

TUTORING NEWS: INSPIRED YOUTH

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2011-2012, A GOOD YEAR

TOTAL STUDENT ATTENDANCE

112 students (kindergarten through high school) participated in the Inspired Youth Tutoring Program in 2011-2012. They were tutored by 137 adult volunteer tutors and 51 eighth grade peer tutors.

In 2011-2012 there were 4244 student/tutor sessions, for a total of 5322 student/tutor hours.

In 2010-2011, there were 3066 student/tutor sessions, for a total of 4845 student/tutor hours.

In 2009-2010, there were 2899 student/tutor sessions, for a total of 4614 student/tutor hours.

In 2008-2009 there were 2482 student/tutor sessions, for a total of 3973 student/tutor hours. The year 2011-2012 showed a 10% increase in student/tutor hours over 2010-2011, whereas the year 2010-2011 showed a 5% increase in student/tutor hours over 2009-2010, and that year showed a 16.8% increase over 2008-2009.

STUDENT/TUTOR ATTENDANCE IN INSPIRED YOUTH TUTORING PROGRAM

	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012
Total Number of Students	100	104	95	111
Total Number of Adult Tutors	107	142	127	137
Total Student/Tutor Sessions	2482	2899	3066	4244
Total Student/Tutor Hours	3973	4614	4845	5322
Increase in Tutoring Hours		16.8%	5%	10%

ATTENDANCE BY SECTIONS IN 2011-2012

2011-2012 **STUDENTS** **TUTORS** **8TH GRADE TUTORS**

Mon./Wed. HS Tutoring **16*** **56**
 Mon./Wed. 5th-8th Tut . **35**
 W/Th 1st-4th Tutoring **32** **75******
 Sat. K-10th Tutoring **55(29)**** **6** **51**
Individ. in Tut. Prog. **112** **137** **51**

Choir, 1st -HS **38(14)***** **4**
Total Individuals: **126** **141** **51**

(*4 of these already graduated from high school)

(**29 Sat. students were not in the weekday Tut. Prog.)

(***14 Choir members were not in the Tut. Prog.)

(****Several tutors volunteered more than one day per week)

STUDENTS PROGRESS IN MATH, READING, AND WRITING

The students are taking hold of math. Mary Ann B. (7th gr.) hardly knew any of the multiplication facts at the beginning of 5th grade when she enrolled in the tutoring program. Now math is easy for her. Joanna S. (5th gr.) and Myeesha M. (5th gr.) and Brenda H. (4th gr.) started memorizing the multiplication facts this year (their first year in the program) and are doing an amazing job. Fernando B. (3rd gr.) did not like math last year in 2nd grade.

This year he really likes it. Lizbeth V. (3rd gr.) is the top math student in her classroom. Her mother says she has improved significantly because of enrolling in Inspired Youth when she was in the middle of first grade.

Jennifer S. (7th gr.) is improving in reading. Jaely E. (3rd gr.) is reading and writing English much better than last year, and she enjoys reading. Three first graders are really reading well: Amber S., Celeste L., and Frankie F. Congratulations!

Rickiah J., 2nd gr., worked hard on math and made a lot of progress. Toward the end of the year she reported, "There's this boy in my class who's good at math: I beat him!" Jose L., Jovanny S., and Jaritzi E., all 3rd graders, all progressed significantly this year. Sheila M. 4th gr., worked hard on math and reading. Alfonso D. 6th gr., worked very hard on math. During the year, tutors could see the students getting smarter and brighter as the year progressed, especially Felix D., 5th gr., and Ana L., 3rd gr.

Note from a 5th grader to the Tutoring Director: "Beth Palmer, I, Marleni, wanted to ask you if you could give me nonfiction books, biography, nonfiction science, nonfiction social studies, and poetry. I need these types of books because at the end of the year we have to read 40 books and I need these books to meet the goal. Thank you."

From a school writing project for third graders: "I remember my grandmother. I miss her. She died, and I love my family. I celebrate my family. Valeria S."

