



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LaFleur

CONTACT: Peggy

D: (708) 406-8652 C: (708) 790-2440

plafleur@oprfiws.org

OPRF Infant Welfare Society Buys Building in Oak Park

103-year old local nonprofit purchases former US Bank building

OAK PARK—The Oak Park River Forest Infant Welfare Society announced the purchase of the former US Bank building at 28 W. Madison in Oak Park. This is the first capital building purchase for the 103-year-old nonprofit, which currently occupies space for its Children’s Clinic at 320 Lake Street.

“This opportunity comes at an ideal time; the OPRF Infant Welfare Society had quietly raised funds to support a building purchase, as we sought to control increasing rent costs, address limited space and pursue key initiatives outlined in our current strategic plan. We’re incredibly grateful for the support of generous donors who enabled us to take this step,” said Peggy LaFleur, executive director. *“This is more than a building and future home. It is a strategic asset that will allow us to evolve our vision of unlocking the potential of every child, by creating a Pediatric Care Center that serves as a fully-integrated medical, dental and behavioral health home and further addresses health disparities through new and innovative programming. It will also position IWS for success in an increasingly competitive and costly healthcare industry,”* LaFleur added.

Thanks to a core group of philanthropic supporters, OPRF IWS was able to purchase the building outright, and will now continue its capital fundraising efforts to support the build-out of the clinic. Over the next 18-24 months, the organization will plan, renovate and move into the space that will be customized for the Clinic’s medical, dental and behavioral health services, as well as space for new programs to improve the health and well-being of children in need.

The 14,250 square foot, 2-story brick building is located at the northeast corner of Madison and Humphrey. It comes with a 38-space attached parking lot, nine metered parking spaces and additional parking on Madison. The building is close to public transportation and just one mile from the current location of the Children’s Clinic.

IWS began exploring properties with David King, President of David King & Associates brokerage in summer 2018. The IWS Facility Planning Committee, including other local real estate experts, quickly recognized this as a prime opportunity. Everett Ward, Partner with Quarles & Brady LLP, provided pro bono legal representation.

“This was a decision that the Board and members of the Infant Welfare Society have been evaluating for several months. Our members feel strongly about continuing to make Oak Park our home and building on our legacy of health equity, making this the perfect opportunity,” said Debbie Blanco, President of the Board of Directors. *“As a Society we are experiencing a resurgence of interest from women and men who want to help ensure that children in our community and surrounding areas are equipped to live happy and healthy lives. This building acquisition enables us to contemplate broader programming options leading to more opportunities for member and volunteer involvement. It’s an incredibly exciting time in our existence.”* Blanco noted.



OPRF Infant Welfare Society is grateful for the community support as it announces its continued investment in Oak Park, and in creating health equity for children.

###

The **Oak Park River Forest Infant Welfare Society** is a diverse member-driven organization with an abiding commitment to ensuring the health and well-being of children. Through the Children’s Clinic, IWS provides health services to children from families unable to afford the cost of private health care. The work of the Society is powered by dedicated members and volunteers, a highly competent professional staff, generous donors, engaged partners and enlightened communities who share our view of “health justice” and the belief that sustaining the health of our children is a critical investment in the future.

The **IWS Children’s Clinic** provides comprehensive, one-stop children’s medical, dental and behavioral health care services with the goal of helping children lead healthy, happy and productive lives. For more information and to schedule an appointment, please contact IWS Children’s Clinic by phone 708-848-0528, email info@childrenscliniws.org, or visit us online at www.childrenscliniws.org.