

## ⌘ Good News from Inspired Youth, Dec. 2013⌘

Inspired Youth is a program of miracles. This fall 93 students are being tutored by 72 adult tutors, 51 students from Wilmette Jr. High and many high school students from New Trier, Northside College Prep, and Senn. Here are some miracles happening in people's lives through Inspired Youth.



A good relationship.



Arithmetic is fun.



They want to learn.

Melissa (5<sup>th</sup> gr.) comes from a large family with many branches of cousins. 8 relatives from 5 families are in the tutoring program this year. 16 other relatives from 6 families are tutoring grads. In 1<sup>st</sup> grade Melissa could hardly memorize the poem "Roses Are Red." In 2<sup>nd</sup> grade she began working with tutor Katie Monroe. They are still together. Now Melissa can memorize a poem in a day. She is a leader among her friends.

Roberto (5<sup>th</sup> gr.) progressed enormously in 4<sup>th</sup> grade.

Back in 1<sup>st</sup> grade, he came to the tutoring program for 3 weeks. He started to learn to read, and then he dropped out. He came back to the program in 4<sup>th</sup> grade, and his first report card showed 3 F's and 2 D's. By the end of the year he brought it up to B's, C's, and occasional A's. His Saturday tutor gave him the book, "Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief." He read it during the summer and then read several more in the same series. At the end of the summer he asked, "When is choir practice going to start?" Roberto has come a long way because of Inspired Youth. In December he wrote, "I want to thank you for helping me improve."

David (8<sup>th</sup> gr.) didn't have a keyboard at home last year, so he went downtown to the Harold Washington Library to practice in their practice rooms. This year our program lent him a keyboard so he could practice at home. In the first 5 weeks of the Summer Piano Program he finished Book C,

played all of Book D, and finished the first part of the next book, Book II. He completed the written theory Book 1, found the theory Book 2 online and started that. His mother said, "David is conflicted. He doesn't know if he wants to go into art, as he has always planned, or go into music. He is very serious about music."

Q. was in the Tutoring Program in its first year, 1985-96. She has been working for 911 for several years. She just got married to a wonderful Christian man. They took their immediate family to the Dominican Republic for the wedding celebration. Q's daughter is a sophomore at a Christian college in downstate IL. Q's mother is proud of her daughter and granddaughter. Q's sister S has a job in home health care. Tutors who remember this family are happy for them.

Over 138 people came to the two Family Nights in Spring 2013, where 52 students recited poems by memory. 29 students played piano pieces in the recital of the Summer Piano Program. An audience of over 70 people admired them--parents, relatives, siblings.



Helping a 4-year old play the piano.



Singing in a gazebo in Blue Island, IL. Singing with the Anthony Kawalkowski Orchestra at the Copernicus Center.



Learning about the planets.

Kallieo (8<sup>th</sup> gr.) used to have a hard time reading. For the past 2½ years his tutor, Judy Besson, had him read easy books aloud every tutoring session, and he read better and better. This fall he chose to read difficult articles.

Elizabeth (9<sup>th</sup> gr.) came to Chicago from Mexico in May 2012 and immediately enrolled in school and joined the Tutoring Program. In May 2012 she knew no English. At first we had her read very simple pre-primers. By May 2013 she was reading second grade books, and she could understand English when it was spoken. Now in high school she can read, speak, and understand English.

Younger brothers and sisters of students already in the Tutoring Program are doing very well. Shannon (1<sup>st</sup> gr.), Itzel (1<sup>st</sup> gr.), Edwin (2<sup>nd</sup> gr.), Frankie (3<sup>rd</sup> gr.), Celeste (3<sup>rd</sup> gr.), Jennifer (4<sup>th</sup> gr.), and Kevin (4<sup>th</sup> gr.) are all excellent students. Their families have seen how important education is and help them study hard.

Victoria Gordon, a tutor exclaimed, "This is my first year working with Inspired Youth Tutoring. Since I have started here I have seen so many amazing children doing so many amazing things. It just makes me so happy to see people so excited to learn new things and to understand things instead of just memorize them or just do it because they're supposed to. When people really enjoy it and are so proud of themselves to get the correct answer and to learn

something, it makes me so happy.  
That's why I just love  
working with everybody here."

*Shel Silverstein*

*"But this bridge will only take you  
halfway there.*

*The last few steps you'll have to  
take alone."*

Inspired Youth, Inc. is a bridge to the future. It uses minimal funds to enrich the lives of children and families in Uptown/Edgewater in Chicago, because of the many people who volunteer.

Inspired Youth, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) corporation with the IRS, so donations are tax-deductible. Donations to Inspired Youth, Inc. may be made through PayPal on [www.inspireyouthchicago.org](http://www.inspireyouthchicago.org) or sent to Inspired Youth, 5715 N. Ridge, Chicago, IL 60660.

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