FAMILY NIGHT, JUNE 2012

People kept coming and coming. Children, parents, siblings, friends, relatives, tutors, even a teacher of several of the students came to celebrate children, families, and education at Inspired Youth's Family Night in June 2012. Altogether 152 people came to Family Night -- 62 students from Inspired Youth, 34 parents from 27 families, 16 siblings, 9 adult friends of the family, 8 younger children, and 23 tutors. Usually small chunks of people can't come for various reasons. This year they all came. Only 2 students out of 60 whom we had thought were coming didn't come. Because of the large number of people attending, we may have two family nights next year, splitting the group between older and younger students.

58 Students Recite Poems by Memory at Family Night

The highlight of the evening was students reciting poems. 10-15 students at time lined up and stepped to the microphone to recite the poems they had memorized. As the audience clapped and cheered, the students received an award for participating in the Tutoring Program. Altogether 58 students recited poems at Family Night, and 6 other students had memorized poems but couldn't come that evening. It was a joyous, community time.

In the weeks leading up to the Family Night, the students charged into memorizing their assigned poems. They even memorized each other's poems and were proud to recite poems from previous years. We were amazed at some of the students. When she was in 1st and 2nd grades, Melissa D. (3rd gr.) had a hard time memorizing her poems. This year she memorized it the first day! By the day of Family Night Omega N. (5th gr.) hadn't memorized her poem and didn't have a copy. That afternoon she called a tutor who read the poem to her over the phone. Two hours later at Family Night Omega said her poem perfectly! In previous years Sbhat N. (10th gr.) rarely memorized poems for Family Night; he always read them. This year he recited by memory the complicated first stanza of "The Song of Hiawatha," by Longfellow. Ana L. (3rd gr.) was assigned a short, humorous poem, which she memorized in two minutes, so her tutor, David Marienthal, wrote a second stanza, and she memorized that. The next week he wrote a third stanza. They had fun with the poem.

Bright Future Creative Writing Class

When students finished reciting their poems at the Family Night, nine students from the Bright Future Creative Writing Class performed the inspirational rap they open their weekly class with. The group was formed and is directed by James Burrell, a member of the Board of Directors of Inspired Youth, Inc. His brother, Lamont Burrell, assists with the class. A video of their performance is on Inspired Youth's Facebook page.

Many People Help with Family Night

Some people came to Family Night just for the scrumptious banquet. Heather Conlon, a.k.a. "the hot dog lady," and chairperson of the Board of Directors of Inspired Youth, Inc., cooked hot dogs which the program provides. Tutors served the delicious food which everyone brought. Kate Morrell, a Wed. night tutor, took marvelous photos of families and individuals, which are posted on Inspired Youth's Facebook page. Everyone looks so

happy in the pictures! Guadalupe M. (7th gr.) and Ladaja S. (6th gr.) announced the 58 poems. At the end of the evening, several tutors helped clean up, and the mother of Lizbeth V. (3rd gr.) swept the whole huge Fellowship Hall at Edgewater Presbyterian Church. Thank you, everyone, for a beautiful community event.

SATURDAY TUTORING

The Saturday Tutoring Program was fantastic this year. An average of over 41 Chicago children and youth came to Margate Park every other Saturday morning to work with 8th graders from Wilmette Jr. High on reading, writing, and arithmetic. After doing individualized academic work prepared by the tutoring director, the students did a variety of activities—role plays of conflict resolution, writing projects (see topics under Student Writing), science-math projects (pictures from coordinate, making a bouncing ball), crafts projects (making colorful origami cubes, making Valentines for seniors, wrapping holiday gifts for pre-school students), and fitness activities (relays, aerobic demonstrations, and games of Hot Lava on the playground equipment outside).

In writing about a State, students had to find facts about a given State, write a rap, song, or poem about the State, and then perform it for the other students. As the students performed for each other, everyone cheered. They found that learning about States is fun! The Wilmette 8th graders were so creative they spread the excitement to the Chicago kids. Everyone enjoyed learning about the States.

The Saturday tutoring pairs developed close relationships during the year. Here is what one eighth grade tutor wrote to her tutee: “Dear Jonathan (E.), I loved working with you. Even though we had some bad days, I enjoyed every moment. You are so so sooooo smart and talented and I PROMISE you will do great things. Your hard work and great attitude inspired me so much. I will never forget you. Love, Sally R.”

