



OAK PARK RIVER FOREST

# Infant Welfare Society

*Sponsors of IWS Children's Clinic*

## YVONEE'S STORY— Embracing A Healthy Lifestyle

Deloris, the mother of 11 year old Yvonee, called the clinic because she had not received her insurance packet from the state and was told that her daughter was now auto-assigned to a different clinic and provider. Deloris was upset because her daughter has received needed services from the IWS Children's Clinic over the past 8 months and she did not want Yvonee's progress to be derailed.

Yvonee has struggled with weight issues and first met with our nutrition counselor last July. She has had a difficult home life but with help from our medical staff, as well as guidance from our social worker, and assistance from our nutrition counselor, she has made big changes for herself.

Yvonee has lost 7 pounds because she is more active, quit drinking juice and soda, and has added more veggies to her diet. She is excited to come to the IWS Children's Clinic, and doesn't have a high BMI for her age anymore. We reassured Deloris that she could change her health plan to one in which we are enrolled and that it was really good that she had called before the 90 day window for plan changes had expired.

## Illinois Medicaid Moves to Managed Care

The move to managed care in Illinois' Medicaid program is having a profound effect on the IWS Children's Clinic where 90% of our patients are enrolled in the state All Kids Medicaid program.

Now instead of dealing with a single vendor—the State of Illinois—Medicaid reimbursements are being funneled through Managed Care Organizations (MCO) and hospital-based Accountable Care Entities (ACE). The impetus for this change was to reduce health care costs by improving coordination of care.

*“Private support from our donors is even more crucial in this uncertain new health care landscape”*

For the first time, All Kids patients must sign up for one of 20 or more insurance plans, all with different program features. If they do not sign up by the deadline, they will be auto assigned to a provider. Current Clinic patients are supposed to be assigned to Clinic pediatricians but this does not always occur.

Clinic receptionist Maria Mauleon remarks that “Each day we get calls from our patients saying that they have been assigned to another provider in another clinic. We tell them that they have 90 days to switch back to one of the health plans in which our pediatricians are enrolled. But if they do not do this in time, they will be locked into another health plan with a different provider for a year and will not be able to use the IWS Children's Clinic services.”

While it is still too soon to gauge the effect of the state's move to MCOs and ACE's on our patient census and revenue stream, one thing is clear: the new system has increased administrative costs without an increase in reimbursement levels. Additional reimbursement reduction proposals under consideration in Springfield will also negatively impact our bottom line.



*1 year-old patient with his mom at a well-child visit*

“It is unlikely that the new changes will be revenue neutral for the Clinic.

Private support from our donors is even more crucial in this uncertain new health care landscape”, commented Clinic Executive Director Elizabeth Lippitt.

## MICHAEL'S STORY— IWS Children's Clinic Cares

Michael is 18 years old and has been coming to the IWS Children's Clinic since he was in preschool. He has lived with more foster families than he can count since the age of 2. He has overcome many challenges in his life, and today he is proud to be the first member of his biological family to go to college.

At his last wellness visit before he turns 19, Michael shared with our social worker, Judy Crivolio, how much the Clinic has meant to him.

"What makes this place special is that the people care about your feelings. It's alright to come in and just be yourself. I have really appreciated being able to come here year after year, no matter what my home life was like. Anyone who comes here, they will definitely want to come back."



*Denise Gonzalez, Director of Social Services,  
cares about the children she helps every day*



## Oak Park River Forest Infant Welfare Society Spring Reception

Please join us for this complimentary event  
*Wine & Appetizers Served*

Thursday, April 30, 2015  
Nineteenth Century Club  
178 Forest Avenue, Oak Park

5:30pm - Reception  
6:15pm - Panel Presentation on  
Children's Dental Care  
Needs in our Community

### Panelists:

Dr. Wanda Laszcz, *Oral Health Director, IWS Children's Clinic*

Dr. Jill Baskin, *Dentist, IWS Children's Clinic*

Dr. Lynse Briney, *Pediatric Dentist, IWS Children's Clinic*

### Guest Speaker & Moderator:

***Mona Van Kanegan DDS, MS***

Dr. Van Kanegan is the Director of Oral Health Program Development for Heartland Health Outreach, Project Co-Director for Chicago Community Oral Health Forum and Dental Director for the Midwest AIDS Training and Education Center at University of Illinois. Dr. Van Kanegan's particular areas of interest are expanding access to vulnerable populations and how public health systems can provide leadership to improve oral health and services in communities.



