Dear Auxiliary Members,

As we welcome spring from the safety of our homes, I want to thank you for your continued dedication to the Auxiliary and your contributions to another successful year. The challenges of running a clinic in the current environment are many, but the ability of the Infant Welfare Society to rely on the Auxiliary as a loyal partner is heartening. The clinic's staff deeply appreciates the monetary gifts and donations of supplies they have received from many of our members during this time.

I know it hasn't been "business as usual" for our board and our chapters for the last several weeks. It is wonderful to see how our members have kept the ball rolling while confined to their homes and relying on virtual meetings. A special thanks to the Hinsdale and the Lake Forest Chapters for the flexibility required because of the need to postpone their events. "Tablescapes" will now be held on September 20 and Lake Forest will schedule its Showhouse as soon as it is deemed safe to do so.

As I complete my final year as president, I would like to acknowledge some of the women with whom I have had the privilege of working. I owe a big thank you to my Co-President, Lynda Given. It has been a pleasure working with someone who thoroughly understands the needs of the organization and knows how to get the job done. Thank you also to Executive Board members Lisa Haines, 1st VP; Maria Enright, 2nd VP; Sara DeKuiper, 3rd VP; Liz Berglund, Treasurer; Arlene Simunek, Recording Secretary; and Jennifer Mower, Corresponding Secretary. Your energy, enthusiasm and reliability are very much appreciated. I also want to express my appreciation to the Auxiliary Chapter Presidents and Program Coordinators for their service on the Board this last year. You have all been instrumental in leading the effort to raise much-needed funds and bring important programs to the clinic's patients. As any past president knows, having the support of Maria Penland, our Auxiliary Coordinator, is essential. Thank you, Maria, for being by my side for the last 3 years.

The Auxiliary's new website was launched at the end of April. Please take a moment to visit it. The new format is a great resource for information on our upcoming events and patient...
programs. There is also a new section which will allow our members to access the Auxiliary's calendar and directory, meeting minutes and important documents.

The Auxiliary Officers for FY2021 are: Lynda Given and Liz Berglund, Co-Presidents; Kimberly O'Gorman, 1st VP; Maria Enright, 2nd VP; Sara DeKuiper and myself, Co-Treasurers; Kelley Gibson, Recording Secretary; and Jennifer Mower, Corresponding Secretary. Congratulations to this great team of women!

I wish you all a safe and healthy summer, and I look forward to adding another year to the remarkable work of our Auxiliary on behalf of the patients of the Infant Welfare Society!

Sharon Smith

A Message from Co-President Lynda Given

Dear Auxiliary Members,

Please join me in extending a warm thank you to Sharon Smith for serving as our President for the 2017-2019 term and as our Co-President for 2019-2020. As her Co-President for the past year, I have witnessed first-hand her dedication to and care for our organization. In particular, I have thoroughly enjoyed problem-solving with her. She brought tremendous thoughtfulness, clarity and reason to every problem that presented itself and to every initiative we undertook. And, she did it with a great sense of humor and lightheartedness that made every endeavor really fun. Her commitment and service to the Auxiliary are unparalleled.

Sharon, I will miss our many phone calls, but I look forward to continuing to work with you as our Co-Treasurer. Most importantly, I feel we began the year as colleagues and ended it as true friends. I value your friendship beyond words and am so grateful for it.

Wishing all of our members the very best,
Lynda Given

Clinic Update

The Clinic is open and operating in accordance with CDC guidelines. The staff is doing well child visits in the morning and sick visits in the afternoon. They are counseling patients via telehealth in both medicine and behavioral health, and continue to see expectant moms. Non-essential staff is working remotely to keep all operations humming along.

Any COVID-19 symptoms reported by staff are regularly monitored. The temperatures of staff members are taken twice each day. So far, six staff members have tested positive for COVID-19 and twenty have tested negative. Staff is in short supply of disposable gowns and they are out of Lysol. They are using Clorox for cleaning purposes.

Cradles to Crayons has donated 40 packages of supplies that are addressing the needs of 40 families with specific needs such as clothes, diapers, wipes and toys.

The staff has started putting out food on a community table for needy families suffering from layoffs. Any donations of canned goods are appreciated.

Finally, a huge thank you to our Auxiliary members for responding so generously to the Clinic’s recent request
for donations to assist with its battle against COVID-19. Donations made to the Clinic support vital responses to the pandemic, including seeing sick patients at the Clinic, testing equipment and telehealth counseling for patients. IWS is committed to doing everything possible to ensure the health and safety of its patients and staff. But, they can only do this with your help. Please go to https://infantwelfaresociety.org/donate-covid19/ to support their efforts.

New Auxiliary Website

If you haven't already done so, please take a look at our new website that we launched on April 24. (http://infantwelfaresocietyauxiliary.org) A special thank you to our Website Program Coordinator, Michelle Crowe (Hinsdale Chapter), Maria Penland, Marge Tresley, Lynda Given and Sharon Smith for their contributions to the design and content of the new site.

For further information on these events -

Click here to view the calendar

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