STUDENT WRITING

In 2011-2012 Inspired Youth published several magazines of the students’ writings.

Don’t Close the Library In October 2011 when we found out that the Chicago Public Library where Inspired Youth tutors could be closed, 59 students wrote letters to the alderman pleading with him not to vote for the budget which would close the library. We published these letters in a magazine included on the Inspired Youth website, www.inspiredyouthchicago.org. Several students and tutors also wrote post cards to the mayor which the library sent directly. The library did close on Monday evenings and reopened in the summer, but we will find out in August whether it will stay open in the fall.

Other magazines we published were *Cinquains and Haikus*, written by 48 students and their tutors from the Saturday Tutoring Program, *Great Stuff about States*, written by 57 students from the Saturday and evening programs, and *Sunshine*, stories written by, 41 1st-4th graders from the weekday tutoring program.

The most students ever -- 100 -- wrote stories based on six different pictures from the book, ***The Mysteries of Harris Burdick***. The students wrote fluent, imaginative, fictional stories based on the pictures. The stories were typed and printed in a magazine given to the families. To provide a context about the stories, we included photos of the six pictures (taken with the tutoring camera!) in the printed magazine. The pages of the magazine with the students’ stories (including the photos) were scanned and put on Inspired Youth’s Facebook page. You can also read the students’ stories on Inspired Youth’s website; www.inspiredyouthchicago.org.

LOCATION FOR MONDAY NIGHT TUTORING

Since 2005 Inspired Youth has used space at Bezazian Library on Monday evenings for tutoring 5th-12th graders, and on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons for tutoring 1st-4th graders. In January 2012 the Chicago Public Libraries began to be closed all day on Mondays. When they reopened in February, they were open only on Monday afternoons, but closed on Monday evenings.

At the beginning of January, when the libraries began to be closed, we asked Edgewater Presbyterian Church if we could come there for Monday night tutoring, and they said fine. We were deeply grateful about that. (Robert Frost: wrote, “‘Home is the place where, when you have to go there, they have to take you in.’ ‘I should have called it something you somehow haven’t to deserve.’”)

For some of the students, however, a half mile was too far to walk, so we opened a smaller tutoring

section on Wednesday evenings at Bezazian Library to accommodate some of the students. The library had said that on Wednesday evenings we could only have access to one of the rooms we had been using on Monday evenings. Since many of the Monday tutors could not come on Wednesdays, we recruited new tutors for Wednesday evenings. In the process, around eight students from the Monday section stopped coming.

This summer, library hours on Mondays are being restored –just for the summer. We will know later in the summer whether the restored hours will continue in the fall. If they are, we will go back to Bezazian Library for tutoring on Monday evenings beginning in September 2012.

INSPIRED YOUTH SINGERS

38 students, led by 2 co-directors, sang with the Inspired Youth Singers this year. This includes 17 new singers! -- 2 returning elementary students, 9 new elementary students, and 6 1st gr. through PS children, all of whom have good voices.

The choir performed on 13 occasions in 2011-2012, at nursing homes, a youth choir festival, a church, the Kiwanis Club, and Inspired Youth's Family Nights. In addition, in August 2011 the children were invited to the Good Shepherd Hospital in Barrington, IL, to sing an hour-long concert of religious and secular music. After the concert the children and their families went to Lake Barrington as guests of former tutor Cathy Davis Pezdirtz, for a retreat led by Rainey Koga and her youth group, followed by a day of picnicking and swimming. Pictures of this are on the Inspired Youth website under Newsletters, December 2011. This was one of the high points of the year.

Lawyers Lend-A-Hand Banquet at the Four Seasons Hotel

For the second year in a row the choir was invited to perform at the Lawyers Lend-A-Hand to Youth banquet at the prestigious Four Seasons Hotel in downtown Chicago. Afterwards, Mike, a friend of Beth Palmer's said about the event, "What a great opportunity this is for the children to go downtown to be exposed to such a place as the Four Seasons Hotel and to feel like they're part of something bigger and to get to see another part of the world that they haven't had an opportunity to see. I really think it's a great opportunity for these kids that Inspired Youth is able to do for them."