*Mona Van Kanegan DDS, MS*

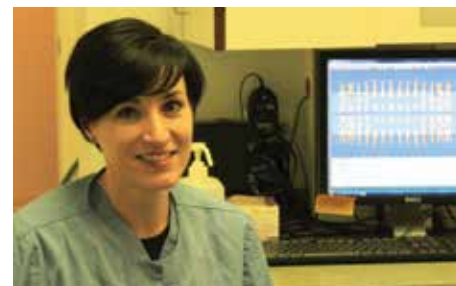
Please RSVP by April 24 to:  
[events@childrensclinicIWS.org](mailto:events@childrensclinicIWS.org)  
or 708.848.0528 x231



## Dr. Wanda Laszcz – Focus on Public Health

Dr. Laszcz recently joined the Executive Team of IWS Children's Clinic as our Director of Oral Health. Upon graduating from the UIC School of Dentistry, she began work in private practice but found her true calling in treating patients who could not afford regular dental care. Prior to coming to IWS she worked as a dentist for the Infant Welfare Society of Chicago for 9 years and is currently pursuing a Master's Degree in Public Health from UIC. A resident of Chicago, Wanda is an avid runner. She ran her first Chicago Marathon in 2014 to raise funds for

PAWS Chicago, and has big plans to run a marathon or half-marathon in each state. "I love working here. There is such a community focus, and I appreciate how all the staff works together to help each child."



*Dr. Wanda Laszcz*



Members enjoy the Annual Meeting and Appreciation Dinner

## Join Us!

Please consider joining IWS and volunteering your time and talents for a great cause. We are always looking for new members! For membership information visit [www.childrenscliniciws.org](http://www.childrenscliniciws.org). Questions? Contact Sally Prescott 708.848.6663 or [cmsalgal@msn.com](mailto:cmsalgal@msn.com)

## Please Give!

We need your support. The Oak Park River Forest Infant Welfare Society relies on your generous donations to keep the IWS Children's Clinic doors open for more than 3,200 children each year.

Please donate today at [www.childrenscliniciws.org](http://www.childrenscliniciws.org)  
Questions? Contact Naomi Tselepis at (708) 848-0528 x240



## Letter from the President & Executive Director

This year promises to be an exciting year for the Oak Park River Forest Infant Welfare Society in many ways. As we face new commitments, challenges and opportunities for service, we will also be proudly preparing for our 100th year anniversary celebration in 2016. For 99 years, the Infant Welfare Society has focused on the health and well-being of children in need. Of course, the names and faces of the children served over the years have changed, but our commitment to provide the children of our communities with high quality medical, dental and behavioral health services still remains, with the need greater today than ever before.



Lynne Williams (left) and Elizabeth Lippitt (right) celebrate at the Annual Meeting

We have formed many partnerships with families and others in our communities in the past 99 years. These partnerships were critical then and even more important today with impending state budget cuts, the volatile health care market and the rise in poverty in Illinois. Through our partnerships with corporations, foundations, public bodies, community nonprofits and community donors, we remain a viable contributor to a healthy economy and healthy communities—the greatest gift any one of us can give.

Our 100th Anniversary Celebration will honor these partnerships in 2016. Thank you for being our partner. We look forward to celebrating our 100th Anniversary with you!

Lynne Williams  
President  
OPRFIWS

Elizabeth Lippitt  
Executive Director  
IWS Children's Clinic

## Annual Meeting and Member & Staff Appreciation Dinner

Congratulations to the award recipients at the 2014 Annual Meeting and Appreciation Dinner:

*The Ginny Holland Award*  
Debbie Blanco

*Community Service Award*  
Dave Brady - Oak Design & Construction

*IWS Children's Clinic Staff Award*  
Wendy Epstein



Debbie Blanco, Dave Brady, and Wendy Epstein were recognized for their contributions to IWS' mission



## 16th Annual Holiday Housewalk & Market – A Great Success!



*Event Chairs, Debbie Wholey, Sarina Butler and Liz Robinson greet guests at the Holiday Market Preview Party*

“We are so proud of the success of this event! There are so many wonderful people to thank. We are so grateful for the community’s support and we thank everyone for their generous contribution of time, talent and treasure to the Infant Welfare Society in support of the IWS Children’s Clinic. The funds raised help us provide access to health care to over 3,200 vulnerable children.” said Debbie Wholey, event co-chair.

A few of the 16th Annual Holiday Housewalk & Market successes include:

- More than 1,200 people attended the 16th Annual Holiday Housewalk & Market
- More than \$85,000 was raised in support of the IWS Children’s Clinic
- More than 150 businesses and families contributed
- More than 300 volunteer shifts were staffed by more than 180 members and friends in the community
- More than 40 artisan vendors displayed their wares at the market

Proceeds from the Holiday Housewalk and Market were numerous and also included ah-ha moments as people enjoyed the weekend holiday experience of festive décor and shimmering lights, carols that were played throughout the market and homes, the joy shared with family and friends as the Oak Park River Forest community enjoyed kicking-off the holidays with the Infant Welfare Society’s 16th Annual Holiday Housewalk & Market on December 4, 5, & 6.

