

## TUTORING NEWS: INSPIRED YOUTH

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### 10<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF INSPIRED YOUTH

2013-2014 was the tenth year of the Inspired Youth Tutoring Program. It was an excellent year. Here are the numbers of students who were in the Tutoring Program this year.

#### INDIVIDUALS IN PROGRAM 2013-2014

	STUDENTS	TUTORS	8 <sup>TH</sup> GR. TUTORS
Mon.. HS students	11	40	from Wilmette Jr. Hi
Mon. 5th-8th gr.	30		
W/Th 1 <sup>st</sup> -4 <sup>th</sup> gr.	25	68***	
Sat. K-11 <sup>th</sup> gr.	(58) 28*	7	51
Individ. in Tut. Prog.	<u>94</u>	<u>115</u>	<u>51</u>
Choir, PK-HS	(32) 8**	5	
Total Individuals	<u>102</u>	<u>120</u>	<u>51</u>

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

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

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

There were fewer students and tutors in the Tutoring Program than last year, but the tutors were excellent, and the students gained significantly.

#### **DONATE 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 over 50 individuals, including present and former tutors, parents of 8<sup>th</sup> graders from Wilmette Jr. High School, pastors, friends, family, and community members. Donations have ranged from \$20 to \$7,500. Inspired Youth appreciates all these donations.

Because of volunteer tutors, 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.

Donate to Inspired Youth through the Donations page on the website [www.inspiredyouthchicago.org](http://www.inspiredyouthchicago.org), or mail a check to "Inspired Youth," 5715 N. Ridge, Chicago, IL 60660.

#### **FAMILY DAY for 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> Graders**

Family Day for families of 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> graders was a full house at Bezazian Library. 65 people came. Out of 18 families of children (2 students absent), only two did not have parents present. Two parents came who had never come to a Family Day before, and many small children came--our future students.

Parents and students filled out an evaluation form about the program. Older students passed out papers. The hero was **Jose L.**, 5<sup>th</sup> gr., who kept asking what else he could do to help. People sang songs, led by **Jennifer R.**, 4<sup>th</sup> gr, **Katie H.** and **Phyllis R.**, 1st gr. Then the students recited their poems into a microphone. 21 children each recited a poem by memory. They memorize poems very quickly (faster than adults can), and they all did an excellent job. Announcers were **Jennifer, R.**, 4<sup>th</sup> gr., and **Celeste L.**, 3<sup>rd</sup> gr. The photographer was **Karah P.**, 8<sup>th</sup> grade, who has been in the Tutoring Program for 8 years. Guest drummer on bongos was Karah's mother, Diane B., who made the occasion special. Students and tutors received certificates of commendation, and then everyone got to eat pizza, juice, and cookies, served by tutors and **Armando S.**, 6<sup>th</sup> gr.-It was a happy day.

### **FAMILY NIGHT for 5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Graders**

On a beautiful June evening, as 59 people came to Inspired Youth's Family Night to celebrate children, families, education, and the Tutoring Program. 14 adults from 12 families came, along with 32 children and youth and 13 tutors. Almost all the students and parents had been to several Family Nights before. The gathering was like a family. There was a question whether a certain family would come, and the 8<sup>th</sup> grade son said, "You know we always come."

### **Reciting Poems**

Twenty-five students recited poems that evening, most of them by memory. Altogether in the two Family Nights, 44 students recited poems for the parents this year. Around 10 other students also memorized poems but were not able come to the Family Nights.

This was the 10<sup>th</sup> year of students reciting poems in Inspired Youth's Parents Nights and the 28<sup>th</sup> year of students reciting poems in the Tutoring Program! That is a lot of students memorizing and reciting poems! Many students memorize their friends' and siblings' poems as well as their own. It's fun!

### **Student Leadership**

Emcees who announced the poems were **Kallieo A.** 8<sup>th</sup> gr., and **Myeesha M.**, 7<sup>th</sup> gr. They added their own comments and kept the program moving. **Jaely E.**, 5<sup>th</sup> grade, was the photographer of the event. She took several hundred pictures--of families, the food table, people eating, the singers, students reciting their poems, and the tutors. Some of the photos are on [facebook.com/inspiredyouth](https://www.facebook.com/inspiredyouth). **Jasmine T.**, a tutoring grad and tutor, gave the opening prayer. **Hirut N.**, a tutoring grad, was the door monitor so students did not go in and out during the poems.

