award

Eva Perri

Interview with Sandy St. Pierre: 23 Years of Helping Clinic Families

Development Director Naomi Tselepis recently talked with Social Worker Sandy St. Pierre to find out how the IWS Children's Clinic provides social work and mental health services as part of our integrated care for children. Sandy will be retiring in April after 23 years at the Clinic.

Q. What is your role here at the clinic?

A. I am one of the IWS Children's Clinic Social Workers, I've worked here since 1991. I talk with each parent and their child when they come for a physical exam. We administer developmental and emotional health screens, specialized questionnaires, to identify a child's emotional problems. If we find an issue, we meet with the family separately in my office and connect them with early intervention services, recommend social groups for the kids, and very often coach the parents on how to help their child.

Q. When do you refer patients to Jackie Hernandez Carson, the Clinic Therapist, how do you work together?

A. We have only had a therapist who could meet with our families for long term counseling for the past 4 years. Before we had a therapist, I was the only resource for our families with children who were experiencing anxiety, depression, or acting aggressively. I could coach a parent on techniques for helping a child do homework, or calm down in school, or advise them to get help from a school social worker. When I referred children to other social service agencies for therapy, they faced long waiting lists and often I found the parents didn't follow through on seeking help. Honestly, the biggest barrier to families getting help is their own feeling of shame and the stigma around

mental health. Parents don't want to admit that their child has a problem. Now, because I can introduce them to our therapist, we have more success with overcoming that barrier.

Q. How has your work here changed since we added an in-house therapist to work one-on-one with children and families?

A. It's like night and day. Now, we coach parents and tell them about community resources like we always have, but we tell the parent "If this isn't working, we have another option. We can walk you down the hall right now and introduce you to someone who can help."

In 2013, our social work team administered 1,864 developmental and emotional screens to our patients. 80 children were given a more in-depth mental health assessment, 135 patients received a brief intervention (coaching) or referral from our social work staff, 62 children and families received long-term therapy.



Sandy St. Pierre reading to a child

Holiday Housewalk & Market

This year's Holiday Housewalk & Market, our biggest fundraiser of the year, raised a whopping \$89,000 for the IWS Children's Clinic. Over 1,400 tickets were sold, an event record.

"The IWS Holiday Housewalk is an annual community tradition," remarked co-chair Sarina Butler. "It's great fun to see old friends each year. But the best part is working with the amazing members and other volunteers who make this happen. Hundreds of people are involved, and the results show it."

We'd like to thank the following individuals without whom this event would not have been possible: Event co-chairs Sarina Butler, Lynn Raymond and Liz Robinson for their inspired leadership. Homeowners Dave and Kate Nikolai, Marc and Sarah Chodera, Cuyler and Julie Brown, Rick and Debbie Wholey, and Jose and Guadalupe Jimenez for



graciously welcoming us into their magnificent homes. Our sponsors, in-kind donors and vendors (please see our website www.childrensclinicwv.org for a complete listing). And, last but certainly not least, the hardest-working women in fundraising, the members of Oak Park River Forest Infant Welfare Society!

Spotlight on Board President: *Lynne Williams*



Lynne Williams

Board President Lynne Williams, an active IWS member for 7 years, recently served as IWS Auxiliary President for 3 years and is currently serving her second term on the IWS Board of Directors.

As a former hospital administrator, you seem to have the perfect background to lead a healthcare charity.

Let's go back even further than my career in healthcare and hospital administration. I actually chose healthcare as a career path primarily because my only sibling was brain damaged at birth. For many years, access to care for my sister was a major struggle for my family, so I know the difficulties when much needed

care is not available. I worked in the health care industry for 25 years, first in health planning, then was appointed the first Administrator of the Certificate of Need program for the State of Tennessee and next moved into hospital administration, lastly affiliated with the Baptist Healthcare System in Memphis. With my experience in healthcare administration, I would be remiss if I didn't use my experience and knowledge in giving back to the community. Also, having worked on the acute care side of healthcare, I have seen first-hand the critical illnesses that can come about when there is insufficient access to primary care.

There are many laudable health-related charities out there. Why does the mission of IWS resonate with you?

I naturally gravitate to healthcare charities because they are dear to my heart. IWS in particular is special to me because we serve children. I can't think of a more noble service than providing healthcare for children in need. I sincerely believe that healthcare is as important as education in helping children grow up to

be successful adults. I often reflect on my sister's situation and wonder if she could have developed more during her lifetime if she had access to the level of services available today. Also, I am drawn to IWS because it is a membership organization made up of exceptionally knowledgeable, talented, hard-working volunteers from our community, who are all working together to further our laudable mission. We always welcome new members, and hope that anyone interested in joining with us will let us know of their interest in membership. I initially joined after my home was featured on the Holiday Housewalk.

