

Infant Welfare Society of Evanston



Spring Newsletter
April 2014

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Warm Your Palate 2014

On February 27, 2014, on another challenging winter evening, the Infant Welfare Society of Evanston celebrated its third annual "Warm Your Palate." Harsh weather did not deter more than 100 guests from enjoying an evening of scrumptious food and camaraderie. The event raised more than \$32,000 in support of IWSE's high-quality early childhood education and family support programs.

Seven chefs joined us this year at Now We're Cookin', our event home these past years. A "Who's Who" of local chefs included Brian Huston, recently of The Publican, and soon to be chef at Boltwood; Nicole Pederson of FOUND Kitchen and Social House; David Perlick of Terra American Bistro; Eric Mansavage of Farmhouse Evanston; D'Andre Carter and Heather Bublick of Feast & Imbibe; Armando Gonzalez of Libertad and Marcos Ramos and Hilario Vilchis of La Macchina Cafe. An opulent sweet table was provided by pastry chef and local Evanston resident, Dia Walsh. Temperance Beer Company proffered tastings of their craft brews for our guests to enjoy as they sampled delicious food.



(FOUND sous chefs prepare their delicious tastings.)

One of the unique aspects of this evening was the chance for guests to talk with the talented chefs and learn their stories and inspirations for the food they create. This year, especially, our chefs enjoyed a spirited camaraderie with their peers. They shared tips and experiences as new and seasoned restaurateurs in Evanston and Skokie, and made time to enjoy each other's dishes.

A five-night stay at the Radisson Resort, Casino and Spa in Aruba was the live auction's top prize. A five-course Thai dinner for eight, a Girl's Night Out package for 25 at Pure Barre in Evanston and dinner for four at Oceanique completed the live auction offerings.

Did You Know?

We're participating in the Evanston Rotary Club's 2014 Pizza Fest. A portion of the proceeds will benefit our programs for at-risk families in the community. This event will be held May 13 from 4:30 - 8:30 pm at Giordano's Pizzeria in Evanston. Tickets for unlimited pizza and soda are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children. To purchase tickets, contact Mary Burke-Peterson @ maryburkepeterson@iwse.org. Eat pizza and support IWSE!

We celebrate Week of the Young Child from April 6-12! Find us on Facebook for updates on our activities and all the fun!

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Infant-Welfare-Society-of-Evanston/122956364394735>

We are now registered with the Amazon Smiles program. Amazon will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to IWSE through this program. This is the same Amazon you have known and been shopping with in the past. Learn more and start shopping at smile.amazon.com.

Infant Welfare Society of Evanston would like to thank our sponsors, Leapfrog Online, First Bank and Trust, Cheryl Rohlfs and Associates, Peter and Carolyn Mattox, Ward Manufacturing, Temperance Beer Company, and Schaefer's Wines, Foods and Spirits for helping to underwrite the evening, as well as Joseph Leigh Designs for providing the decor.



(Pat Close, Jack Close of First Bank and Trust, Cass Wolfe, IWSE's Executive Director, and Nell Funk, owner of Now We're Cookin', enjoy the food and conversation at Warm Your Palate)

Donor Spotlight

As we noted in our last newsletter, in November, 2013, a \$50,000 gift to seed an endowment was made by longtime friends of the Infant Welfare Society of Evanston. Our benefactors have known of IWSE for many years through other charitable endeavors. Recently, we spoke with the donors to learn some of the reasons they chose to establish this endowment.

After carefully researching our mission and programs, they selected IWSE as a sound investment for meeting the goals of their foundation. Their mission focuses on educational programs as a means to advance the needs of children and youth. They believe that "we must invest in early childhood education to ensure a viable and productive future for all children. A sound start for even the youngest child offers an opportunity to thrive and grow beyond the limitations life may impose." As philanthropists, they recognize the importance of a solid financial footprint to guarantee future stability and growth of an organization. They understand annual public funding for early childhood education programs can be unpredictable, challenging this needed stability. Their hope in establishing an endowment for IWSE is to generate interest income through careful fiscal management of this gift. This will offer annual support for IWSE programs that will live well beyond the initial investment.

IWSE has always responded to the changing needs of families with young children in our community, and we look to our new century with anticipation. As the endowment grows, it will help ensure infants and toddlers in IWSE programs will continue to thrive. As our donors noted, they will to gain needed cognitive, social-emotional, physical and language skills that are the

foundation for future school and life success. We are deeply grateful our donors chose to make our work part of their legacy.

At our Centennial event last November, we challenged ourselves to match the seed gift by the end of our fiscal year in June 2014. Through the generosity of many in attendance, nearly \$27,000 was pledged that evening to support this ambitious goal. If you are interested in learning more about how to support IWSE's endowment, please contact Jennifer Riskind at 847-491-9650.

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IWSE would like to thank the generosity of the following donors, who made gifts between November 22, 2013 and February 28, 2013

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