



The Children's Clinic

Sponsored by: OAK PARK RIVER FOREST INFANT WELFARE SOCIETY

JANUARY 2010

Portable Dentistry

The Children's Clinic has doubled the size of its portable dentistry program this year, providing exams, cleanings and dental sealants to children in all Berwyn public and private schools.

By the end of the school year, the Clinic dental staff, headed by **Dr. Betsy Samore**, will be traveling to 18 schools in Oak Park, Berwyn and Cicero. Since the start of this school year, the Clinic has visited seven schools and provided care to over 360 students from kindergarten to sixth grade. Offering dental care within the schools not only provides preventive oral care, but also identifies children who have urgent dental needs who are then referred to the Clinic for more extensive treatment.



Dr. Samore and Dental Assistant, Vianey Cantu, treat a young patient.

Join Us - Lose Your Blues at The Mardi Gras!

It's not too late to join in on the fun on **Friday, January 29** from 7-11 p.m., for a wonderful evening to support The Children's Clinic. Dust off your dancing shoes and head downtown to the **House of Blues** for a festive evening of food and drink, music and entertainment. A Mardi Gras theme will include New Orleans style signature drinks and food, tarot card readers and dance instruction to entice you to the dance floor.

The annual Showcase House, the largest Oak Park River Forest Infant Welfare Society Event that solely benefits The Children's Clinic did not take place

this past fall. Thus, this fun-filled event at the House of Blues will help offset the \$100,000 loss in income normally generated from the Showcase House.

Please join us - help us support the Clinic and also enjoy a wonderful evening out on the town! Tickets are \$125 per person. For more information, please call Tania Sebastian at 708.848.0528, ext. 235, or purchase tickets online at www.childrensclinicwi.org.



The Children's Clinic Program Updates

Children in low income families are seven times more likely to be in poor health compared to children in higher income families. The Children's Clinic is helping children beat these odds. In this difficult economy, it is not surprising that the Clinic experienced a 15 percent jump in visits this past year,



Medical Director, Dr. Karen Walker with Medical Assistant, Rosie Medel, prepare for a busy day!

treating 2,651 patients in 9,332 medical and dental visits. In addition, 1,542 social service contacts were made by the Clinic's social worker.

This past November, the Clinic experienced a



35 percent increase in medical visits due in part to children combating the flu. From the two year old toddler with severe facial swelling due to tooth decay, to the five year old with H1N1 flu, to the struggling teenager in need of counseling, all have found health care services at the Clinic that have resulted in better health.

Combating the Epidemic of Obesity

Did you know that nationwide 17 percent of children aged 6-11 are obese? Children enrolled in Medicaid are six times more likely to be diagnosed with obesity than those who have private health insurance. This fall, The Children's Clinic hired a part-time dietician to work one-on-one with families whose children have weight issues that are detrimental to their health. Using food diaries, exercise goals and food pyramid information, children and their parents are learning to make lifestyle changes that improve the health of the whole family.

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Annual Meeting Update

Nearly 100 members attended the 93rd Annual Meeting of the Oak Park River Forest Infant Welfare Society on November 12. Awards were given to 12 Society members, representing five circles, for their record number of years of service. **Lois Cowan**, from Circle 14, has a stellar 54 years of dedication to the Clinic! As President **Leah Beckwith** noted, "These remarkable years of service are very telling and represent not only a strong commitment to serving children in the community, but also of wonderful friendships that have developed while working on behalf of those in need."

Four annual awards were also presented at the Annual Meeting. Society member **Nancy Wohlford** received

the Ginny Holland Award for her dedication and unwavering commitment to the Clinic. The award is named in remembrance of Ginny Holland, president of the Society from 1975-1977. The Community Service Award was given to **Dr. Gerald Aylward**, who was instrumental in training the dental staff so that they now can offer interceptive orthodontics at the Clinic. This year's Clinic Service Award was presented to **John Ruckauf**, who has dedicated more than 11 years to the Clinic as a nurse practitioner. The very first Golden Toothbrush Award was given to **Richard Facko**, a UIC dental student who did part of his training rotation at the Clinic, and now volunteers his time on Saturdays to see our pediatric patients.



