



# Inner Wheel USA Foundation

*"Turning Possibilities into Realities"*

[www.innerwheelusa.com](http://www.innerwheelusa.com)



## 2020/21 Foundation

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## A MESSAGE FROM CHAIRMAN MAGGIE SPEARS

Welcome everyone to the 2021-2022 Inner Wheel Year. Our "new normal" due to the coronavirus pandemic required the Foundation Board to meet virtually with Zoom and Google Meet. Hopefully things are turning around as we are excited and looking forward to the year ahead. Plans are underway for the Inner Wheel Spring Conference to be held in Nashville, TN April 20th-24th, 2022 at the Downtown Drury Hotel.

Personally, I had an unexpected health issue when I suffered from shortness of breath. In September, I underwent open heart surgery to repair two valves and ended up with a permanent pacemaker. I am now recovering. We never know what path our lives will travel as my life led me on a collision course with what I wanted to do and what I can do. There are no words to express my thanks and gratitude for the amazing group of women who have been so supportive and carried on the work of the Foundation.

Our International President, Ebe Panitteri Martines, has set her theme for 2021-2022: "Pink First"- to be interpreted as Women helping Women. Such an appropriate theme in these times, and especially for me personally.

The Foundation has built a substantial endowment for the Children's Myoelectric Limb Project with your donations over the past 30 years. We continue to partner with Hanger Clinic providing upper body myoelectric limbs to children under the age of 18 with limb loss. We are "Turning Possibilities into Realities". This year was no exception. We provided a new hi-tech prosthetic, MyoMo, (short for my own motion). This is designed to support and help move a weak or paralyzed hand and arm. I will be so excited when we have more information including pictures and stories to share about this development.

Finally, you may notice at the top of the Newsletter, our name has been simplified to Inner Wheel USA Foundation. There are no periods and no INC. This change requires us to update our name on our literature and other forms. Be on the lookout for these changes.

Thank you,

Maggie



# In This Issue

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- ◆ Our Numbers Grow

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## Remembering JoAnne Ellis



Holidays also mean shopping! The Foundation is registered with Amazon Smile. Register just once at [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com). Choose Inner Wheel USA Foundation as your charity to support. From then on, when you shop from that website, Amazon will donate .5% of what you spend to us, at no cost to you!

## Editor's note:

I thought I would let our long-time member, Melba Rilott share her words:

### Let's Talk

Here is an experience I need to share with you. I live in a retirement community. Our dining room Manager, Tomas Paredes came over to me and said "Melba, I want to make a donation to your Foundation. How do I do it?" I wasn't sure what Foundation he referred to, so the next day he came over with an Inner Wheel USA Foundation Contribution form. I nearly fainted as he came with a generous donation to send in. I then asked him, "How did you happen to find out about us?" He reminded me that one evening at the table where I was sitting there was a lot of information with pictures of children the Foundation had helped. He had asked if he could have all the literature, and I gave it to him.

So ladies, let's talk, and keep spreading the word. *(Melba Rilott)*

Enjoy this edition of our Foundation Newsletter.

Gay DiGiovanni, [phillychick26@gmail.com](mailto:phillychick26@gmail.com)

# Foundation News

## OUR NEW NAME AND FORMS

Inner Wheel Foundation recently updated our official records with the Internal Revenue Service and the State of Louisiana (where we were incorporated in 1988), to officially call ourselves Inner Wheel USA Foundation. As a result, all our forms, brochures, and our website will reflect this change. We have now revised our Benefactor and Contribution forms and have sent them out to the club and district Foundation Coordinators, and Presidents. Our website and other printed material will be updated soon.



## RESOURCE MANUAL



Do you want to know what happens after a child is referred to Hanger Clinic? Do you know what the club or district Foundation Coordinator's duties are? Or are you interested on our Foundation story? Our Foundation

Resource Manual is chock full of useful and relevant information. This valuable booklet was distributed to all Foundation Coordinators in 2019. Now is the time to make sure you have your copy. Contact Gay DiGiovanni at [philly-chick26@gmail.com](mailto:philly-chick26@gmail.com) if you have questions.

## LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

There are leadership opportunities at all levels of our Inner Wheel organization. This could be at the club or district level. If you are already serving at this level and want to expand your horizons, the Foundation wants to include you in our leadership team. The application process is simple and easy, and the rewards are immeasurable. Consider joining us to help move the Foundation into the future. Your talents and skills are always appreciated. Contact any board member for more information.



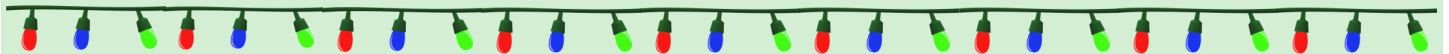
## Hanger Clinic Updates

Since our Foundation Limb Bank Program began 33 years ago, we have helped 94 children through your generosity and fundraising efforts. That number includes five new recipients since January this year and one refitted limb. One child who suffered a traumatic and paralyzing brain injury was fitted with the cutting-edge technology "MyoMo" limb. There will be more information about this amazing prosthetic breakthrough in later newsletters.



Each new limb recipient is evaluated by Hanger Clinic and if a prosthetic limb is recommended, they visit the clinic at least three more times while a limb is specifically fabricated for them. Afterwards, there will be follow-up visits every six months. As the child grows, they go through the process again to be re-fitted for another prosthesis. If the child's insurance or family financial situation prohibits them from obtaining a limb, it is then paid for by the grants our Foundation donates to Hanger Clinic.

Hanger Clinic has grown to 836 locations throughout the US, which means their services can reach even more children. It is wonderful to see your efforts rewarded and lives changed by our Foundation and Hanger Clinic.



Holiday events are a great opportunity to talk about our Foundation. Better yet, display our book of the children we have helped over the years. Even better, add a display of various prosthetic limbs for a "hands-on" experience. It's easy to request limbs for display. Order the limbs to be delivered to you now. Contact Deloris Donnelly [deldula@comcast.net](mailto:deldula@comcast.net) or Sherry Harris [mrssherryharris@yahoo.com](mailto:mrssherryharris@yahoo.com).

## In Memoriam — JoAnne Ryan Ellis

October 15, 1929—October 20, 2021

"JoAnne had a giving heart, writing talent, and was passionate about Inner Wheel and especially the IWUSA Foundation. She blessed all of us with her writings, bookmarks, and cards. She always wanted children...not be forgotten and to give them hope." *(Linda Howard, District 767 Chairman)*

Women joined in friendship...

Women who care about others

Women who work together to make the world a better place

Women who listen to the cries of innocent children in need

Our IWUSA Foundation gives children a chance in life.

A lovely poem written by JoAnne Ellis, R.I.P. You will be missed.



## Up-Coming Events

SAVE THE  
*date*

**2022**  
**Inner Wheel USA**  
**Spring**  
**Conference**  
April 20-24, 2022



*Fun FRIENDSHIP Nashville*

**LOCATION: DRURY HOTEL**  
\$159+tax per night

**Enjoy:** Hot Breakfast - served daily,  
Free Kickback, & 5:30-7:00pm  
Dinnertime snacks

Free access to: Wifi, Business Center,  
Fitness Center, Indoor/Outdoor Pool &  
Whirlpool

**Nashville Highlights:**

- Double Decker Bus City Tours
- Hop On/Off Trolley Tours
- Country Music Hall of Fame Museum
- Ryman & Country Music Hall of Fame
- General Jackson Showboat Cruises
- Grand Ole Opry Shows

The Inner Wheel USA Spring Conference will be held in Nashville, TN, from April 20-24, 2022.

The Downtown Drury Hotel hosting the conference is in the middle of all the action. Now is the time to make your reservations at the bargain rate as rooms are filling up. These rates will also apply three days prior and after the conference. Grab a friend and go! Call 800-325-0720—Group Number 2442399.

In addition to meetings and workshops, lots of fun events are being planned or you can do on your own.

- ♦ Showboat River Cruise
- ♦ Grand Ole Opry Shows
- ♦ Music Hall of Fame
- ♦ Drury Hotel Kickback Happy Hour
- ♦ Rotary Meetings
- ♦ Bus Tours