



**Spring 2013**  
March, 2013

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## From the Desk of our Executive Director

There is a special number in the world of infants and toddlers - 1095. That is the number of days of life between a baby's birth and age 3. While three years may seem like a long time to an adult, it is actually a small amount of time for a child at high risk of not getting what they need - of falling behind his or her peers on the FIRST DAY of Kindergarten. Imagine what it would be like to be behind when you walk in the door that first day of kindergarten.

At Infant Welfare Society of Evanston, our job is to do everything we can to make sure that each young child leaves our program ahead of the curve and not behind. And we have a big job -- fully 95% of our IWSE children are at-risk, low income, almost all of them are living in poverty, How do we ensure our children are ahead of the curve?  
IWSE:

- Offers 50 hours of high quality early learning and care programming to 86 children each week
- Supports the depressed new mother afraid to leave her house by coming to her with home visits
- Provides high quality early care and education for the children of teen moms in high school so the moms can graduate and create a promising future for their family
- Teaches parents to understand what their baby's cries mean as part of our effort to reduce child abuse and shaken baby syndrome

What we do matters. Our work is vital and life-altering. We give every child an advantage, and the ability to thrive in their first 1095 days!

Cass Wolfe

## IWSE Turns 100!

### Celebrating our Centennial: 100 Years of Service to the Community

In 1913, a group of visionary women in Evanston became so concerned over the local infant mortality rate that they founded the Infant Welfare Society of Evanston. At its inception, they focused on distributing pasteurized milk to low income families in the community. By 1918, Society members realized the true issue contributing to infant mortality was the lack of access to immunizations and well child health care for disadvantaged children. That year Infant Welfare Society women opened their first prenatal and pediatric health clinic in Evanston. By the 1940's there were as many as 12 clinics, called stations, operating in Evanston. As a result, infant mortality in Evanston was reduced from 60 deaths per 1,000 births to 2.



(a child at Baby Toddler Nursery in April 1971)

100 years later, Infant Welfare Society of Evanston is still meeting the needs of the youngest and most vulnerable members of our community, pioneering programs that adapt to the time and changing community needs. As 2013 is our Centennial, we will be celebrating this milestone throughout the year. In all upcoming publications, e-blasts and on our web site and Facebook page, the Infant Welfare Society of Evanston will have information on Centennial events, anecdotes of our historical milestones and reminiscences from former members, volunteers and even program participants. We hope you will join us in celebrating 100 years of service to the community and our commitment to another 100 years of excellence!

**Centennial Fact:** In 1925, IWSE added a psychiatric social worker to the staff, making the pioneering connection between mental/behavioral health and physical health outcomes.

## **Family Fun Night**

**The Family Support Program Celebrates Mardi Gras**

“Let the Good Times Roll - Come Celebrate Mardi Gras” was the theme of the mid-winter Family Support Program's Family Fun Night, held on February 21, 2013 at the Evanston Ecology Center. More than twenty families, including forty-four children came to share in the festivities.



As families arrived, they were welcomed with the traditional green, gold and purple Mardi Gras beads and sat down to a delicious Mexican dinner. Following dinner, the evening's events began. Staff read a story about Mardi Gras and how it is celebrated in many parts of the world. Then a variety of activities, including cookie decorating, mask and jewelry making, face painting and dress up were enjoyed by the children and their parents. Creativity, excitement and fun filled the room for the next hour as families moved from one station to the next. The activities offered a chance for parents and children to work together on projects, and to take home simple and colorful works of art that could be displayed and easily replicated at home. The evening ended with a surprise - through the generosity of friends of IWSE, many gently used clothing items were shared with our families. As winter still had its hold on Evanston, hats, gloves, boots, sweaters and more quickly found their way to new and appreciative homes.



The Family Support Program offers Family Fun Nights four times a year. Each evening celebrates a specific theme to encourage parent-child interaction and offer ideas for fun-filled, safe and educational learning. The next one will be held on May 16th. If you are interested in learning more or supporting these events, please contact Jessica King, Family Support Program Manager, at 837-563-8344.

## Warm Your Palate Sells Out

### Capacity Crowd Supports IWSE

The Infant Welfare Society of Evanston's second annual "Warm Your Palate" event helped offset the cold evening this past February 28th. Building on the success of last year's inaugural event, IWSE welcomed 120 guests at Now We're Cookin' in Evanston. This culinary journey raised funds to support our programs for infants, toddlers and their families and initiated our Centennial celebration with a display of several archival photographs.

Six chefs, including Brian Huston of The Publican; Vince di Battista of Campagnola; Jeff Perin from Davis Street Fishmarket; David Perlick, owner of Terra Bistro; Porfirio Balderas of That Little Mexican Cafe and Geoff Felsenthal, an instructor at The International Institute of Art, offered guests a culinary excursion. They provided scrumptious appetizers, and shared not only their food expertise, but also their insights and experiences as chefs. North Shore Distillery provided spirits and cocktail tastings, and the Irish Dairy Board again donated their artisanal cheeses to add to the wonderful and diverse tastes of the evening. A beautiful sweet table with desserts provided by Tag's Bakery in Evanston invited guests to complete their dining excursion.

Event sponsorship, ticket sales, a spirited live auction (including a 5-night stay in St. Maarten and a catered dinner for 8 in your home) along with the "Fund-a-Need" bid combined to raise more than \$34,000! These funds support IWSE's high-quality early childhood education and family support programs for teen parents and low-income families with young children in Evanston and surrounding communities. The event was an enormous success, selling out with a capacity crowd and raising 54% more than last year's event. Special thanks to the evening's sponsors: First Bank & Trust, Leapfrog Online, Hagerty Consulting, Ward Manufacturing and Cheryl Rohlfs & Associates. Plan to join us next year and we promise another great evening of food, friend and fundraising in support of IWSE!



(IWSE Executive Director Cass Wolfe, former IWSE President Mary Moran, and Board Member Michael Corr)

For more pictures from the event, check out our web site:

[www.iwse.org/events/warm-your-palate/](http://www.iwse.org/events/warm-your-palate/)

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(A day in the life of children at Baby Toddler Nursery)



(Outdoor time for children in Baby Toddler Nursery's P2 classroom)