

## ⌘ Good News from Inspired Youth, Dec. 2012 ⌘

Inspired Youth's vision is "IY Grads Build Community and Endow the Future." Our values are empathy and care for families and community, volunteers helping children learn, a grassroots organization, a safe and nurturing environment, perseverance by adults and children, and respecting yourself and others.



### **Inspired Youth Tutoring Program**

This fall in the Inspired Youth Tutoring Program, 95 youth are being tutored by 82 adult volunteers and 50 8<sup>th</sup> graders from Wilmette Jr. High. So far they've studied a total of 1825 tutoring hours. The students work hard, and the tutors guide them and encourage them to go further. Meet some

Inspired Youth.

When Fredy (9<sup>th</sup> gr.) was in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, tutoring director Beth Palmer happened to substitute in his classroom for 11 weeks. At that time Fredy and many of his classmates couldn't read, and she taught them to read. Fredy joined the Tutoring Program in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and kept progressing. After a couple of years, he started wearing a cross, perhaps to show that he didn't want to be part of the gang in the area. Now in 9<sup>th</sup> grade, Fredy is still in the program and keeps doing well in school. This year he brought two cousins to be in the program. Two years ago his little brother came to the Saturday program as a kindergartner, and by first grade, he could already read! Their mother makes sure they don't miss a day of tutoring.

Myre (7<sup>th</sup> gr.) could hardly read when she entered the Tutoring Program as a 2<sup>nd</sup> grader. She was held back a year at school and put in the special ed section. She worked hard in the Tutoring Program: we had her read and read. She always concentrated and was especially good in math. Last year and so far this year this year, she hasn't missed a day of tutoring. In September of 7<sup>th</sup> grade, she was taken out of special ed! Besides working hard in school, she takes care of her three younger siblings. Keep it up, Myre.

As a 1<sup>st</sup> grader, Fernando (4<sup>th</sup> gr.) was very moody. He would work a bit, and then close down. In 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, his assigned tutor was Bob Siegel, but after a few sessions Fernando refused to work with him. At the end of the year Fernando occasionally came to Bob's table to see what was happening. In 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, Fernando worked with Bob most of the year. By 4<sup>th</sup> grade, Fernando was switched from the bilingual class to the all-English class at school. His progress report was all As and Bs, and he works with Bob every week.

Eight students were accompanists in the 2012 Summer Piano Program! Have you ever played a song on the piano and had people sing with you? It is very difficult and takes a lot of experience. Even when the performer makes a mistake and repeats a note, the audience keeps on singing. In the final recital of the 2012 Summer Piano Program, eight students played familiar songs and the audience sang. All the students

played well and everyone was proud.



**Season's joy to all, from Inspired Youth**  
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[www.inspiredyouthchicago.org](http://www.inspiredyouthchicago.org) [www.facebook.com/inspiredyouth](http://www.facebook.com/inspiredyouth)

### **SEASON'S JOY TO ALL**

Kenny Roman is a native to the Uptown neighborhood. When Kenny was in high school, he was the only student in the HS section of the Tutoring Program. His tutor was Pat Zukosky, a computer guru. Kenny and his brother David volunteered as tutors for 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> graders as community service. Kenny and David attended the U of I at Urbana-Champaign. After graduating, Kenny was accepted in a doctoral program in biomedical sciences and David was accepted in a master's degree program in aerospace engineering. Kenny completed his doctorate degree last spring. He came back to Chicago and began volunteering in the Tutoring Program and the Summer Piano Program. In July he received a position as a post-doctoral fellow at Northwestern Memorial Hospital. This fall Kenny continued to volunteer in the Tutoring Program. He would like to serve his community by encouraging young students to pursue a college education.

Guadalupe (8<sup>th</sup> gr.) entered the Tutoring Program in 4<sup>th</sup> grade. She needed to improve her reading, so we had her read a lot. She joined the youth choir and the Summer Piano Program. She helps set up the equipment for all the programs. She concentrates in school and has fairly good grades. We know she'll keep working hard.

70 people came to the 5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders' Family Night in November. Tutors sat at the tables with their tutees' families so they could meet the parents and talk. A tutor proclaimed, "It was the best Parents' Night ever!"

For the Parents' Day for the 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> graders, at 4:30 sharp the Latina mothers flung open the doors to the tutoring room in the library, marched in, and took their places at their children's tutoring tables. Parents from 16 families, bringing 5 younger children, were there, along with 29 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> graders and 22 tutors. The premier Parents' Day was a success. Tutors and parents talked with each other about how to help the children academically; parents observed the tutors working with their children; and the parents were part of Inspired Youth in session. Hurray for the Tutoring Parents!

Inspired Youth, Inc. does a lot with minimal funds to enrich the lives of children and families in Uptown/Edgewater in Chicago, because of the many people who volunteer.

Tax-deductible donations to Inspired Youth, Inc. may be made through PayPal on the website [www.inspiredyouthchicago.org](http://www.inspiredyouthchicago.org) or sent to

“Inspired Youth,” 5715 N. Ridge, Chicago,  
IL 60660.