

⌘ Good News from Inspired Youth, Dec. 2014 ⌘

“We are the world, we are the children. We are the ones to make a brighter day, so let’s start giving. There’s a choice we’re making, we’re saving our own lives. It’s true we make a better day, just you and me.” –Michael Jackson

This is the 30th year of the Tutoring Program!—as the Epworth Tutoring Program and then as Inspired Youth. Hallelujah! Thank you to everyone who has been a part of this exciting venture.



Parents know tutoring is important.

In Sept. 2013 when Christian was in 2nd grade, he couldn’t read; he couldn’t write a sentence. During the year, with help from the Tutoring Program and his teacher at school, Christian gained tremendously. On the first day at tutoring this year he wrote, *“I go to Engineering. Engineering is interesting because I get to learn a lot of science. And I get to do things that I never tried. Also we do a lot of projects. Me and my team mates did the beam bridge. And me and my teammates are going to clean water. Also we watched all of the scariest bridges to walk on.”*



Students concentrate

Jerry, 1st gr., did not go to kindergarten. He entered the tutoring program this September as a 1st grader and did not know what a “2” was. He could not write any numbers or letters. He could not read any words. We gave him extra work to do at home, and he began studying. He studied at home, in the library after school, and in the Tutoring Program. He loved the workbooks we gave him. By

mid-November, he was becoming a whiz! He could do simple addition and subtraction, and he could read easy sentences. Look out for Jerry!



Students work hard.

David R., 10th gr., has been in the Summer Piano Program for 5 years. Last summer he wanted to learn chords and chord inversions so he could play songs in his church. He wanted to play a special song, “Dios Manda Lluvia.” We showed him the chords, and he started practicing. He played the song at his church and at the recital, with his sister Jennifer, 5th gr., singing, and his brother Edgar, 9th gr., playing the guitar. (Edgar had just begun playing the guitar.) The song was beautiful.



Students are excited over books from the Library of the U.S. Circuit Court, 7th Circuit.

“I have [given books to various tutoring programs] four or five times now, but your kids were clearly the most enthusiastic about getting the actual books. It was a great sight to see.” So wrote Genita Robinson, executive director of Lawyers Lend-A-Hand to Youth, about children from Inspired Youth going to the Federal Building in downtown Chicago to receive boxes of books for Inspired Youth from the Library of the U.S. Circuit Court, 7th Circuit, collected by judges, librarians, and lawyers. The children who were so enthusiastic about books were Fernando, Roberto, Fatima, and Valeria, all 5th graders. They were met by Judge Rueben Castillo and the library staff. Each student got to pick two books for themselves. The children were so excited about receiving books they started to learn phrases in French on the train ride back home!



Tutors direct.

Tutor Terri Edelson is amazing as she works with 1st graders. She is a 5-handed, 5-eyed whirling teacher--here, there, everywhere, one hand here, one hand there, teaching, pointing, talking, listening, watching—a whirlwind of teaching. The children are lucky to have her teaching them.



Tutors are patient.

Kallieo, 9th gr., has been in the Tutoring Program since 6th grade. Every week at school in 6th grade he was in trouble and sent to the principal's office. Through working in the Tutoring Program with his tutor, Judy Besson, he kept gaining in reading and math. Last year in 8th grade, he never had to go to the principal's office. This year he is in the International Baccalaureate program in high school.

Jimmy T., was in the Tutoring Program in the early 1990's. Recently, he and his wife saw a sign at Bezazian Library about the Tutoring Program and wanted their daughter, Krystal, 5 yrs. old, to be in the program. When he called the phone number, he realized that the program was the same one that he and his two sisters had been in 20 years ago. Krystal loves the Saturday program. After the first day of tutoring, she told her tutor she didn't want to go to school; she only wanted to come to Saturday Tutoring.



Students perform in summer piano recital.

Students kept pouring in for piano lessons in the 2014 Summer Piano Program. Altogether 56 students came to Inspired Youth's program at the Edgewater Presbyterian Church twice a week for 6½ weeks. Of the 56 students, 28 were new this year! New children from the Tutoring Program came. People in the violin program at the church came. Parents told their relatives. New students kept coming and coming. 46 students played pieces in the final recital, to an audience of over 95 people. What a summer!



Students raise money on CROP Walk.

Facebook post from Larry White, tutoring grad of the 1990s: *"Hello Dreamers!!!! Don't allow doubt to cramp your energy. Listen to your first mind and know that this week you will accomplish great things. Be courageous, be fearless, and have faith. Most of all don't worry about what the next person will think about you. Always believe in yourself and don't allow that inner voice to stop you from becoming what you can be. We all have gifts that God blessed us with, so use them."*

Joy to all, from Inspired Youth, inspiredyouth2@gmail.com [facebook.com/inspiredyouth](https://www.facebook.com/inspiredyouth)
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