

2012 Annual Report



Helping Children and Families Thrive Since 1913

The Infant Welfare Society of Evanston serves Evanston and its surrounding communities with programs that nurture, support and educate the whole family.

From Our Executive Director

This year's Annual Report features three families who face challenging circumstances and who persevere through those circumstances. While you read about these three families please know that there are many more facing challenges and barriers. It is for all of these children and families that we, the staff, Board of Directors, volunteers and donors are committed to making a difference. We are here to help raise families out of poverty. We are here to help educate and nurture both children and parents, to prevent child abuse and to give everyone the chance to succeed. We provide high quality early childhood education in NAEYC accredited programs and visit families in their homes to support the parents' efforts to be the best they can be for their children.

In the last program year, all of our teen parents who were seniors graduated from ETHS. Their children will be raised by high school graduates, not drop outs! And those children will have benefited from our high quality, NAEYC accredited program at Teen Baby Nursery that is dedicated to creating a love for learning and giving children a solid foundation on which to grow and develop. Preliminary data from our Family Support Program shows that the risk of child abuse drops for families enrolled in high quality home visiting services like ours. Helping these parents understand child development and parenting techniques means there are far fewer incidents of abuse and/or neglect. The program reduces isolation, develops parental strengths and supports children's growth and development.

Like our other programs, children at Baby Toddler Nursery are engaged in learning activities and developing social skills every weekday. The first three years of life are critical to later success in school and life. Brain development and overall growth occur rapidly and infants and toddlers thrive in our healthy, safe and caring environments. At Infant Welfare Society of Evanston we use research based curricula, employ highly educated and skilled staff, offer rich learning environments and create strong emotional bonds through caring, individualized relationships.

Our work with young children and families matters! Our work means the young children and families of Evanston have an organization they can turn to for support, education, care, hope and a warm smile every day. We are grateful for your involvement in this wonderful experience. You are truly helping many young children grow! Thank you.



Cass Wolfe

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Our Fiscal Year 2012 Accomplishments

IWSE's pioneering programs have adapted to the times and our community's needs.

- 90 families with 108 young children received weekly home visits through the Family Support Program.
- 56 very low-income children received high-quality early education and care at Baby Toddler Nursery, along with 14 children of higher income families.
- 8 teen moms graduated from high school on time.
- 16 infants and toddlers of teen parents received high-quality early education and care at Teen Baby Nursery.
- 260 children, age 6 weeks to 5 years, were screened for possible developmental delays.
- 55 children received early intervention services including speech, physical therapy and therapeutic play groups.
- 18 volunteers from our community devoted more than 625 hours of service and assistance within IWSE programs.
- IWSE's inaugural evening fund-raising event garnered more than \$22,000 in revenue to support our services and programs for at-risk children and families in our community.

Our Mission

The Infant Welfare Society of Evanston is committed to the care and early education of infants and toddlers and to supporting their families' efforts to be self-sufficient providers and effective parents.





Exceptional Care:

Small classrooms and high teacher-child ratios - 8 children with 3 teachers per classroom.

Highly educated teachers - IWSE teachers have degrees in Early Childhood/Child Development or a related field, with a concentration in Early Childhood.

Our Programs

Baby Toddler Nursery

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When a family lives in poverty, a crisis such as the car needing repairs often cascades into almost insurmountable obstacles. Such was the situation for Diondra, a single mother with two children. An hourly employee, whose hours were cut back temporarily this spring, Diondra fell behind on her bills and ended up losing her apartment and living in her car. Then her car broke down. She had no home, no car, a minimum wage job and two young children.

When Diondra had to ask the Site Manager at Baby Toddler Nursery to borrow bus fare to get to her job, we understood that she needed far more than bus fare that day. She needed us to listen and offer support, and she needed to know where to turn for help. By connecting her to our community partners, Diondra was referred to a shelter. Unfortunately the only shelter with 3 beds was in the far southwest suburbs. To get her 9 year old son TJ to school and her 1 year-old daughter Bree to child care at Baby Toddler Nursery in time for her to get to work, the family took two buses and a train. Their daily commute was 2 hours each way. The family had to leave the shelter before breakfast was served and came home long after the kitchen was closed for dinner. Bree had trouble sleeping at the shelter and TJ started acting out at school.

