

TUTORING NEWS: INSPIRED YOUTH

5715 N Ridge, Chicago, IL 60660, 773-561-4759, inspiredyouth2@yahoo.com

www.inspiredyouthchicago.org, www.facebook.com/inspiredyouth

Volume 23, Number 3, December 2013

TUTORING PROGRAM IS SMOOTH

The students are studying hard this year with their tutors. Here are the students and tutors this fall:

Mon. 5th-12th graders 39 Tutors: 29, +5 HS

Wed./Thurs 1st-4th gr. (2 days) 25 Tutors: 38 +13 HS

(Some tutors come 2 days.)

Sat., K-8th gr. (Total 54), only Sat: 29 Tutors: 5 adults
+51 Jr. Hi.

TOTAL: Students: 93 Tutors: 72 adults
+51 Jr. Hi.
+18 H.S.

INSPIRED YOUTH SINGERS

Singing with the Anthony Kawalkowski Orchestra in the Concert, "Love and Peace of Christmas"

Singing on stage in a big theater, accompanied by an orchestra! Twelve children of the Inspired Youth Singers were a little nervous, but they sang "The Little Drummer Boy" beautifully.

The Anthony Kawalkowski Orchestra's "Love and Peace of Christmas" concert with guest appearance by Wayne Messmer was held at the Copernicus Center in Chicago. The Inspired Youth Singers were asked to sing "The Little Drummer Boy." The choir went to the Copernicus Center the day before Thanksgiving to see what the theater was like and to practice singing on the stage. The children walked down two aisles, six and six, and up onto the stage, spreading in a line across the stage, with the violinist/conductor Anthony Kawalkowski in the middle.

On the day of the performance, the children listened quietly (!) to the first half of the concert, and then prepared for their entrance in the two aisles, with two drummers at the head of each line. The whole theater was dark except for a brightly lit stage. Suddenly the lines raced forward at a fast clip. The children walked on stage and began singing. The microphones picked up the sound beautifully, and the children's voices soared. It was beautiful. The audience went crazy at the end of the song. They clapped more than for any other number except when the orchestra played "I'll Be Home for Christmas," and a soldier serving in Afghanistan surprised his family on stage at the concert, by coming home.

After the children sang, Santa Claus came on

stage and gave each child a gold cylinder filled with small school supplies, along with a hockey puck signed by Wayne Messmer. Each singer also received a gift certificate to Target, given by the Kiwanis Club of Ravenswood, and one for McDonald's, given by orchestra. (A six-year-old singer said she was going to open her own nails salon with the money.)

That was the first of two concerts. The second was at St. John Brebeuf Church in Niles, IL. After the concert the children were treated to a bowling party in Niles! What an incentive! Pictures of both concerts are on Facebook: Inspired Youth.

Christmas Pageant

The same morning as the concert at the Copernicus Center, Epworth Church had a Christmas pageant, in which 15 children from Inspired Youth participated. Five Inspired Youth had speaking parts and two accompanied carols on the piano. Everyone did well. Look on Facebook: Epworth Church Children – Chicago to see the beautiful children.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

Wrapping 291 Presents

For 23 years Enid Young from Dysart, IA has sent boxes and boxes of stuffed animals and dolls to the Tutoring Program for the students to wrap and give to children in Uptown at Christmastime. She collects them from children all over Iowa, fixes them up, adds bows, etc., and then sends them to several places in the US, so that children can have something to love.

Enid Young grew up in England during World War II. Her family couldn't turn the lights on at night because they might get bombed. Enid Young didn't have any toys when she was a child, and she always wanted to have a doll, so she has devoted her life to giving children all over the US a stuffed animal or doll they can love.

In Saturday Tutoring 44 children from Chicago and 44 eighth grade tutors from Wilmette wrapped 291 presents as their project for the day--after an hour of reading, writing, and arithmetic. When an 8-year old student heard the project for the day would be wrapping presents, she said, "I want a present." She

was told the presents were for preschool children.

Wrapping 291 Presents

Again she pleaded, "I want a present." The children had a glorious time wrapping the presents.

The presents were given to children at Winthrop Daycare, ABC and Me, and Albany Park Community Center in Edgewater. One of the teachers related, "The children like these animals so much. They bring them to snuggle with in nap time. Thank you so much."

This is the last year Enid Young will be sending toys to children in Uptown. She is retiring from her wonderful project of giving thousands of children across the country a toy they can love. Thank you, Enid Young.

Gifts Received

The children of the Tutoring Program were fortunate to receive gifts from Glenview United Methodist Church this year. Sue Ready of GUMC arranged for church members to give 51 IY children gifts. Several children received winter coats, which they are already wearing. In early November tutor John Hoffman went to GUMC to tell the members about the children and to have them sign up to give them gifts. The children and their parents are very happy with their gifts. The beautiful packages and some of the children in their coats are on Facebook: Inspired Youth. It was a happy project.

22 other students from Inspired Youth received gifts from the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity and the Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority at Loyola University. Tutors Mike Tolitano and Kellie Schoen found out that the Tutoring Program was giving the younger children presents through Glenview United Methodist Church, so they organized college students to give gifts to the older children as well. Tutor Terri Edelson also gave small gifts to all the children in the afternoon tutoring program.

These gifts are in addition to the gifts given to the 12 singers through the Kiwanis Club and the AKO concert. Thank you to all the people who gave the children gifts this holiday season.

Cards Made for Seniors

53 students made holiday cards and letter for senior citizens this December. Several years ago a tutor remarked that the students should experience *giving* as well as *getting* in the holiday season. In making cards for seniors in 3 nearby nursing homes the students experienced giving.

Tutoring Grad

Tutoring grad Larry White visited Chicago in December. He spoke words of encouragement and inspiration to 33 5th-12th graders and their tutors at Monday night tutoring. He also spoke to children at Epworth Church to tell them how important education is. We wish Larry White well.

Eleanor Bilby, Long-Time Tutor Died

Eleanor Bilby was the bedrock of the Tutoring Program and Children's Choir for 18 years. She died in October 2013 at age 93½. This letter was written for her 90th birthday.

Dear Eleanor,

Thank you for the wonderful times we had together-- with the children's choir you directed and were the tough guy to keep the kids in line, in the tutoring program where you gave the children the hugs they needed and where you labeled all the books, in the chancel choir where your rich alto was always beautiful, in the piano lessons where you were so patient with the kids and loved every minute, in performing all the songs and piano pieces you wrote, in the Bible study group in your home, in wrapping the hundreds of Christmas presents in your home--sometimes with child "helpers," when you pasted up all the photos of the children and their tutors, and in all the trips in your car--your red one and your yellow one.

The ministry with children and families of Uptown/Edgewater through the Tutoring Program, Children's Choir, and Piano Program would not have been done without you. You were always there, always ready to do what was needed, always helping, always praying. Thank you is not enough for what you did. But thank you. Gratefully, with love, your sister in faith, Beth Palmer

DONATIONS TO INSPIRED YOUTH, INC.

Inspired Youth 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.

Inspired Youth has a wide range of donors. Gifts have come from a foundation, law firm, service organization, church women's group, and individuals, including present and former tutors, parents of 8th graders from Wilmette Jr. High School, pastors, friends, family, and community members. Donations range from \$10 to \$7,000. Inspired Youth appreciates all these donations.

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.