The children were so hyper that day they had energy for the whole 55-minute concert. The afternoon started at McDonald's where the children ate and practiced several of the songs. As they got off the #147 bus on Chicago's North Michigan Ave., they were awed by the skyscrapers and the expensive store windows. Edward G. (5th gr.) said of the John Hancock building, "It's going to fall on us!" Inside the entrance to the Four Seasons Hotel, there was a huge vase which was so large two 8-year old girls standing on each side of it couldn't put their arms around it. As the children waited for the elevator, they sank into a really deep carpet. The floors of bathrooms near the banquet hall were granite which was so shiny you could see reflections. One student took pictures on her camera phone which she posted on Facebook.

The choir sang in the huge living room at the top of the grand staircase leading to the banquet hall. People walking up the grand staircase to the banquet saw and heard the choir. Over 300 tickets were sold for the banquet. Last year Lawyers Lend-A-Hand to Youth sold around 250 tickets.

The choir of 23 Inspired Youth Singers sang 25 secular songs for 55 minutes before the banquet. In pictures of the choir on IY's Facebook page, the children's faces are in between and behind large ceramic art objects and large crystal globes filled with orchids on the ornate table in front of the singers. The pictures show what a beautiful experience this was for everyone. The children sang the best they ever have.

Inspired Youth Singers and Church School Singers Perform at 31st Annual Youth Choir Fest

The Inspired Youth Singers sang at the 31st Annual Youth Choir Fest at Hemenway UMC in Evanston at the end of April 2012. Six members of the Inspired Youth Singers formed the core of a new group of 23, the Church School Singers, which also participated. The new choir included six 1st gr. through PS children, one former IY Singer, and 10 new elementary students who are also in Eva Schwinge's Girl Scout troop. On the day of the concert, over 50 children, parents, and chaperones of the two choirs ate lunch in the moderate-sized McDonald's, and then the two choirs practiced the songs for the concert using the keyboard of Rheana A. (1st gr.), who lives nearby.

Five choirs sang in the Youth Choir Fest this year. A new feature of the concert was that all the choirs lined up and processed up the aisle to the stage. The audience cheered for each choir as they processed in. It

was very exciting. The combined choirs performed five songs altogether, and each choir sang two songs by itself. Everyone gasped in awe as the Church School Singers performed, when they realized that the pianists accompanying the choir were children! Rheana A. (1st gr.) played “Kum Ba Yah” and Fatima E. (3rd gr.) played “Peace Like a River” for the Church School Singers. The children 1st gr. through PS stood in the first row and loved singing. On the way home, Dayveana B. (4 1/2 years old) said, “I want to do it again.”

For the final song of the program, the combined choirs sang “I Smile,” by Kirk Franklin. The director for that song, Cynthia Thomas of Hermon Baptist Church, involved some of the older boys in singing a special part of the music. Before the song began, she brought the boys closer to the middle of the group and encouraged them in singing. They were great! Margaret Hoover, the director of the church they came from, said they’ve never sung better. She said one of the boys had been in a lot of trouble a couple of years ago and now is doing much better. We’re all waiting, watching, and praying for the spirit of the Lord to keep filling the lives of people and to keep working miracles. It’s happening before our eyes.

PIANO NEWS

During the first three weeks of Inspired Youth’s Summer Piano Program, 44 students are participating, helped by 17 volunteer piano tutors. Students started signing up for the piano program in April! They come to the Edgewater Presbyterian Church two days a week for sessions of an hour to play music on keyboards, with volunteer piano tutor. Thirty of the students are returning from last year, and 14 students are just beginning this summer. The returning students began by reviewing some songs from last year, and then raced ahead. Several finished Alfred’s A book and are half way through Alfred’s B book. Matthew C. (1st gr.) couldn’t concentrate last year. This year he is really learning to play the pieces.

Some students have special pieces. When Edgar R. (6th gr.) found he could play the theme from “Star Wars,” his face lit up and he learned the piece in one session. He learned part of the “Wedding March” using the pictorial read-out on his electric piano at home, and he’s working on the rest of it. David R. (7th gr.) is learning “Mighty to Save” with chords to go with the melody. Joam L. (8th gr.) attacks “Just the Way You Are” with gusto. Edward G. (5th gr.) has almost learned to play “Somewhere over the Rainbow.” Look for more news of the Piano Program on Inspired Youth’s website at the end of the summer.