Oak Park River Forest Infant Welfare Society members honored at the Annual Meeting for longevity of service to the Clinic.

Mary And Dick Anderson Establish Clinic's First Nursing Endowment Fund

Several years ago, Mary and Dick Anderson, residents of Oak Park, established the Mary Anderson Nursing Fund. Mary and Dick wanted to make a lasting gift to the Clinic, so Dick worked with the development staff and board members to set up the fund to support the nursing program, including nurses, medical assistants, nurse practitioners, nursing equipment, resources and nursing education. The focus of the fund was very personal to Mary as she was a nurse at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in obstetrics prior to raising her family. The Andersons made an initial gift of \$25,000 to establish the Clinic's very first nursing endowment fund.

"It really is a great honor when someone does something like this for you, and at the same time, does something to help others," said Mary. Mary and Dick both grew up in DeKalb, Illinois. Mary's mother began her volunteer work when Mary was a young girl and Mary recalls her parents leaving turkeys on the doorsteps of those less fortunate during the holidays. "I was raised in a family that gave back. From my earliest days, I have felt that it is important to volunteer in my community," Mary reflected. Mary began as a volunteer



Dick and Mary Anderson

in 1987, and served two terms as President of the Oak Park River Forest Infant Welfare Society.

The Mary Anderson Nursing Fund was established to create a lasting income stream to support the nursing operations of the Clinic. For the past several years, the fund has been used to help the nursing staff at the Clinic take continuing education classes, training and recertification courses. "When I was a nurse, I remember how hard it was to come up with the money to pay for these classes," noted Mary.

(continues page 4)

Fundraising Update

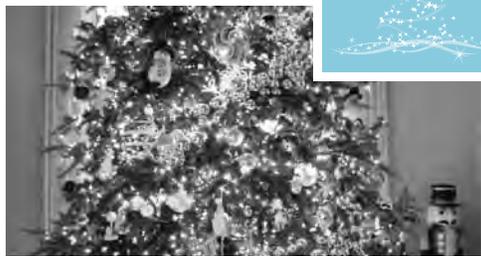
Spring and Year End Appeals Raise Over \$110,000

Many thanks to Annual Fund Co-Chairs **Linda Sahagian** and **Chatka Ruggiero** and their committee who helped raise over \$87,000 through the Spring Annual Fund. The success of this campaign speaks volumes about the loyalty of our donors, especially during times of economic uncertainty. The Spring Annual Fund was especially successful due to several donors who agreed to match the first \$50,000 raised through this special appeal. This fund is critically important to The Children's Clinic as it raises unrestricted gifts that support the Clinic's general operations.

The Clinic's year end holiday giving is still continuing as this publication goes to press. To date, more than \$33,000 has been raised from the year end holiday appeal from more than 150 generous donors. The Clinic is fortunate to have many donors committed to its mission. In fact, a large number of loyal donors make gifts both in the spring and at year end.

In a year with increased visits from children in need, we send our grateful thanks to all who generously gave to The Children's Clinic this year.

Holiday Housewalk a Stellar Success!



The 11th Annual Holiday Housewalk & Market was a huge success, raising nearly \$65,000 to support The Children's Clinic. Many thanks to the four co-chairs of the event, **Mary Anderson**, **Debbie Blanco**, **Lynne Williams** and **Carol Wootton**, whose leadership and dedication were tremendous! "We are grateful to the co-chairs and all of the members of the Oak Park River Forest Infant Welfare Society who made this two-day event so spectacular," said Elizabeth Lippitt, Executive Director. "We are so fortunate to have such dedicated volunteers who donate hours of their time and talent to help raise money for the Clinic."