What issues are the top issues on your agenda for the coming year?

First, we must serve more children—that is our mission; that is why we exist. Second, we want to develop more friendships for IWS, attracting more members and building new relationships within our community. Third, we want to make sure that the work of our members is satisfying and enjoyable and that they are recognized for their hard work and dedication.



SERVICE INTEGRATION AT IWS: ONE PATIENT'S STORY

A Chicago couple recently brought in their 2-year old daughter, Cayden, because she was suffering from a fever for more than a week. Our nurse practitioner noticed she had visibly swollen gums. She walked Cayden and her parents down the hall to our dental clinic - no referral paperwork was necessary, no additional appointment needed – our dentist immediately diagnosed her with an acute form of gingivitis.

Cayden's parents left that day with a prescription for antibiotics, oral health instructions and a follow-up appointment. Three days later, the pediatrician was relieved to see the child's condition dramatically improved. Cayden's parents immediately set up a preventive dental appointment for their older son who had not yet had his first dental visit.



Oak Park River Forest Infant Welfare Society Spring Reception



Please Join us for this Complimentary Event

May 1, 2014
Nineteenth Century Club
178 Forest Avenue, Oak Park

5:30pm - Reception
6:15pm - Program on Children's
Mental Health

Host Committee

Dawn & Harmon Brown
Sheryl & Mike Grant
Michele & Noel Moore
Donna Myers & Aaron Lebovitz
Chatka & Tony Ruggiero
Mary Jo & Stephen Schuler



Colette Lueck

Guest Speaker

Colette Lueck is Managing Director for the Illinois Children's Mental Health Partnership, coordinating statewide efforts to improve mental health services for children and families. An Oak Park Village Trustee since 2008, Ms. Lueck has a 20 year career in community health and was named Oak Park's Volunteer of the Year in 2006.

Photo provided by David Pierini/Wednesday Journal

Please RSVP by April 24 to: events@childrenscliniciws.org or 708.848.0528 x231

Medical Home

The IWS Children's Clinic adheres to a medical home model to ensure consistent, coordinated and integrated care. A medical home is a team-based approach to health care delivery that provides comprehensive medical care to patients in order to improve their health outcomes. The Clinic's holistic approach to health care embodies the medical home concept by providing wrap-around medical, dental and behavioral health services, all under one roof. This integrated model of care is a major distinguishing feature of the care provided at the Clinic.

Here's an example of how the medical home approach works in oral health care:

Medical – fluoride varnish is applied to baby teeth in the medical well-child visit from 2-4 months of age

Dental – patients are referred from the medical team to the dental clinic for the child's first dental visit at age 1

Nutrition – nutrition counseling is provided by our dietitian to children with excessive caries and advanced gum disease due to a poor diet

Behavioral Health –

Dental staff detect eating disorders or drug use by the condition of a patient's oral health and refer them to social services and counseling for mental health





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Caring for Others



"My children were lucky enough to have good health care growing up but not all children are that fortunate. Being able to help provide high quality health care for children is a great mission and one that my husband and I both support". - Lisa Gillis, member of Oak Park River Forest Infant Welfare Society



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Tee It Up **FORE** Kids
MONDAY JUNE 16, 2014

Third Annual TEE IT UP FORE KIDS

Monday, June 16, 2014
Ruffled Feathers Golf Club
1:00 pm Shotgun Start

18 holes of Golf with Contests & Team Winners, Grill Lunch, Beverages on the Course, Light Dinner, Awards Reception with Silent Auction & Open Bar

- Sponsorship levels start at \$100
- Sponsorship levels including a foursome start at \$1,500
- Foursome \$780
- Individual Golfer \$195

Questions? Please contact Brett Samuels at (708) 715-1282 or cmlady@msn.com

Help Us Do More

Last year the clinic provided 3,240 children with 10,726 medical and dental visits. Funds from this event are expected to raise over \$50,000 to fill a funding gap of \$150,000 which the IWS raises each year.

Reception

Reception Only Guests \$50 per person - 6:00pm. If you don't golf or want to bring someone to the reception after golf, join us for the Awards Reception and enjoy the light dinner, open bar, helicopter golf ball drop and silent auction.

Helicopter Golf Ball Drop

A helicopter will drop balls onto a green at the end of the golf round. Purchase helicopter balls for a chance to win a fabulous prize. 1 ball/\$20, 6 balls/\$100 or 15 balls/\$250. Winner need not be present. 1st Prize: White Sox Skybox for 14 (\$3,000 value), 2nd Prize: Diamond and Pearl necklace/earring set donated by Oak Park Jewelers (\$1,500 value), 3rd Prize: Deluxe Chicago Weekend (\$1,000 value)

Information online at www.ChildrensClinicIWS.org