



# Inner Wheel U.S.A. Foundation



*"Turning Possibilities into Realities"*

innerwheelusa.com

February 2019

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## A MESSAGE FROM CHAIRMAN CHRISTINE.....

Dear IWUSA Sisters,

### Our Celebration Continues...

As we approach February Foundation month in our 30th year celebrating "Turning Possibilities into Realities" we have yet another milestone to be celebrated this February! In February 2003 we partnered with Hanger Clinic, Inc. then called Hanger Prosthetics and Orthotics. This February 2019 we celebrate 16 years!! As a reminder Hanger Clinic's logo includes "Empowering Human Potential".....it is so fitting with our 2018 -19 International Inner Wheel theme "Empower and Evolve."



We continue to empower children by opening possibilities by providing limbs and hands for children without insurance through Hanger Clinic so that children through the age of 18 can meet the challenges of living in a two-handed world. Technology has **turned possibilities into realities** for so many, 78 and counting! We see that in the pictures we have of the recipients: their smiles, their activities, their athletics in the recipient notebook each club has which is updated in the Spring. This year we have seen two recipients with partial hand prosthetics, Raven and Zach receiving i-touch bionic prosthetics. Both have entered college. Use the pictures and stories of our recipients at your club and District meetings...**CELEBRATE** how each of **YOU** through contributions and fundraisers great and small have **EMPOWERED** children to have this possibility become reality. They are part of our Inner Wheel USA family.

Our contribution goals have increased over the years. In 2005 the dream of one million dollars was achieved and now in 2018-2019 a goal of two million is within reach! It is with all of **you**, our members, our clubs, our Districts, friends, IWUSA Governing Board and IWUSA Foundation Board Trustees ....your time, your dedication, energy and contributions that we continue. **THANK YOU!!** Our efforts and love of this Myo-electric Limb Project continues with great energy, leadership and enthusiasm.

Our next **IWUSA Conference in San Antonio ,Texas September 4th - 7th** is one not to be missed! There will be many great, workshops, events and speakers. On Friday Sept. 6, 2019 at the IWUSA Foundation Luncheon you will have the opportunity to meet and hear our special guest **Pedro Pimenta**, a quadriplegic helped by Hanger Clinic, who was featured in our Spring 2018 newsletter. We are also having a workshop Foundation 411- becoming a Foundation Coordinator. **So Check the website : [www.innerwheelusa.com](http://www.innerwheelusa.com) for schedule and registration!**

We have a dynamic IWUSA Foundation Project : the Myo-electric limb Project with a powerful challenge: **"Turning Possibilities into Realities"** We are celebrating 30 years of continuing to **Empower and Evolve**. Other countries have their own national foundations doing many areas of service to others and all Inner Wheel clubs around the world support our International Inner Wheel dedication to service to others.

Continue to **Empower and Evolve** to provide opportunities for children needing myo-electric limbs who do not have insurance to **"Turn all their Possibilities into Realities"**. **Let's continue to CELEBRATE!!!**

*Christine*

Chairman, IWUSA Foundation, Inc.

# CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF GIVING A HAND

REMEMBERING - THE SECOND 10 YEARS - 1998 - 2008

*Through the memories of its Chairmen*



Our Fall 2018 Newsletter captured those milestones that set the groundwork for a strong, focused and vibrant IWUSA Foundation. By the time the second decade (1998-2008) evolved, partnerships had been established and some changes would be necessary. All the while our Chairmen and trustees never took their eyes off the “prize” - Giving a Child a Hand. As we highlight this second decade some of its chairmen paused to share their remembrances.

**B**arbara Schmidt says she continues to be amazed at the tenacity and selflessness of the women who have served as chairmen and trustees. Along with her husband Michael they submitted the phrase, “Give a child a hand” which eventually became our Foundation slogan.

**M**elba Rilott writes, “I was elected Chairman in 2002. Adding to the blueprint of my challenge I set two goals. First, our investments were doing well and I would strive to reach \$1,000,000.00 in assets by the end of my term. Unfortunately the 9-11 attack on our towers put a damper on the portfolio, but we survived.

