



# The Children's Clinic

Sponsored by: OAK PARK RIVER FOREST INFANT WELFARE SOCIETY

JUNE 2011



## Our Wish List

- Cardboard toy building blocks
- Children's books
- Dental floss
- Diapers size 1 & 2
- Fluoride
- Gift certificates (groceries)
- Infant receiving blankets
- Lego duplos
- Play kitchen, kitchen utensils and food
- Desktop scanner
- Toothpaste
- Toys for the waiting room

*If you would like more information on the wish list or would like to contribute, please call the Clinic at 708. 848. 0528, ext. 235.*



## Greetings

The Oak Park River Forest Infant Welfare Society, sponsors of The Children's Clinic, celebrates its **95th anniversary** this year! What began as volunteer work at a "clean milk" station in 1916 has flourished into a full service medical, dental and social service agency. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of the Society, as well as support from the community at large, the Clinic served 3,034 children through 9,455 medical and dental visits and 1,620 social service visits in the past fiscal year. The top five communities from which The Children's Clinic draws patients are Oak Park, Chicago, Berwyn, Cicero and Melrose Park.

The Children's Clinic's growth in serving a larger number of children and providing a wider array of services is largely due to our generous donors, grants and the tremendous work of the Oak Park River Forest Infant Welfare Society.

We strive to expand our collaborations within our community and are pleased that we will be the health care home for two new programs, **Anne's House** and **The West 40 Intermediate Service Center**. Anne's House located in Oak Park houses

girls who are victims of sexual exploitation. The West 40 Intermediate Service Center is a network of educational agencies that support teachers and students in western Cook County. West 40's Tapestry program targets high risk youth to increase graduation rates.

As you may know, The Children's Clinic applied to become a federally qualified health center (FQHC) last December to enable the Clinic to serve a greater number of patients that need our care. There is much nationwide competition for the grant and we will not hear until this August if we will receive funding. If the Clinic does become a FQHC, our mission will be enhanced to treat both children and adults. Many thanks to all the Infant Welfare Society and community members who wrote letters of support.

We are grateful for our community that allows us to focus on the well-being of children from more than 50 communities.

Thank you and enjoy a safe and healthy summer!

Leah Beckwith  
President IWS

Elizabeth Lippitt  
Executive Director

## Social Service - A Success Story!

It has been a journey for the Hernandez family but one with a happy ending! Anna and her mother Alicia have had a tumultuous last couple of years with a divorce, loss of the family home and then ultimately some time in a shelter. When Alicia brought eight-year-old Anna to The Children's Clinic for her immunizations she was not anticipating that the Clinic would also be a resource for emotional support. The Clinic provided a safe haven for Anna



to get some help with the frustrations that she was experiencing with her family life and her overwhelming school work. Through the

Clinic's new on-site bilingual therapist, Anna and her mother were able to learn some new coping methods for the stress that life can sometimes bring. But the greatest moment for Anna was when her father asked if he could join her at their next counseling appointment! He had seen how well therapy was going for her and her mother and wanted to be a part of the positive transformation. Social services at The Children's Clinic are continually evolving to accommodate the needs of our patients. These new services would not be possible without the support of the Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation, the Infant Welfare Society and private philanthropy from our community. Thank you!



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Katie Williams

Lynne Williams

### Executive Director

Elizabeth Lippitt, MHSA

## Clinic Updates



The Children's Clinic continues to expand its services to our community. The Clinic is open full time and has bilingual services in all three of its core areas – medical, dental and social services. With the addition of pediatrician **Dr. Patricia J. Valassis**, the

Clinic's medical services are now full time with both evening and weekend hours. Dr. Valassis works closely with the clinic dietitian to reduce the number of children we treat with a body mass index of 85 percent or higher. Currently, 17 percent of all U.S. children and teens are obese, with the Clinic average nearing 30 percent. Concern about this epidemic has led to the formation of the **Oak Park Pioneering Healthier Communities Initiative**. The committee composed of Oak Park leaders, sponsored by the West Cook YMCA and co-chaired by **Elizabeth Lippitt**, Executive Director, will recommend community policy changes to increase physical activity and improve nutritional intake for children and adults.

Look for our new van around town! Thanks to an exceptional grant from the **Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation**, The Children's Clinic's **Portable Dentistry Program** has its own van to transport dental equipment and the dental staff to schools across the communities we serve.