### **Songs**

For extra entertainment, the Inspired Youth Singers led the audience in singing songs currently popular. After singing "Walk on the Water" (new to the group this year), the group sang "Let It Go" and "Happy," songs suggested by choir members and which they sing in school. The final song was "We Are the World," Inspired Youth's theme song.

## **Card of Thanks**

At the end of Family Night, Tutoring Director Beth Palmer was presented with a card signed by all the students, parents, and tutors. People expressed gratitude for the Tutoring Program and the work the tutors do to help the students. Here are some comments: “Thank you for all your support.” “Thank you for everything. Thanks for helping us.” “Thanks so much for allowing me to work with such an amazing group of young people! Can’t wait for next year!” “You are a great leader. I appreciate all of your efforts and hard work.” “On behalf of Judit and Josephine, thanks for a great year.” “Gracias para todo que nos ayuda.” “Thank you for all the help.” “Thanks so much for putting Inspired Youth together and allowing all of us as tutors to get to know such brilliant kids.”

## **SATURDAY TUTORING**

### **Map Game**

In February the Saturday Tutoring students played a map game designed by teacher Mr. Rennels of Wilmette Jr. High, in honor of the Sochi Olympics. The students loved finding where countries are on a map of the world. The students will play the game in Saturday Tutoring next year, too.

### **Making Ice Cream**

In April the Saturday students got to make ice cream! They measured the ingredients, put them in two bags, ice and salt in the outer bag and half and half, vanilla and sugar in the inner bag, sealed the bags, and shook and shook. Like magic, it slowly thickened and turned into ice cream! The children and 8<sup>th</sup> grade tutors from Wilmette Jr. High ate the ice cream right from the bag. This was a science/culinary/party activity, and the kids loved it. See Inspired Youth’s Facebook page.

### **The Last Day of Saturday Tutoring**

49 Chicago students came on the last day of Saturday tutoring, the most all year. The day was exciting and sad. Magazines of the children’s writings were passed out, and the students got to see in print what they had written. After working in the folders, the students did relay races on the lawn—exercise which was fun! After the relay races, the students had pizza and juice, which they loved. The Chicago students will miss their Wilmette tutors, but everyone had a wonderful experience this year.

### **Fund Raiser: Student/Teacher Basketball Game**

Inspired Youth, Inc. was the recipient this year of Wilmette Junior High School’s student/teacher basketball game fund raiser. The donations received were a surprise to Inspired Youth. Thank you, teachers at WJHS, who are co-coordinators of Inspired Youth’s Saturday Program. The Saturday Program is a wonderful beneficiary for the proceeds of the game.

## **ALL THE WRITING**

Inspired Youth kindergarten through high school wrote many articles and stories this year: **64** students wrote a story based on a scary picture of classical art (*The Scream*, *American Gothic*, *Starry Night*, and *The Persistence of Memory*); **73** students wrote a

story based on a picture from *The Mysteries of Harris Burdick*; **66** students wrote a report about an aspect of Chicago, based on one of 70 articles which the program collected from the internet; and **38** children, kindergarten through 4<sup>th</sup> grade, wrote something for our magazine *Sunshine*. Altogether, **88** students wrote one or more stories or articles for our magazines.

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade tutors from Wilmette in the Saturday program and the adult tutors in the weekday program helped the students get ideas, organize their thoughts, and express their thoughts in writing. Some of the 8<sup>th</sup> graders modeled the writing for the Chicago students. All the students used their imagination.

The students' writing skills improved during the year, and overall, during the past 29 years of the Tutoring Program, students' writing has improved significantly. Magazines of the students' writing can be found on [inspiredyouthchicago.org](http://inspiredyouthchicago.org).

