



September Newsletter  
September, 2013

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**Centennial News**

**Join Us!**

**CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION**

**Monday November 4, 2013 from 6:00-9:00PM**

**at FOUND Restaurant in Evanston**

Plan to join us as we celebrate 100 years of commitment, service and support to the Evanston community!

Highlights of the evening will include an exhibit of IWSE's history and a video showcasing our mission and work with at-risk children and families.

As one of the hottest restaurants in town, FOUND will serve as an exciting backdrop to this special celebration.

Don't miss this terrific event! Online reservations can be made at [www.iwse.org](http://www.iwse.org)

**Centennial Fact:**

Did you know Baby Toddler Nursery was the first independently licensed Infant Toddler Center in Illinois?

**Family Spotlight**

**A family says good-bye and thank you!**

From time to time, as a family leaves IWSE, we have the opportunity for an interview. The following was completed in May, 2013, before the family moved out of town. We spoke with both of Tez's parents, Maricela and Orlando. Maricela shares her experience with IWSE below:

"Tez was about four months old when we started care at IWSE, and were here for two years. It is the best experience I could have imagined. I looked at many day cares and have never regretted my choice. I love this place!

"The ratio in the classroom is wonderful - 3 adults to 8 children - no one has this anywhere! As my son grew older and transitioned to a new classroom, he was given time to get used to the new room. It also helped that one of his former teachers transitioned to this classroom shortly after, and he remembered her right away!

## Quick Links

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(Maricela, Tez and Orlando)

"We have so much available for parents and children at IWSE. We have great resources - a psychologist, and speech pathologist for children needing help. I want all parents to know of these services if their children need extra help.

"When my husband first went to basic training, Tez missed his dad a lot and had a very hard time. This time was stressful for my son - he was depressed and slept a lot, wouldn't eat, and wouldn't play with his friends. It was tough for a while. His teachers allowed him to find his own space and offered support in individual and group play groups to help him through this time. We talked all the time about how he was doing and how they could help both of us. They were great support for me as well - they made time to talk with me and were very supportive of our family.

"In the first month after my husband left, Tez's teachers worked on a letter from Tez to his dad - a day in the life of Tez at IWSE. It was filled with stories and pictures. His teachers laminated it and sent to my husband. I didn't even ask them to do this - his teachers just did it for our family. It was the best thing that could have happened. His dad kept it on his locker and looked at it every day to make himself feel better.

"We will be moving to join my husband later this month. We will miss everyone here very much."

*Check our next month's newsletter for our interview with Tez's dad, Orlando.*

## Supporter Spotlight:

### Meet Ann Mommsen

Ann Mommsen is a long-time friend of the Infant Welfare Society of Evanston. She is currently a member of the Development & Communications Committee and has been an active supporter of our work since the 1970's. We met recently to reflect on her experiences over the years.

Ann was introduced to IWSE through a friend in the IWSE Service League in the early 1970's. The Service League was comprised of the youngest members of the Infant Welfare Society of Evanston Auxiliary. Monthly luncheon meetings were hosted at member's homes, and included traditions such as lunch served on wicker trays that were passed from house to house monthly.

IWSE had a vast membership from throughout the North Shore at that time. The membership was made up of several different groups; the Service League, Junior Board, Senior Board and the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee was the most hands-on group, a true "working board" that managed the business of the organization and oversaw Baby Toddler Nursery. The criteria for Executive Committee membership was that one needed to be a former Junior Board president.

Ann was first a member of the Service League, then was invited to serve on the Junior and Senior Boards. Ann served as Chairman of the Executive Committee in 1992-1993, culminating her 20 years of service and commitment to Infant Welfare Society of Evanston. Reflecting on her years with IWSE, Ann noted the biggest difference between then and now was that in the 70's, the volunteer boards were both social and work groups.

Women often invited their friends to get involved as part of this social atmosphere. During this time, the work of the many standing committees of the various Boards was considerable. Members organized and sponsored events such as The Great American Horse Show and Social Capers as ways to raise money for IWSE programming. Volunteering at Baby Toddler Nursery was another important activity for many members of the committees. Thinking about IWSE today, a difference Ann notes is that today's board is diverse and includes IWSE parents and local business leaders.

After Ann completed her term on the Executive Committee, she returned to full time employment as Director of Special Events at Notre Dame High School, until her retirement in 2011. She re-connected with IWSE by joining the Development Committee in 2012, and is delighted to serve IWSE once again. Most of all, Ann is happy to reconnect her friends from board days past to the current work of IWSE, "to learn what is new again." We are thrilled and grateful to share Ann's wisdom and experience in her continued support of IWSE.



(Ann Mommsen)

## Our Donors

IWSE would like to thank the generosity of the following supporters, who made donations between June 15, 2013 and September 1, 2013

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