Dental exams, cleanings and dental sealants were provided to 853 students in 19 schools. Our health educator **Alma Rojas** visited 14 preschools and spoke with 408 preschoolers to discuss good nutrition and oral health. She also presented similar information to 1,614 students and 71 parents at area schools and community centers.

Under the guidance of the Clinic's Oral Health Director, **Dr. Jill Baskin**, the University of Illinois Chicago dental rotation continues to thrive at the Clinic. Currently 16 fourth year dental students are doing a five week rotation, providing 1,500 additional visits a year at the Clinic. As a matter of fact, **Dr. Daniela Brzozowski** did her training here and just returned as our newest staff dentist!



*Dr. Karen Walker helps a child select a book from the Clinic's Library.*



*Circle 80 Founders, Christine Baumbach and Dale Clarke, pose with the 1st Circle 80 president, Allison Clarke and Dr. Jill Baskin at the Annual Dinner Meeting.*

The Clinic's mental health staff has grown through a generous grant from the Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation. Mental health therapist **Ignacio Perez** and case manager **Stephanie Becerra** are working with a growing number of families in need of mental health services. Due to severe social service cutbacks in Illinois, this has been a wonderful resource for The Children's Clinic families.

Please join in congratulating Executive Director, **Elizabeth Lippitt**, on her 15 year anniversary at the Clinic! She has been instrumental in helping grow our presence in the community.

## Annual Meeting

Last November, the Oak Park River Forest Infant Welfare Society members held their Annual Meeting and Dinner at Holley Court in Oak Park. Five awards were presented that evening to six individuals that exhibited extraordinary efforts on behalf of the patients that the Clinic serves:

*Ginny Holland Award:* **Mary Lou Noll**, for many years of exemplary volunteer service to the Infant Welfare Society.

*Community Service Award:* **Deborah Monson, JD**, of **Ropes & Gray** and **Tom White, JD**, of **Schiff Hardin** for over \$130,000 in pro-bono legal assistance.

*Golden Toothbrush Award:* **Conor Moscinski**, for painting the Clinic hallways and bathrooms as part of his Eagle Scout project.

*Angel Award:* **Joan Maxwell** for her invaluable leadership in making the Holiday Housewalk Market a success.

*Staff Clinic Award:* **Vianey Cantu** for her enthusiasm in meeting the dental clinic's mission of providing pediatric oral health care.

A special thanks to the awardees for all that they do to sustain The Children's Clinic and its mission!



## The Oak Park River Forest Infant Welfare Society

### Holiday Housewalk & Market

Approximately 1,500 people attended the Oak Park River Forest Infant Welfare Society's 12th Annual Holiday Housewalk & Market, held at Concordia University last December. The event kicked off with the first ever Preview Party with almost 300 attendees. A special thanks to the 2010 Chairs, **Mary Anderson, Debbie Blanco, Alice Ireland, and Mary Lou Noll** for their hard work and commitment. The five featured homes in River Forest were simply spectacular, and we are grateful to the owners for opening their homes to us! "This is a huge event and it takes a lot of organization and dedication on the behalf of the members of the Infant Welfare Society," said Elizabeth Lippitt, Executive Director. "I am always amazed at how these series of events are flawlessly executed by the volunteers."



The event was a huge success raising over \$80,000 to support The Children's Clinic. We gratefully acknowledge our corporate sponsors: **Angel Sponsors – MB Financial Bank; Community Bank of Oak Park River Forest; The Christopher Family Foundation; Eastlake Chiropractic & Healthcare Center; Forest Park National Bank & Trust Co, Levy Custom Homes, Inc; and Snowman Sponsor – The Wirtz Corporation.** And, a special thanks to our **Media Sponsors: Oak Leaves & Forest Leaves, The Wednesday Journal and West Suburban Living Magazine.**



*Penny Egarter, Carolyn DelConte, and John Ruckauf enjoy the Circle One fundraiser, Rolling on the River. A special thanks to Connie and Ted Rigas for hosting this event that raised \$12,500 for the Clinic.*

### Circle 80 – Award

Circle 80 received the *Excellence in Philanthropy Award* in the youth category at the OPRF Community Foundation Annual Meeting in February. The Award included a \$500 grant that the Circle 80 members donated back to The Children's Clinic. Circle 80 is a branch of the Oak Park River Forest Infant Welfare Society whose members are girls from local area high schools. Circle 80 members have developed their own fundraising activities including a car wash and a cookie dough sale. It was a pleasure to see these young ladies celebrate their 10 year anniversary in 2010, and to be honored with this prestigious award! A special thank you to **Ms. Lisa Lewis**, the recipient of the 2010 Excellence in Philanthropy Award in the outstanding individual category, for donating her monetary award to The Children's Clinic!