### **NEW MATH WORKBOOKS**

Tutor Terri Edelson bought several new workbooks for the Inspired Youth Tutoring Program. The workbook she bought for 1<sup>st</sup> graders, *Math Made Easy*, was so exciting that Inspired Youth purchased the series for all grades K-5. The workbooks cover a wide range of math topics, which broaden and deepen the students' math thinking.

### **STUDENTS PROGRESS**

*Here are examples of how Chicago youth in the Tutoring Program are growing and how the tutors are helping them. You may not know the children, but you can picture their progress.*

**Carlos**, 1<sup>st</sup> gr, came to Chicago from Mexico in July 2013. He spoke no English. His mother is a relative of some of the children in the Tutoring Program, so he started coming to the afternoon Tutoring Program on Wed. and Thurs. He couldn't add  $1 + 1$ . He didn't recognize the "picture" of the numbers. As for the alphabet, he didn't know any of the names, sounds, or pictures of the letters, in Spanish or English. We and the school started from scratch.

In Sept. and Oct., Carlos came to the program most Thursdays, but he didn't come on Wednesdays. When Beth Palmer went to pick him up at school on Wednesdays to walk over to the library, his teacher would say that he didn't come to school that day. He was missing a lot of school days. Ms. Palmer tried to call his mother to ask her about this (in Spanish), but the phone number didn't work. One day on the porch of the school, his teacher angrily told Ms. Palmer, "You tell his mother (*me?!*), you tell his mother to come to talk to me! I want to see her!" So Ms. Palmer wrote a long Facebook message, in Spanish, to the mother of one of our other students whom Carlos seemed to know. She apparently talked with Carlos mother. Perhaps Carlos' mother talked with the teacher. Anyway, since then Carlos came to school most days, and came to the tutoring session Wed. and Thurs.

By January, Carlos was making fantastic progress. He could do simple addition and

subtraction up to ten. He could read our pre-primer “Tip I” and part of “Tip II.” He understood and spoke a little English, and he *preferred* to say the numbers in English! But the best thing was: he was so happy!!! While at the Tutoring Program, he smiled and smiled and liked to work. He read part of “Tip II,” and it was a struggle, so the tutor was ready to switch subjects, but Carlos kept reading until he got to the end of the little book. And he was so happy! The Tutoring Program is making a huge difference for Carlos.

**Itzel**, 1<sup>st</sup> gr., is learning her second language, English, like a whiz. She is completing story analysis charts as part of her homework for school.

**Phyllis**, 1<sup>st</sup> gr., is so happy at the Tutoring Program. She’s always smiling and keeps trying. She’s getting better and better at math. She said, “I love reading.” The Girl Scout leader, Eva Schwinge, a retired elementary school teacher and reading specialist, was very pleased when she heard Phyllis read aloud.

**Saralyn**, 2<sup>nd</sup> gr., is eager and motivated. Last year in 1<sup>st</sup> gr., sometimes she did her school work, and sometimes she hid under the table. She was very moody. All of a sudden in the middle of 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, she started to work. She finished reading a whole basal reader (*Parades*), she answered questions at the end of several stories, she did math worksheets every session, and she wrote very nice sentences. Saralyn just got a new baby sister. We hope her good streak continues.

**Keyde**, 3<sup>rd</sup> gr., is remarkable. When she entered the program in September 2013, she was at a very low level, but we soon saw how eager she was to learn. In September she could hardly do 1<sup>st</sup> grade math, but she flew through worksheets, level by level, and by spring she wanted to do 3<sup>rd</sup> grade math. In March, while working on a report during the tutoring session on Lake Michigan, she found several books in the library about the Great Lakes, and she started reading them. Her tutor Susan Mattison is in awe working with her.

**Yohana**, 3<sup>rd</sup> gr., entered the program in September 2013. At first she couldn’t concentrate and she fooled around. As the weeks passed she worked harder and harder. By January she was a different student. She worked straight for an hour and a half. We gave her *Frog and Toad* to read, and she said, “Oh, I love *Frog and Toad*.” Now that she enjoys studying, we want her to deepen her thinking about all the subjects.

