



# IWSE

INFANT WELFARE SOCIETY OF EVANSTON

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 1 April 2017

## Spring has Sprung at IWSE!

Every year we are eager for the change in weather and temperature. This year is no different and our children can't wait to get outside to play. Outdoor play and exercise is so important to development. Not only do children get exercise on trikes, bikes, slides but also learn social emotional skills like creativity, sharing and exploration. Exploring the new plants, vegetables and flowers that are growing also add to the learning environment.

This Spring we hope to have outdoor activities as last year, bringing our parents, teachers and staff together to enjoy musical performances, ice cream socials and outdoor cooking classes.

With phones, tablets, social media and computer technology, many of us have forgotten about taking walks in the park together, going down to the lakefront or having a picnic. Spending quality time together with your infants and toddlers is so important to the memories and experiences that they have. Sometimes lying on a blanket in the park or BBQ'ing on a sunny afternoon can be the most memorable and special family time.

We hope you enjoy the sun and warmer weather and get outside and dance, play and sing with your children this Spring! -IWSE Staff



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Some of our children enjoy a sunny Spring day in the back playground at the Baby Toddler Nursery

# Warm Your Palate 2017, an Incredible Success!

What an amazing celebration of food, friends and philanthropy. Over 130 attendees ate, drank and bid on wonderful auction prizes in support of our IWSE families and children on March 2nd, 2017 at Copper and Caviar, recently renovated by Feast and Imbibe.

Two of our amazing parents shared their stories and rallied the crowd and our sponsors to donate a total of just under \$80,000. This was the largest amount raised for one event in our recent history. We can't thank enough our sponsors, donors, guests and the amazing chefs that helped to make this event possible. The food and drink was, as always, incredible. It was the people and the passion for our work that made such a wonderful evening for all that were in attendance.



A very special thank you to all of the donors, sponsors, guests and friends of IWSE. Warm Your Palate 2017 was a success because of you and your commitment to our children and families.

-IWSE Board and Staff

We also want to thank all of the board and staff of IWSE, and specifically the development committee, that made this evening possible. It was truly a special evening.



## Director's Corner:

### **Pam Staples- Baby Toddler Nursery:**

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. National child abuse prevention month is an annual observance in the U.S. dedicated to raising awareness and preventing child abuse. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services states that for national child abuse prevention month, communities should dedicate themselves to being supportive of families, and play an active role in preventing child abuse and neglect, as well as taking positive actions to promote child and family well-being. The majority of child abuses cases result from conditions that can be prevented through community programs, systems, support and intervention.

### **Tiffany Culpepper- Teen Baby Nursery/Family Support:**

Spring is finally here and the children at Teen Baby Nursery are looking forward to spending quite a bit of time outdoors enjoying the beautiful changes of the season. Parent Engagement is a huge part of your child's growth and development, so we encourage all of you to volunteer and spend some time with us outdoors or in the classroom. On April 26th, TBN will host our 1st Parent Breakfast Event at 9am in celebration of the Week of the Young Child. Please join us with your family. This month we are highlighting our new Home Visitor, Aelyn Villegas. Be sure to visit the IWSE Spotlight corner on the back page to check out a few facts about her. Our Family Support program hosts two Parent Groups each month. Please be sure to join in as we have excellent presenters and the discussion topics change each month.





## Upcoming Spring Events and Activities at IWSE!

- Parent Night April 20th at BTN
- Week of the Young Child April 24th thru 28th
- Stop, Drop and Read Wednesday April 26th at 10:00am
- Parent Breakfast April 26th at TBN
- May 6th Volunteer garden planting and clean up day at BTN and TBN.

**Week of the Young Child. Is Monday, April 24th thru Friday, April 28th.**

### Monday:

**Music Monday**

### Tuesday:

**Tasty Tuesday**

### Wednesday:

**Work Together Wednesday**

### Thursday:

**Artsy Thursday**

### Friday:

**Family Friday**

## Early Childhood Directors' Council is Helping to Bring 0-5 Organizations Together in Evanston.

The Evanston Early Childhood Director's Council, made up of over 25 early childhood programs has been working closely to help improve kindergarten readiness and 0-5 efficiency in operations and communication. Just recently we have begun sharing slot availability data in one location that will make the search for early childhood slots far easier for parents.

### Kindergarten Readiness



We have also developed a transition plan that is being shared between 0-3 and 3-5 providers, as much of our challenge of 0-5 program continuity exists in the transition of families from one program to another. If we can share information, with parent consent, we can ensure that screenings, assessments and developmental analysis from teachers and clinicians can follow the child and family to the next program.