### The Day at the Races



Over 130 people attended the Oak Park River Forest Infant Welfare Society's 4th Annual *Day at the Races* fundraiser. Co-chaired by **Ann Baker** and **Lynn Kirsch**, guests gathered at the private home of **Chatka & Tony Ruggiero**, Saturday May 7, 2011 for the event. The guests watched "the two most exciting minutes in sports" – the Kentucky Derby – enjoyed music by the band, *Go Long Mule*, and games of skill and chance. There was also a live auction, a hat contest and a raffle. Guests nibbled on southern style food and sipped traditional derby cocktails. This lovely affair raised over \$31,000 in support of The Children's Clinic. We gratefully acknowledge our sponsors: **Athletico; Ann & Bill Baker; Community Bank of Oak Park River Forest; Ellen & Paul Gignilliat; IWS Circle 31; Madden, Jiganti, Moore & Sinars, LLP; and State Farm, Mike Grant.** And, a special thanks to our media sponsors: **Oak Leaves & Forest Leaves, and The Wednesday Journal.**

## Grants Update

During the current fiscal year, we are pleased to announce and thank the following organizations that have awarded grants totaling \$540,000 to the Clinic:

City of Berwyn Community Development Block Grant  
Berwyn Public Health District  
The Blowitz-Ridgeway Foundation  
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois  
Chicago Community Trust  
Chicago Dental Society Foundation  
Community Memorial Foundation  
First United Church of Oak Park  
Grant Healthcare Foundation  
Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation  
Illinois Department of Public Health  
Walter S. Mander Foundation  
MB Financial Bank  
Mark Morton Memorial Fund  
Oak Park River Forest Community Foundation  
Rotary Club of Oak Park River Forest  
The Seabury Foundation  
Turano Foundation  
Westlake Health Foundation  
United Way of Metropolitan Chicago  
University of Illinois  
Village of Oak Park Community Development Block Grant  
VNA Foundation



## Planned Giving

Charitable gifts to The Children's Clinic, including bequests in wills, have significantly improved the lives of children and their families. Your estate plan gift to The Children's Clinic can provide quality health care to young patients and their families and establish your own legacy of hope and healing. If you are planning to include The Children's Clinic in your will, or would like more information about planned gifts, please call:

Susanna Decker  
Director of Development  
708.848.0528, ext. 232.



## Save the Date



### 13th Annual Holiday Housewalk and Market

December 2nd & 3rd 2011

Watch for updates on the website ([www.childrenscliniwiws.org](http://www.childrenscliniwiws.org))

## Spring and Holiday Appeals



Thank you to all of our wonderful donors who made gifts to the Holiday and Spring Appeals to support the Clinic! The two appeals combined traditionally raise over \$100,000, which helps fill the void in unreimbursed care. The Clinic's need for private funding is critical as there will always be a gap between what it costs to provide care to our patients and what the Clinic receives for providing these critical health care services to the underserved. For example, for every dental visit, the Clinic loses \$28, and on every medical visit \$77. Your gifts help make up the difference and allow The Children's Clinic to continue to provide the health care services that low income children need and deserve.

The spring 2011 Appeal is off to a great start! The following generous donors have given a total of \$30,000 in matching gifts...

**Dawn and Harmon Brown**  
**Donna Myers and Aaron Liebovitz**  
**Good Heart Work Smart Foundation**  
**Chatka and Tony Ruggiero**

A special thanks to the 2011 Spring Annual Fund Committee and Co-Chairs **Susie Goldschmidt** and **Julie McKune** for spearheading this year's appeal. We appreciate the generosity of all those that make these campaigns successful – your gift makes a real difference to children and families in need! For updates on the Spring Appeal or to make a donation, please visit [www.childrenscliniwiws.org](http://www.childrenscliniwiws.org).



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320 LAKE STREET | OAK PARK IL 60302

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## Our Mission

The Oak Park River Forest Infant Welfare Society sponsors The Children's Clinic, a community supported health care organization that provides medical, dental and social services to children of families who are unable to afford the cost of private health care. Through partnerships with other community organizations we support the physical and social well-being of children.

## FACEBOOK

Please add The Children's Clinic as a "like" to your Facebook page! It's a great way to stay in the "loop" with the Clinic's updates. Go to <http://tinyurl.com/4429fq2> and "Like" us with the link in the left-hand column.