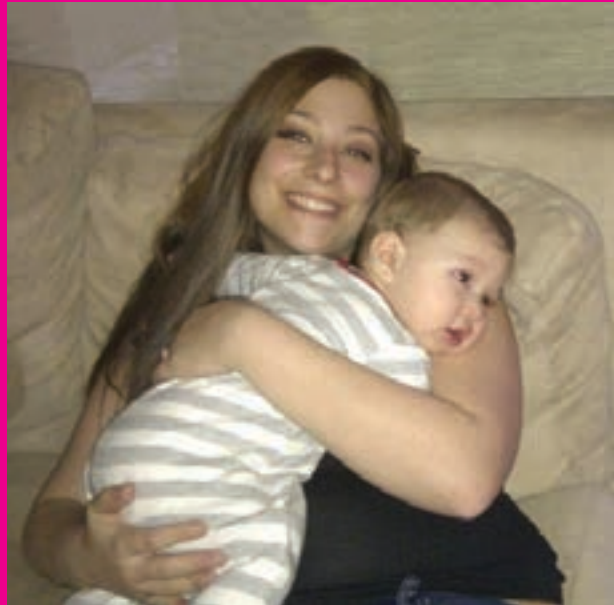
Many child care centers focus on the children during the day, and when the last child leaves, their jobs are over. But at the Infant Welfare Society of Evanston, the commitment to strengthening families means supporting the entire family, in the center, at home, and within the community. Bree's teachers and other staff at Baby Toddler Nursery reached out with help and resources.



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TJ and Diondra were often given breakfast along with Bree when she was dropped off and staff packed food to take for the commute back to the shelter at night. IWSE staff became a critical part of her support system, always there to listen, make phone calls to connect her to services and encourage her to stay strong.

Diondra has come to think of IWSE and Baby Toddler as much more than an early care and education center – IWSE is family, and an integral part of the family's daily life. The close personalized attention Bree receives on a daily basis extends to her whole family, giving them one more solid resource to lean on in times of need. By instilling hope we strengthen and support the whole community. Diondra's perseverance paid off and she has now successfully transitioned her family from the shelter to an apartment, and Bree and TJ are thriving. And IWSE's Baby Toddler Nursery is still part of their family.



Core Values:

The Infant Welfare Society of Evanston is dedicated to providing the highest quality child care and early education, guided by our Core Values:

- **Communication**
- **Respect**
- **Individualization**
- **Support**
- **Consistency**
- **Diversity**

Our Programs

Family Support Program

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Parenting is hard under the best of circumstances. When a parent has no support system, child care knowledge or experience, it is overwhelming. Just ask Margarita. Margarita had her son Jason when she was 21 and in her final year of college. She had no experience with babies, had never baby-sat and was even afraid to hold a baby. Margarita would be the first to tell you that her biggest parenting struggle was that she had no idea what to do with her baby and had never imagined how much work it would be. Upon learning she was pregnant, Margarita was paralyzed with the fear that she would not be able to cope. How would she finish school? Raise a child? Support a child? While researching parenting classes on line, Margarita came across IWSE's web site, and learned that our Family Support Program offered the help and support she needed.

Through the program Margarita received weekly home visits that focused on setting goals and taking steps to achieve them. She also finished college. While finishing college, her home visitor brought her job listings and information on job fairs. Through one of these fairs Margarita obtained a full time job with benefits, making strides toward her future goals and bringing her a sense of security she could build on with her child. Weekly home visits gave Margarita the tools to be a successful parent and her employment enabled her to support her family. Working with her home visitor, she learned what to expect at each stage of her baby's development. She learned games and activities she could do with Jason to support his learning. She turned to IWSE staff for questions that all new parents have, from when to start her son on solid food, to when was it best to start potty training. Margarita's home visitor helped her gain the strength, understanding and tools to be a better, smarter, more successful parent. Each young child needs a good start, and all parents deserve a helping hand.

The Family Support Program is there to lend that help, because when each family succeeds, the fabric of the community as a whole is strengthened.



Supporting Parent and Child:

- **99% of Teen Baby nursery parents have graduated in recent years - and many go on to college.**
- **Nationwide, only 47% of teen mothers complete high school.**

Our Programs

Teen Baby Nursery

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Unlike 53% of children born to teen parents, Sofia will grow up knowing her mom graduated from high school.