FIELD TRIPS

In 2011-2012 Inspired Youth sponsored eight field trips for the students, in addition to the trips which were only singing. From July 2011 to June 2012, 39 students (kindergarten through high school), 11 parents, 9 younger brothers and sisters, and 2 tutors--a total of 61 people--went on one or more field trips with Inspired Youth – to the North Park Nature Center, Millennium Park, Lake Barrington, the Lincoln Park Zoo, the Field Museum, and the Shedd Aquarium on free days (See the newsletter of January 2012).

FACEBOOK

The photos of Inspired Youth on Facebook are beautiful. They show the breadth and seriousness and beauty of the program. (“A picture is worth a thousand words.”) The pictures are of tutoring pairs, children reciting poems at Family Night, field trips, and the Inspired Youth Singers, along with videos of tutoring pairs and songs of the Inspired Youth Singers. Tutors, students, parents, and friends enjoy Inspired Youth’s Facebook page, www.facebook.com/inspiredyouth.

OTHER SUCCESSES IN 2011-2012

“Tutoring Grads” Graduate from High School

When the Tutoring Program began in 1985, the goal was for students to graduate from high school, because most of the students in the neighborhood at that time didn’t graduate from high school. In June 2012 thirteen students who had been in the Tutoring Program graduated from high school – some were the first in their families to do so. Eight young men, tutoring grads, graduated from Amundsen HS: Edgar A., Daniel A. (who will attend Wright College), Marcus B., Fermin E. (who will attend Harold Washington College), Giovanni M. (brother of student Guadalupe M., 7th gr.), Santiago S., Pablo S., and Steve W. (who will join the marines). In addition, Andre T., graduated from Mather HS; Courtney M. and Denzell S. (who will attend Lane College in

Tennessee) graduated from Senn HS, Khadijah B. graduated from Uplift, and Linda M. (who will go to Wright College for the core courses) graduated from Schurz HS. These are the tutoring grads we know about; there may be others. We are happy about all these students who had been in the Tutoring Program and just graduated from high school. We wish them well.

News of Other Tutoring Grads

Ken Roman just graduated from medical school. At the end of July he will begin a post doc research position in neuro-science at Northwestern University. He volunteered as a tutor at the end of the tutoring year in the afternoon and evening programs. This summer he is volunteering in the IY Summer Piano Program.

Congratulations, Kenny!

One of the early grads of the Tutoring Program, Antonio D., died in mid-April 2012. His brother, Wood D., also a tutoring grad, really looks good. Their cousin Bobby D. is playing professional basketball in Europe.

Maria N. was in the Tutoring Program as an elementary student in the early 1990's. She graduated from high school and then from UIC and is now working for Lutheran Social Services of Illinois. She said that her years in the Tutoring Program were very formative for her, especially in reading and math. Without that, she said she probably wouldn't have even graduated from high school. She is thankful for having been in the Tutoring Program.

Jan B. Miranda works at a day care center. She lives on the south side and has five children. She looks great and is very interested in how the other tutoring grads and other families are doing.

Jeremy B. and Jonathan B. have rented a recording studio for a year. Jeremy has a full-time job in an auto store and also works part time with deaf people. Jeremy also was an excellent tutor in the Tutoring Program when he was in high school. A student whom he taught to read when the child was in third grade will be a senior at Von Steuben HS in the fall! Jeremy's sister, Danielle S., just finished her freshman year at Benedictine University in Lisle, IL. Their brother Denzell S., will be a freshman in the fall at Lane College in Tennessee. All four siblings were students with the Tutoring Program and/or the Summer Piano Program.

Shonesha J., 11th gr., did well on the ACT. She hopes to attend UIC like her sister Johnesha J., who just finished her freshman year and is continuing to take courses this summer.

