

TUTORING NEWS: INSPIRED YOUTH

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Volume 16, Number 2, August 2006

1. FUN DAY

2. TRIP TO SEE THE TALL SHIPS

3. STUDENTS GO TO CAMP

4. CLOTHES FOR PRESCHOOL CHILDREN

5. DONATIONS NEEDED

1. FUN DAY

In August the Inspired Youth Singers performed at "Fun Day," sponsored by the Dorothy Gautreaux Northeast Scattered Site Advisory Council. The president of the Advisory Council is Willie Burrell, Dorie Burrell's father. The Fun Day was a day of food, entertainment, dancing, and gifts. The food was delicious. Tiny Nash grilled hamburgers and hot dogs for 100 people. Everyone ate well.

The highlight of the entertainment was a drill team which traveled from Madison, WI to be at the Fun Day. The drill team was striking with their uniforms of white shorts and bright purple T-shirts, along with their bright purple flags. The audience got to see their extensive warm-ups as well as their performance. They were a marvel. They also combined with a new drill team from Chicago, under the leadership of Dorie Burrell. This was the new drill teams' first performance, and they did a wonderful job.

The Inspired Youth Singers sang 9 songs at the Fun Day. The eight youth and three adults looked fine in their light blue shirts and dark pants. Courtney announced the pieces, Dorie Burrell directed, and Beth Palmer played the keyboard. The choir enjoyed singing outdoors amplified by the microphones and sound system of the DJ. It was a new experience, and they had a good time.

Lil Prince (tutoring grad Lamont Burrell), along with two friends, performed several raps written by Lil Prince. They had a really good time performing, and the audience loved it.

All the students enjoyed the raffle. Youth ages 5-18 were eligible for book bags when their names were drawn in the raffle. Most of the youth received a book bag from the Dorothy Gautreaux Northeast Scattered Site Advisory Council. All the students were very appreciative of the book bags.

The Fun Day was a wonderful success.

2. TRIP TO SEE THE TALL SHIPS: "IT'S MY DREAM"

"It's my dream to see the tall ships," said tutoring director Beth Palmer, so she took seven children to downtown Chicago to see the tall ships.

The kids were fascinated by the Chicago River. They looked down at it from the railing by E. Wacker, and they looked and looked and looked. They saw ducks. They saw fish swimming along the concrete wall. They saw moss growing on the rocks ("I don't

like anything green," said one student). They saw architectural tour boats, small clean-up boats, one boat carrying a little boat at the back, and kayaks ("That looks fun"). The river looked so clean one student said, "Why don't you jump in?" The air was pure, the day was beautiful, and everyone was glad to be there. When anyone grumbled, Courtney (7th grade) said, "Think pink! Then you'll have calm thoughts and feel good. Think pink!"

It was so stimulating walking along the river and walking up stairs to get over the bridges and down again to get closer to the river, that when we saw the tall ships, they fit into the pattern of new experiences. The oldest ship we saw was the USS Brig Niagara, built around 1813, right after the War of 1812. It was a large ship. The sails weren't up, but we saw masts and more masts. We saw the sails rolled up and all the gear. It would definitely be worth while to see again.

We walked east along the Chicago River and saw Navy Pier and the Ferris Wheel up ahead. The reflection, "It's my dream to see the tall ships," turned into the refrain: "It's my dream to go on the Ferris Wheel." Then, "It's my dream to go on the Wave Swinger." Then, "It's my dream to go to Sears Tower."

Several students went on the Ferris Wheel. They were scared at first. One said, "The people [below] looked like little ants." The kids had a beautiful time. Everyone wanted to do more and to come back again. It was a wonderful day.

3. STUDENTS GO TO CAMP

Six students from Inspired Youth went to Covenant Harbor Camp at Lake Geneva, WI, sponsored by Edgewater Presbyterian Church and the Presbyterian Church of Barrington. This was the first time Marco (Tony) had been away to camp. Pastor Cathey of Edgewater Presbyterian Church bought him a sleeping bag, shorts, and a Bible. Marco had a good time at camp. When he got back home he got a postcard from his counselor with his email address. Marco's mother said, "This was win/win. He read the Bible at camp! And when he got back home he was reading the Bible 2 or 3 times a day. I'm so glad he got to go to camp."

4. CLOTHES FOR PRESCHOOL CHILDREN

Besides the toys Enid Young sends to Inspired Youth to wrap and distribute to preschool children at Christmas, she sent some clothes. We had planned to divide them among several families, if they could fit their children. We visited the largest, neediest family first, where there were three mothers (sisters and a cousin) with five preschool children living in two adjoining one-room apartments. The mothers examined each garment and decided their children could use every one. They were grateful. Thank you, Enid Young.

5. DONATIONS NEEDED

Inspired Youth, Inc. is doing a lot with minimal funds. Your contributions are important for enriching the lives of children and families in Uptown/Edgewater in Chicago. Checks may be made to "Inspired Youth" and sent to Inspired Youth, 5715 N. Ridge, Chicago, IL 60660.