Massa was a 16 year old junior at Evanston Township High School when she found out she was pregnant. Massa knew she needed help to stay in school, manage her time, and graduate. And she needed help to learn how to be a parent. She contacted Infant Welfare Society of Evanston's Teen Baby Nursery when she started pre-natal care, and began to work with the program during her pregnancy. Once Sofia was 6 weeks old, she started at Teen Baby Nursery, where she thrived. Sofia's father was not involved in her life, so Massa leaned heavily on the Teen Baby Nursery staff for support, encouragement and guidance.

Every month Massa set goals for Sofia with Sofia's teachers and worked with them to accomplish the goals. This practice helped her learn to manage her own time. Having Sofia in Teen Baby Nursery also helped Massa stay on track with her school work, because she knew that staying in school was the best option for her daughter, herself and their future. Teen Baby's safe, supportive environment enabled Massa to focus on her schoolwork and future goals, knowing that her daughter was growing and learning under the expert guidance of IWSE's teachers.

Because Infant Welfare Society of Evanston helped Massa overcome many obstacles as a teen mom, she graduated on time this past June. This fall she started a four-year nursing program at Southern Illinois University. She has university housing and is living on her own, starting a new chapter for herself and Sofia. Teen Baby Nursery gives teens like Massa the opportunity to acquire the tools they need to succeed. We believe that helping teen moms get on the road to success helps the whole community thrive.

Our Financial Outlook

Statement of Activities for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2012

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Temporarily Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>
REVENUE, GAINS, & OTHER SUPPORT			
Grants from Government Agencies	\$1,717,691	\$ —	\$1,717,691
Contributions and Grants	163,979	56,000	219,979
United Way Contributions	40,000	—	40,000
Special Events & Fundraising Activities	136,896	—	136,896
Program Service Fees	308,160	—	308,160
Investment Return	1,153	—	1,153
Miscellaneous	3,964	—	3,964
Total Revenues and Gains	<u>2,371,843</u>	<u>56,000</u>	<u>2,427,843</u>
Net Assets Released from Restrictions satisfied by payments	51,737	(51,737)	—
Total Revenues, Gains and Other Support	<u>\$2,423,580</u>	<u>\$4,263</u>	<u>\$2,427,843</u>
EXPENSES			
Program Services:			
Baby Toddler Nursery	\$921,243	\$ —	\$921,243
Teen Baby Nursery	184,507	—	184,507
Early Head Start Program*	900,621	—	900,621
Family Support Program	239,808	—	239,808
Supporting Services:			
Management, Development & General	121,021	—	121,021
Fundraising Expenses	28,736	—	28,736
Total Expenses	<u>\$2,395,936</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>\$2,395,936</u>
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$27,644	\$4,263	\$31,907
NET ASSET BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$1,375,247	\$51,737	\$1,426,984
NET ASSET END OF YEAR	\$1,402,891	\$56,000	\$1,458,891

*The Early Head Start Program is funded under a contract with the Childcare Network of Evanston



Thank You to Our Supporters

Contributions to the Infant Welfare Society of Evanston ensure our children thrive and enter school eager to learn.

The following list reflects all donations of \$100 or more made to IWSE between July 1, 2011 and June 30, 2012.

For a complete list of donors for fiscal year 2012, including Social Capers contributors, contact Jennifer Riskind at jenniferriskind@iwse.org.

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Our Staff

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Executive Director

Buket Ozer
Director of Administration

Jennifer Riskind
Director of Development &
Communication

Pamela Staples
Site Manager, Baby Toddler Nursery

Jessica King
Manager, Family Support Program

Kamilah Wilson
Site Manager, Teen Baby Nursery

Sherronda Bohanon
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*Employment is listed for information purposes only.



Infant Welfare Society of Evanston

Administrative Offices & Baby Toddler Nursery

2200 Main Street
Evanston, IL 60202
847-491-9650

Family Support Program

1416 Lake Street
Evanston, IL 60201
847-563-8344

Teen Baby Nursery

2010 Dewey Avenue
Evanston, IL 60201
847-864-6945

Credits:

Designed by Stacia Campbell

Photography by Lori Stralow Harris

Written by Jennifer Riskind