RELATED FAMILIES IN THE TUTORING PROGRAM

Many families of cousins are in the Tutoring Program. These families are related: Salas, Martinez, Dominguez, Santos, and Escobar, plus Franco, Franco, Espinosa, Valencia, Leon, Rabadan, and Hernandez. These families are related: Ramirez, Avila, Macias. These families are related: DelaCruz, Valdeverde, Benitez, Salinas, Estrada, Ochoa. There is a synergy for the families when siblings and cousins are all in the Tutoring Program.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF INSPIRED YOUTH, INC.

A full Board of Directors of Inspired Youth, Inc. is seven directors. The terms of two members of the Board of Directors of Inspired Youth, Inc. came to an end on June 30, Jack Jacobson, and Norma Jones (treasurer). We appreciate their service to Inspired Youth, and especially how they started the corporation in 2004 and kept it thriving.

The Board of Directors of Inspired Youth, Inc. begins 2012-2013 with a new roster: Heather Conlon, chairperson; Shay Owens, secretary; Margaret Sullivan, treasurer; Carrie Risatti, Dan Solomon, and James Burrell. The Board met on June 27 in a productive meeting led by Heather Conlon, chairperson. Inspired Youth, Inc. will continue to undertake its purpose of "improving the education of youth in Uptown and Edgewater both through direct tutoring and through enriching their experiences." Thank you to all the Directors of Inspired Youth, Inc.

JOAN SHEFFIELD, CREATIVE DYNAMO, *In Memoriam*

By Beth Palmer

Joan Sheffield was one of the most multi-faceted, dynamic, creative people I have ever known. A wood burning she did in 2003, entitled "An African Christ," still sits above my piano. But mostly I thank her for her work volunteering in, and co-coordinating, the Epworth Tutoring Program two afternoons a week, from 1985 through 2004. This is just the part of her that I know about.

Joan was a micro-biologist at Cook County Hospital (think: really sick people with really terrible diseases). For the Tutoring Program, she said she wanted to teach 1st-4th graders science. This was before there was a science lab at Goudy Elementary School, the local school. Joan engaged the children in a different science experiment each month, working with a different grade-level of kids each week. With Joan, the children got to observe the weather (using a barometer, thermometer, wind vane, etc.), look at things in slides under microscopes, test solutions for acid/base properties, look at constellations of stars in December when it was dark in the afternoon, learn about different kinds of birds (which Joan drew pictures of), put their fingers on agar in petri dishes and in a few days see ugly colonies of bacteria develop, and—her signature project—observe the life stages of butterflies and set the butterflies free on a sunny May afternoon. One year Joan had all the children write poems about trees; some of these are on the website www.inspireyouthchicago.org/studentwork. She had the children give reports about animals. She wrote a script for Parents' Night called "Parade of Brave Heroes." Each child portrayed a famous hero, and said a short speech about the person—Joan wrote the whole script. She took the children to visit the Shedd Aquarium. She took the children on a field trip to a Nature Preserve to see birds and spring flowers.

Hundreds of children were introduced to science and famous people through what Joan brought to them in the Tutoring Program. Joan also awakened and energized an interest in science in me, and now I share a few things with a few students – but not in a systematic, comprehensive way like Joan did.

Joan Sheffield was intelligent, energetic, and committed. Her influence still ripples outward, strong and beautiful. Thank you, Joan

From Beth Struck Palmer, Director; Inspired Youth Tutoring Program; Former Director, Epworth Tutoring Program

EVA SCHWINGE, A WOMAN OF THE CENTURY ON THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GIRL SCOUTS

By Beth Palmer

Eva Schwinge is truly a woman of the century in what she has done for Girl Scouts, their families, other youth, and other organizations. She works with minority and low income girls from Uptown, Edgewater, Rogers Park, and Albany Park in Chicago. She gives them experiences they have never had before, and sees that they do well in school and graduate from high school.

Currently in 2011-2012, Eva has around 60 girls (and a few boys) in several sections involved in regular Scout activities. She uses the Girl Scout manuals for curriculum ideas and gives the girls motivation as they do projects and gain Girl Scout badges, pins, and patches. She celebrates the Founders' Day every March in the worship service at the local church, with the girls doing a reading or presentation in the worship service.