Second, we wanted to partner with Hanger. We had to reappoint a Project Development Coordinator. Becky Donhost accepted. I praise Becky to this day for her expertise and medical professionalism as she had several meetings with Hanger to negotiate an agreement of “partnership”. With Board approval she signed the contract on January 7, 2004.

A brochure -“Planning Tips for IWUSA Clubs” suggesting long range estate planning as well as a Benefactor form was approved by the board and distributed to all the Clubs and Districts; program ideas were nurtured”.

**J**oan Cotton recalls that her chairmanship began shortly after the contract was signed with Hanger clinics. “Becky Donhost and I attended the Hanger Ed Fair in Reno, NV and presented Hanger with our Foundation check. Prior to my chairmanship I developed a special bond with Andres Alvarez, our first recipient. He participated in all types of sports, even wrestling. Today he serves on the Santa Cruz Police Department. He’s given back to his community as a mentor to children facing challenges and serving as a member of Santa Cruz Search & Rescue. How proud we should all be to see our work in action!”

**S**uzane Sadofsky recalls that her husband Dan was a great supporter of the Foundation and while she served as a trustee in 2005 he accompanied her on a trip to upstate New York to visit an 8-year old recipient named Billy. “Not too long ago I spoke to Billy’s mom, Suzane said, and she told me he’ll be graduating from college this Spring”. Every Chairman seems to have one special recipient that touches their heart, stays in their memory and Billy was one child that definitely did that for Suzane.

Then there was Casey. In September ‘08 when Suzane was Chairman she said, “I tuned into ABC’s *The Doctors* to see a young Iraq veteran wearing an i-limb. Seated next to the vet was Casey Edwards from the Florida Panhandle who lost his arm to an alligator. Troy Farnsworth from Hanger was also there. Following an intermission, Troy announced that Inner Wheel would fund a limb for Casey. I was overwhelmed...I began to cry. Then in October we had the Foundation and Governing Body meeting in Orlando. Casey came to our meeting to express his thanks and demonstrate all that he had already accomplished with his new limb”.

## FOUNDATION MILESTONES 1998 - 2008

*June 1998*

8-year old Andres Alvarez from Santa Cruz, CA becomes our first limb recipient

*September 1999*

To sustain the viability of the Foundation a formula was approved for distribution of funds - 60% to Hanger - 35% reinvested - 5% to reserve

*December 1999*

Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta (CHOA) becomes affiliated with the Foundation

*May 29, 2000*

The Foundations moves our investments to Merrill Lynch

*February 2003*

In addition to the contract with CHOA, the Foundation executes a second contract with Hanger Prosthetics & Orthotics (now Hanger).  
With Hanger’s vast number of clinics, we can serve even more children.

## Foundation Chairmen

1998 - 2008

**Barbara Schmidt**

1998-2000

**Dr. Bettye West-Grant**

2000-2002

**Melba Rilott**

2002-2004

**Joan Cotton**

2004-2007

**Suzane Sadofsky**

2007-2009

## WE WELCOME OUR NEW TRUSTEE.....

**D**eloris Donnelly, Foundation Coordinator for District 696, will now do double duty as she joins the IWUSA Foundation as its newest Trustee. Deloris is a member of the Ft. Myers Club where's she's held the position of ISO Chair, Club Foundation Coordinator and Chair of the Lee's County Fair Project.



She was born in Churchville, Virginia, the hometown of Hanger founder, John James Hanger, a distinction we believe she will forever hold as a member of Inner Wheel.

A retired educator, Deloris taught in Virginia, Delaware and Wisconsin. Her passion is teaching children to be caretakers of the land and garners loads of satisfaction volunteering as a Teacher Naturalist and Master Gardener.

Deloris served on the Wisconsin state board of the American Cancer Society for 8 years and founded *Nurture with Nature*, an active support group for breast cancer survivors. She's shared many hours with survivors, assisting them on their cancer journey.

Most importantly Deloris loves being a grandmother to four active grandsons and Mother to three sons. She's married to Frank, a former Rotarian.



February marks the 16th year of partnership between The Inner Wheel USA Foundation and Hanger. With 800 clinics throughout the USA, Hanger can effectively serve children across the country.