Liz Robinson, event co-chair noted, “With our move to the Nineteenth Century Club we were able to build success with our Holiday Market. Our artisan vendors for this year were amazing. We love to hear the shoppers delight when they see the wide array of unique, one-of-a-kind items. The vendor market contribution of 15% of sales is a big part of our fundraising success.”

“The Holiday Housewalk provided visitors a wonderful way to kick off the holiday season. We thank the homeowners for sharing their family traditions with us and opening their homes for our Holiday Housewalk, all in support the IWS mission of caring for children!” commented event co-chair, Sarina Butler.



*Housewalk Docents greet visitors*

## Clinic Partners with Bernie's Book Bank



Bernie's Book Bank delivers 12 bins of new books

The Children's Clinic is taking it to the bank – Bernie's Book Bank, that is.

The Clinic has become a distribution partner for Bernie's Book Bank. Bernie's Book Bank donates new and gently used books to schools, health clinics and WIC programs to increase book ownership for at-risk Chicago-area children. Since 2009, Bernie's has distributed over 3 million books to low-income children throughout the Chicago region. This new partnership furthers IWS' longtime commitment to promote literacy at the Clinic.

In January, the Clinic received our very first shipment from Bernie's: 7,000 books sorted by age for children ages 7 and under in bags containing 6 books each, enough for about 1,200 patients. The clinic is still accepting books for children from infancy to age 18.



### Ways to GIVE

Make a Gift that Will Help Children for Years to Come

Leaving a gift to OPRF Infant Welfare Society in your will is simple. Ask your financial advisor to include a version of the following language:

**I give and bequeath to Oak Park River Forest Infant Welfare Society, 320 Lake Street, Oak Park, IL, \_\_\_\_% of my residuary estate to be used for its general objectives and purposes.**

OR

**I give and bequeath to Oak Park River Forest Infant Welfare Society, 320 Lake Street, Oak Park, IL, the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_, to be used for its general objectives and purposes.**

Already designated a gift to the OPRF Infant Welfare Society in your will? Please let us know so we can include you among our Legacy Givers. Contact Naomi Tselepis at (708) 848-0528 x240.

## Member Spotlight: Circle 80

In 1997, Society members Dale Clark and Janet Schiffman were looking for a service project for their daughters when they came up with the idea of creating a membership circle just for teenagers. They named it Circle 80 for the birth year of the founding members and recruited girls from area high schools. Today, Circle 80, 50 members strong, is one of our most active circles.

The girls maintain a busy schedule. They distributed new school supplies to Clinic patients in August, had a bake sale at the Oak Park Farmer's Market in October, and threw the Clinic's annual patient holiday party in December. This spring, they'll write solicitation letters, run a car wash and babysit to raise additional funds for the Clinic. Circle 80 member Katie Powers took their mandate to a whole new level when she donated \$1,600 of the proceeds of "Decades", a play she wrote, directed and starred in, to the Clinic.

Circle 80 is currently co-led by Society members Sally Prescott and Angie Maguire. Sally, a member of Circle 2, is the mother of Emma. Angie, in Circle 4, is Lizzy's mother and the daughter of former IWS President, Leah Beckwith. Lizzy is the third generation of Beckwiths to be involved with the IWS. Both girls are sophomores at Oak Park River Forest High School.

"I was thrilled when Sally asked me to co-lead the group", remembers Angie. "As a nurse, I am passionate about the Society's mission to provide health care for the underserved and excited to have a hand in educating our girls about barriers to care for so many of our neighbors".

Sally emphasizes the fact that the group is self-directed and that every member of Circle 80 takes on a leadership role. "My favorite part is watching the girls grow as women and learn to work together as a group. I could not be prouder of them", she gushes. "The future is not something to be afraid of: these girls are really on top of it!"



Circle 80 hosting the Children's Holiday Party





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## Caring for Others



*"I want to say thank you for having such a big and generous heart. May you have joy and happiness like you have brought to our lives. God bless and thank you".*

An excerpt from a thank you note written by one of our patient families who received warm clothing and a grocery gift card during the winter season.



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# Tee It Up **FORE** Kids

MONDAY JUNE 22, 2015



## FOURTH ANNUAL TEE IT UP FORE KIDS

**Monday, June 22, 2015 - Riverside Country Club**

11:30 PM - Registration and Grill Lunch

1:00 PM - Shotgun Start

6:00 PM - Awards Reception

### Four Person Modified Scramble

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

### Individual Golfer \$195 per player

18 holes of golf with contests and team winners, grill lunch, beverages on course, light dinner/awards reception with open bar

### Reception Only Guests \$50 per person - 6:00 PM

Join us for the Awards Reception and enjoy the light dinner, open bar, raffle drawing and live auction

**Questions? Please contact Julie McKune at 708.848.2028 or [juliem506@comcast.net](mailto:juliem506@comcast.net)**