Eva involves each group of girls in several service projects each year. In December the girls wrap socks to give to men at Epworth's Warming Center (Men's Shelter). The girls make food for the Men's Shelter and serve it to the men. The girls take Valentines to a children's homeless shelter and to a nursing home. The girls sing and perform for residents in a nursing home in February. Through projects like these Eva shows the girls that service is just an ordinary part of everyday life.

Special field trips give the Scouts exposure to different parts of the city and to Scouts from other parts of the Metropolitan area. Eva has taken the girls horseback riding, skiing, ice skating, rock climbing, and swimming at a water park. They've gone to Great America, the Mall of America (in Minnesota), the Brookfield Zoo, and Baraboo, WI to see the circus animals. They've gone to concerts at Northwestern University and gone to Valparaiso to do music-making. Every summer Eva finds someone to give her Scouts swimming lessons. They also get training in First Aid. The girls love these trips, and very few of the girls would be able to do any of these activities without being one of Eva's Girl Scouts.

The most extended "field trips" are the camping trips. Eva plans one or two camping trips for each group of Girl Scouts each year. In planning the trips, Eva involves the girls in deciding details of the trip. She teaches the girls how to build a fire and to cook with it. (Some of the girls are afraid of how dark it gets in a rural area.)

In addition to the work with the Girl Scouts in Uptown, Eva has been involved with the Tutoring Program and Youth Choir which I direct. In 1990 she started a kindergarten section of the Epworth Tutoring Program, because she saw that the first graders were not prepared for first grade. Then in 1991, she started a preschool section of the Tutoring Program to give the children a better head start and so that the Girl Scouts

would have an opportunity to teach and care for younger children. The kindergarten section continues today under different leadership, but Eva still organizes a preschool section –some of the students are children of tutoring grads.

Eva also is a tremendous help to the Inspired Youth Singers, which I direct. When the choir goes on trips, Eva arranges for a van which Inspired Youth pays for. If we plan to eat in a park, Eva buys and serves food. Eva helps set a positive tone for the trip. Inspired Youth would not have been able to sing in as many places if Eva hadn't helped.

Eva is very concerned about the education of all the Girl Scouts. The girls read the Girl Scout manual and extra books every session. They also do hand-on crafts projects every session. Eva teaches the girls science; she helps them notice squirrels, birds, trees, and flowers.

Eva is also concerned about the health of the girls. She says that children cannot learn if they are hungry, and that they should be given treats because they are special. Every session she serves the girls snacks or lunch. That is a lot of food – several times a week, every week for over 20 years! The girls love the time for friendship around her table, when they are eating lunch or having snacks.

Every year Eva also celebrates graduations of the girls – preschool, kindergarten, eighth grade, high school, and college. She celebrates this on a Sunday at Epworth Church, with many girls graduating at all the levels.

Eva regularly holds elaborate investiture ceremonies. These are very solemn and are wonderful for the girls. A colleague of mine felt it was very poignant several years ago when one of the girls standing with a candle, ready to be invested, was pregnant.

“Eva” means “life.” That’s what she is for others. The first Eve was the mother of all children. Now our Eva gives a mother’s love and nurture to hundreds of girls and boys and families.

Eva often talks about the conversation she’s just had with her Creator. We thank Eva for sharing the depth and wisdom of that love with so many others. Eva is a Woman of the Century.

Beth Palmer, Director, Inspired Youth Tutoring Program and Inspired Youth Singers

DONATIONS TO INSPIRED YOUTH, INC.

Inspired Youth has a wide range of donors. In the past year gifts have come from a foundation, a church women’s group, a service organization, and around 40 individuals, including present and former tutors, parents of 8th graders from Wilmette Jr. High School, pastors, friends, family, and community members. Donations have ranged from \$25 to \$7,000. Inspired Youth appreciates all these donations.

Because of the many people who volunteer, Inspired Youth does a lot with minimal funds to enrich the lives of children and families in Uptown/Edgewater in Chicago. Inspired Youth Inc. is a 501(c)(3) corporation with the IRS, so donations are tax deductible.

Contributions to Inspired Youth can be made through PayPal on the Donations page of the website: www.inspireyouthchicago.org, or mailed to “Inspired Youth,” 5715 N. Ridge, Chicago, IL 60660.