# A Foundation Month Message



February 14, 2019

Dearest Inner Wheel Members,

As you fondly recall all the expressions of love - flowers, chocolates, cards you've received over the years please take a moment to recall the smiles you've seen on the faces of the children whose lives have been forever changed with our gift of an arm or hand.

Pay the love you've received forward so that our IWUSA Foundation may continue to Turn Possibilities into Realities. During Foundation Month consider making a donation in the name of someone who has brought love and joy into your life.

Happy Valentine's Day

## IWUSA Celebrates Texas-sized Fun & Friendship - September 4 - 7, 2019 at our 11th Annual USA Conference in San Antonio

and we want to join us. In this city, replete with history and charm, we'll meet at the Hilton Palacio del Rio Hotel right on the famous River Walk where you're just minutes away from sightseeing tours and shopping. All attendees are welcome to attend the Governing Body and Foundation meetings. There will be workshops to attend but, rest assured, plenty of time to meet members from across the USA. A special treat will be **IIW President Phyllis Charter** who will be our guest speaker at our Saturday Luncheon.



Pedro Pimento will inspire you with his positivity & can-do attitude

Foundation focused activities will include an early morning **Walk-a-Thon** hosted by District 767 on Thursday, the 5th. Then join us for the **Foundation Luncheon** on Friday, when our guest speaker will be **Pedro Pimento**. You may recall reading about 24-year old Pedro in the Spring 2018 Newsletter. In 2009 Pedro contacted a fatal form of meningitis. After 6 months of hospitalization and four amputations, he left the hospital. Since Pedro's recovery he has served as an inspiration and mentor to amputees as well as ordinary individuals demonstrating that we have the power to overcome any situation in life. Come hear his story. You'll definitely be inspired.

The IWUSA website contains detailed information on the Conference and the forms that can be downloaded for registration. You can access this information at <http://innerwheelusa.com/> then click on the right hand side of the screen under IWUSA Conference.

LITTLE DID WE KNOW THAT AS WE HIGHLIGHTED OUR FIRST TEN YEARS OF THE FOUNDATION IN LAST FALL'S NEWSLETTER, ACKNOWLEDGING THOSE EIGHTEEN FOUNDING MEMBERS, THAT WE WOULD SAY GOODBYE TO ONE OF THEM SO VERY SOON.



**MARYANN SHEARER**, IWUSA Foundation Chairman (1992-94) peacefully passed away in her California home on January 12th after a courageous battle with lung cancer. Her obituary describes her as a lady with a bubbly personality and a myriad of talents that she shared with various charities and service organizations. She certainly shared them with Inner Wheel. In addition to her Foundation service, Maryann held the position of IWUSA National Representative (1984-86), District 519 Chairman and Carmichael President.

Inner Wheel extends its condolences to Maryann's husband Jack, their three children, Maryann's three stepchildren and grandchildren.



## BENEFACTORS

By Laurel McFarland

**PHYLLIS CHRISTOPHER** had never really thought of becoming a Benefactor until fellow District 519 member Lillie Tonkin spoke to her about it. For someone so devoted to the good of the Foundation, it seemed like the obvious next step. So in 2012, Phyllis increased her already generous support of the Foundation by becoming a Benefactor. Phyllis is proud of the emerald adorning her Rose Council pin, but she is equally proud of the Benefactor leaves below it.



Phyllis admits she has a favorite limb recipient - Angel. Perhaps it's because he was the first recipient she met, or maybe just that she found him to be a precious little boy full of potential, but she says, "He's the one who really did it for me," and she is certain he will go far in life.

Phyllis feels very fortunate that her husband, Gene, has been just as supportive of her interest in Inner Wheel and the Foundation as she has been of his Rotary involvement.

While it is important to continue regular donations to the Foundation, Phyllis urges everyone to consider becoming a Benefactor, too. "We all have necessary expenses, but the funds that come from Benefactors can potentially have a big impact on the Foundation as they don't come out of our pockets right now."

If you would like more information on becoming a Foundation Benefactor, please visit the IWUSA website at: <http://innerwheelusa.com/iwusa-foundation-forms/>.