This will be a tremendous help in the goal of having all children prepared for kindergarten and ready for success by 5 years old.

## Evanston Cradle to Career Pushes Equity and Beyond Diversity Training for all Partner Organizations.

Evanston Cradle to Career has been working hard to impact our community. There are over 40 organizations working on systems change efforts. One of the core foundational efforts is the work of equity and impacting the educational disparity that exists in Evanston. As EC2C rolls out its 2.0 version for 2017, or our update model that will address some of the challenges and gaps we have learned, we have maintained a focus on equity and Inclusion work for our partner organizations.

To this end, EC2C is offering a Beyond Diversity two day seminar and ongoing SEED trainings that will elevate our conversation about the deeper issues around disparity in our community and attempt to unpack some of the issues that often are never discussed related to race, class and privilege. IWSE is a proud member of the operations team of Evanston Cradle to Career.



## What's Growing in the IWSE Gardens this Spring?

In 2016, IWSE built vegetable garden boxes at Baby Toddler Nursery and Teen Baby Nursery. This Spring on May 6th, we will plant again and look forward to all the vegetables and herbs that our classrooms, teacher and families can enjoy. We hope to bring back healthy cooking classes and utilize some of the vegetables from our garden. Keep an eye out for: ( See if your toddlers know their colors)

**Beans**

**Carrots**

**Eggplant**

**Bell Peppers**

**Tomatoes**

**Lettuce**

**Banana Peppers**

**Kale**

# TBN Parent Spotlight!

In this issue we are putting a spotlight on Miracle Whirley. She is a parent at the Teen Baby Nursery and a dedicated mother and student. She was interviewed by Site Director at TBN, Tiffany Culpepper.



TBN Parent, Miracle Whirley

**Tiffany:** What keeps you motivated as a parent?

**Miracle:** One of the things that keeps me going every day is my beautiful daughter. My mother was my biggest motivator and support system. I try my best to be the best I can be.

**Tiffany:** How has this program supported you and your child?

**Miracle:** I am happy that my child is in care, which makes it easy for me to achieve my own goals and takes the stress away of knowing that my daughter is being cared for. I am accomplishing my educational goals by studying to be a Pharmacy Technician.

**Tiffany:** What advice would you give to other parents?

**Miracle:** My advice to other parents is to stay motivated, there are plenty of times I wanted to stop, but I didn't. Stay motivated at all times and you will succeed.

## A Thank You Letter to the Teachers and Staff of IWSE.

Many organizations do excellent work and are special in their service and commitment they have to children, families and our community. In fact, many of the organizations in Evanston are engaged in partnerships and collaborative opportunities with IWSE.

I must say, however, that our staff consistently go above and beyond when it comes to meeting the needs of our families and children. The passion and love with which they operate is what really makes IWSE special. Our staff understand the importance of 0-3 development and education and are constantly striving to do all they can to ensure the health, education, safety and well being of all our children.

Our relationship to our parents is a critical part of this effort as well. All of our teachers work diligently to build trust, connection and mutual respect with our parents and families. It is a cornerstone of our work and a critical part of our success.

I wanted to thank all of our teachers, staff and leadership for their tireless effort and commitment to the lives of our children and families. Your passion and dedication to IWSE is truly valued and appreciated.

Thank you!

-Stephen, Executive Director

## Contact Us

For more information about becoming involved with your child's school, or learning more of IWSE programs, please contact:

### IWSE

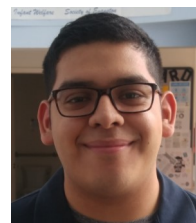
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Donate on line and support our programming today!

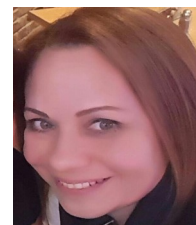
## IWSE Staff Spotlight



Josue Salgado

Josue is a preschool teacher here at Baby Toddler Nursery. He began his services first as a student teacher through the college where he is currently pursuing a degree in Education.

Josue did such a wonderful job bringing in new ideas and building great bonds with the children, Josue brings a special energy to the classroom and we are excited he's here at IWSE.



Aelyn Villegas

Aelyn has been with IWSE for 10 years and recently moved back to our Family Support program. "I love working with children and families and seeing them grow. I look forward to getting to know all of you. I love to, read, dance, and listen to music."

We are grateful Aelyn is staying with our organization and making profound impact with our children and families at IWSE.