



From the Desk of our Executive Director

As our 99th year of service to the Evanston community draws to a close, I am struck by the old adage "the more things change, the more they stay the same." One hundred years ago women in Evanston took up the cause of helping impoverished families with very young children by raising money, delivering milk and helping others understand that there were unmet needs in the community. They were the Infant Welfare Society of Evanston. Over time the work changed, but never the mission.

During the middle of the 20th century, Society members organized health clinics to meet the needs of young families. And in the late 1960's members realized that too many infants and toddlers were being left for hours at a time while their mothers were needed in the workplace in order to sustain their families. Thus massive fundraising efforts ensued, and in 1971 Illinois' first independently licensed infant and toddler center opened right here in Evanston IL. That program, Baby Toddler Nursery, is now a widely known, highly respected early care and education program for 56 infants and toddlers and 14 preschool aged children. In addition, our Teen Baby Nursery serves 16 infants and toddlers whose parents are attending Evanston Township High School. Finally, our Family Support Program serves another 72 very young children by providing intensive weekly home visiting and support services to high-need families in Evanston and surrounding communities. One hundred years ago we were visiting families in their homes and today that model of supporting the whole family, not just the child, remains a hallmark of what we do and differentiates us from other community organizations. We are proud of our almost century of service and we are committed to continuing to serve families and children who need our support.

We are also proud to call you a member of our community. We appreciate that you share our passion for ensuring that our very youngest members of society are embraced by programs that meet their needs and help them grow up to be strong, happy and eager to succeed. Without your help, the challenge is daunting. Together, we can make a difference. I thank you deeply for your support.

Cass Wolfe

Fall 2012

September, 2012

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The Sound of Music at IWSE

IWSE hosts a community picnic and concert

On September 5th IWSE hosted a family picnic and concert featuring Miss Carole & Clarence of Macaroni Soup. The duet led a fun-filled sing-along, dance-along, do-along concert that was enjoyed by the more than 50 IWSE families that attended. The concert served as our families' introduction to IWSE's new music and movement training program.



In June of this year, IWSE received a one year grant from the Evanston Community Foundation to provide professional development in music and movement for all IWSE teaching staff and home visitors. The goal of the program is for staff to deepen their understanding of how to use music and movement in their classrooms throughout the day as well as at weekly home visits. IWSE has hired an Infant/Toddler Music Specialist, Miss Carole of Macaroni Soup, to provide the monthly training. In addition to the professional development, the grant also funds two community concerts for IWSE families. The concerts are fun and also provide an opportunity for parents to learn to better utilize music and movement when interacting with their children at home.

We are grateful for our sponsors for the picnic and concert. Along with the Evanston Community Foundation, Whole Foods, Dave's Italian Kitchen and Dengeos generously provided dinner, and Family Focus provided the space. Thank you also to the volunteers from the staff and board of the United Way North Shore and two ETHS students, who set up and served food at the event so that our staff were able to interact with the families.

Warm Your Palate 2.0

Save the date!

Warm Your Palate 2.0 is coming! Our 2nd annual evening fundraising event will be held on Thursday, February 28, 2013. Last year's inaugural event, featuring tasting stations staffed by local and celebrity chefs, was a smashing success. More than \$22,000 was raised to support IWSE's programs providing high-quality early childhood education and family support services for teen parents and low-income families with young children in the city of Evanston and surrounding communities.

The 2nd Annual Warm Your Palate will once again feature tasting stations, wine and whiskey tastings, a live auction and fabulous food. Participating chefs will be announced soon, so mark the date on your calendar! For more information about Warm Your Palate, contact Jennifer Riskind at jenniferriskind@iwse.org.



Baby Toddler Nursery's Annual Open House

Event Spotlight

On Friday, September 21st IWSE's Baby Toddler Nursery hosted its annual open house event for current Baby Toddler Nursery families. The open house is a time for teachers to talk about the mission and philosophy of IWSE as well as discuss specific daily activities that are taking place within the classroom. It is also an opportunity for parents to ask questions and to get to know one another.



Siblings of Baby Toddler Nursery

children visit the E2 classroom during the open house

This year's open house highlighted different countries around the world that represent the diversity of IWSE. Each classroom represented a different country, including the Dominican Republic, Turkey, Japan, Venezuela, Philippines, France, Ghana, Columbia and the United States. Families had the opportunity to visit the different classrooms, see artifacts from each culture and sample delectable food from each country. This multi-cultural open house event embodies the core values of IWSE which are communication, respect, individualization, support, consistency and diversity. Parents were able to spend quality time with their child's classroom teachers, learn about other cultures and bond as a community.



E2 classroom teacher Shiraine Taylor serves foods from the Philippines at the open house

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