



OAK PARK RIVER FOREST

Infant Welfare Society

Children's Clinic • Portable Dentistry • Health Education

Dear Grantor:

The OPRF Infant Welfare Society is no longer publishing an annual report. While we used to pre-pandemic, we have chosen to produce a simple FY23 Summary of Activities instead finding this to be an equally informative and cost-savings approach. I would also be happy to share any additional information upon request.

Sincerely,

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FY23 Summary of Activities

We started off the year with a community celebration and ribbon-cutting for our new facility at 28 Madison Street in Oak Park. This was a wonderful opportunity to show off our new clinic, grow awareness of our work, and further engage the community.

In terms of notable accomplishments, our focus this year has been to strengthen our core programs in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Before sharing some of the specifics of FY23, we want to express our profound appreciation to our community and foundation partners in acknowledgement of all they have done to support the Infant Welfare Society and our Children's Clinic. By coming together to support a shared mission, we are ensuring disadvantaged Chicago-area children have access to comprehensive health care.



With this, here are our most notable activities from July 2022 to June 2023:

- In October 2022, we resumed our **Portable Dental Program** after shutting down in March 2020 due to federal mandates and school closures. We needed to reallocate staff and schedule schools anew. Although the program started later than in former years, we still were able to treat 1,236 children in 26 schools.
- In November 2022, we added an **additional dental operatory**, bringing our total number of chairs to seven. The seventh operatory is equipped with a standard x-ray and nitrous oxide system, and works in tandem with our existing stations. With this new addition to our dental suite, we are minimizing wait times and can support a broader professional staff.



- We are taking advantage of a recent change in dentistry for public health clinics such as the Children’s Clinic that allows **certified dental assistants to scale** existing (uncomplicated) patients, up to the age of 18. Four of our dental assistants have been trained and will scale patients in the clinic and in our Portable Dental Program. This shift enables us to keep the more costly hygienist staffing at a minimum.
- Our social worker completed 15 sessions with a **clinical supervisor**. These sessions support the professional development of our staff, as this is a requirement to achieve LCSW credentials.
- IWS members hosted successful events in FY23, including their annual Holiday Housewalk in December 2022 and the Tee It Up For Healthy Kids Golf Outing in September 2022. Members also continue to volunteer at the Economy Shop in Oak Park, an Auxiliary fundraiser.
- During the Spring, we assembled a **nutrition task force** composed of dietary academics working in hospitals, universities, non-profits and publishing. The charge of this group was to make a recommendation of ways in which the Children’s Clinic can develop a collaborative proposal for funding a part-time nutritionist who will design and lead a multi-faceted nutrition program for our patients and other children in the community.
- The Infant Welfare Society members continue to conduct a series of activities to benefit IWS patients. Beyond fundraising, IWS members also made blankets, assembled activity bags, and collected 600 books for the Giving Library. Members also hosted a Holiday Party for IWS patients.



Before closing, we were disappointed to realize that our efforts to pursue a partnership with a federally qualified health center (FQHC) are not feasible at present. With Medicaid redetermination and other financial pressures on FQHCs, the risk of moving forward proved too much for both sides. We are currently in the process of evaluating other reimbursement options and continue to successfully fund our operations due to the commitment of our members, volunteers and donors.

Nelson Mandela once said, *“There can be no keener revelation of a society’s soul than the way in which it treats its children.”* The Oak Park River Forest Infant Welfare Society sets an example for the manner in which society can rally to ensure that children grow up to live happy, healthy and productive lives.