On December 4-5, more than 1,500 people attended the two-day event, touring five beautifully decorated homes, shopping at the Holiday Market and sharing the holiday spirit. The Holiday Market was a first this year. Held at the historic Nineteenth Century Club, the Market hosted 40 artisan and gourmet food vendors that featured one of a kind specialty items for sale. The vendors were especially generous – donating 15 percent of all sales to The Children's Clinic.

This year, the Holiday Housewalk was a newly designed event, growing from a one-day event to two days and adding the Holiday Market. We are pleased to announce that attendance more than doubled and the proceeds from this year's event tripled!

"We were truly amazed that, in such difficult economic times, our generous donors and dedicated community embraced this event at a whole new level," noted Carol Wootton, co-chair. We gratefully acknowledge our corporate sponsors: **Angel Sponsors - Allstate of Oak Park; AthletiCo; The Christopher Family Foundation; Community Bank of Oak Park River Forest; Eastlake Chiropractic & Healthcare Center;** and, **Levy Custom Homes, Inc.;** and **Snowman Sponsors - Paul and Mary Binder; Gagliardo Realty; Nicor Gas; and Kyra Pych, ReMax in the Village, Realtors.** And, a special thanks to our media sponsors: **Oak Park Oak Leaves & River Forest Forest Leaves; Wednesday Journal; and, West Suburban Living Magazine.**

For a complete listing of our vendors and generous contributors, and to see more photos, please visit our website at www.childrenscliniciws.org.

Grants Update

Since the start of the Clinic's new fiscal year (July 1, 2009), we are pleased to announce a total of \$203,941 raised through grants from the following organizations:

Berwyn Community Development Block Grant
Blowitz Ridgeway Foundation
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois
Chicago Dental Society Foundation
Community Memorial Foundation
Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation
First United Church of Oak Park
Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation
Illinois Department of Public Health
Walter S. Mander Foundation
Oak Park Community Development Block Grant
Oak Park River Forest Community Foundation
United Way
VNA Foundation
Washington Square Health Foundation



The lucky winner of the Clinic's Holiday Raffle pictured with his new Radio Flyer Wagon. We are grateful to Radio Flyer Corporation for this wonderful donation!

Save the Date - Third Annual Day at the Races



Be a part of the most exciting two minutes in sports! Save the date for the Third Annual Day at the Races fundraiser hosted by the Oak Park River Forest Infant Welfare Society on May 1, on the lawns of Oak Park's historic Cheney Mansion. Take part in the most glamorous horse racing event of the year and help raise money for The Children's Clinic.

Watch the website (www.childrenscliniwiws.org) and your mailbox for more details to come about this exciting event!



Mary And Dick Anderson *(continued from page 2)*

The Mary Anderson Nursing Fund has grown significantly over the past several years. It now holds nearly \$172,000 from the Andersons and other generous contributors, including two significant gifts from the Angel Harvey Foundation. The fund affords a choice for donors who are interested in long-term endowment giving to benefit the Clinic.

Mary and Dick have two grown children, Kathleen and Ryan, and are proud first-time grandparents of baby Henry, born the day after Thanksgiving to Kathleen and her husband Alex. They recently gave a gift in Henry's name to the fund. "We are grateful to both Mary and Dick for their tremendous support of the Clinic and for establishing this endowment fund that benefits our patients now and in the future," said Leah Beckwith, President.

If you would like to make a gift to the Mary Anderson Nursing Fund or would like more information, please call Susanna Decker, Director of Development, at 708.848.0528, ext. 232 or email at sdecker@childrenscliniwiws.org.



The Children's Clinic

320 LAKE STREET | OAK PARK IL 60302

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Mission

The Children's Clinic is a community supported health care organization that provides medical, dental and social services for children whose families are unable to afford the cost of private health care. Sponsored by the Oak Park River Forest Infant Welfare Society and through partnerships with other community organizations, The Children's Clinic supports the physical and social well being of children.