**Kevin R.**, 4<sup>th</sup> gr., is working better and better. He is excited about doing his work. In the story he wrote about a picture from *Harris Burdick*, his writing was thoughtful. He connected ideas. You could tell there was a mind behind the writing. (Don’t laugh! It’s not always that way.)

**Jose**, 5<sup>th</sup> gr., and **Jovanny**, 5<sup>th</sup> gr., do their homework at the Tutoring Program. They argue about assignments and help each other understand the material. Jovanny has been concentrating on reading and has really improved. Jose has worked hard at math.

**Jamila**, 5<sup>th</sup> grade, entered the program in Sept. 2012. She didn’t concentrate and didn’t really try. Her tutor, Jasmine Tripp, has worked with her for two years, and now Jamila

really focuses and has progressed enormously.

A tutor asked **Fernando**, 5<sup>th</sup> gr., how many sections of math he had to do every day on the on-line program IXL. He said he had to spend an hour and a half each week. The tutor said, "How many hours a day? Let's say 5 days a week.  $90 / 5$  is 19 min. per day." Fernando said, "It's 18." The tutor did the math again and realized *Fernando* was right! Yea, Fernando!

**Josephine**, 6<sup>th</sup> gr., and **Judit** (6<sup>th</sup> gr.) are both improving in written expression.

**Bryant**, 8<sup>th</sup> gr., wants harder books to read.

**Kallieo**, 8<sup>th</sup> gr., entered the Tutoring Program as a 6<sup>th</sup> grader in Sept. 2011. He struggled with math, and he could hardly read. Nor did he focus in school; his grandmother Roslyn had to keep going up to his school because he was always in trouble. His tutor, Judy Besson, began working with him in Sept. 2011. She patiently listened to him read, word by word, and has continued to be his tutor. Now in 2014, Kallieo has learned how to study and learned how to read. He is also better in math, and he never gets into trouble at school! He would like to become a chef.

**E.R.**, 8<sup>th</sup> grade, was told by his teacher that he would have to repeat 8<sup>th</sup> grade because his math skills were so low. He wanted to drop out of school. On Monday he had 25 difficult, on-line math units (IXL) due in seven days. It was impossible to do. He had already given up. But his tutor helped him on Monday. By Friday he had 19 assignments left to do. Two different tutors decided to help him. They worked with him on IXL math for a total of ten hours on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, at his home and at Saturday tutoring. By Sunday evening he whittled it down to six units left to do. He said his teacher would help him at 7am, during early morning school. When his report card came out the next week, he passed math with a D, but he failed the other four majors. But the good news is that now his attitude is, "Yes I can!" He is figuring out what it will take to pass all his subjects.

**M.**, 8<sup>th</sup> gr., has been in the Inspired Youth Tutoring Program since first grade. Before that he was in the Epworth Tutoring Program as a preschooler. He has had hard times and many difficulties in learning. This year, with tutor John Hoffman, M. is doing amazing work. His report card showed all As, Bs, and a few Cs. He is trying. We wish him well.

**Jeffrey**, kind., is learning to read. His first language is Spanish, but his English pronunciation is clear. One Saturday in February, he "finished all the work in his folder." Last summer, July 2013, he was in the Summer Piano Program at age 4 (he turned 5 in August). He wants to learn.

**Cherish**, kindergarten, has really progressed this year. During Saturday tutoring in the fall, she played during the whole tutoring session. Then she started doing a little work. By spring, she was studying most of the time. Her great-grandmother, Imma, with whom she lives, is proud of her.

## **8<sup>th</sup> GRADE GRADUATION at GOUDY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

People from every part of the world packed into Goudy's Cafetorium to celebrate their children and relatives graduating from 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

It was an important day for the 74 graduates and their families. The young women wore gorgeous diaphanous dresses, with matching jewelry and spiked heels. The young men all looked fine with new shirts of muted colors. It was a momentous celebration.

Of the 74 graduates, 10 students had been part of the Inspired Youth Tutoring Program for several years. Two students from Inspired Youth received awards. Myreanna S. received an award for the student who made the most progress. She will be going to Amundsen H.S. in the IB (International Baccalaureate) program. Ladaja S. received a science award. She will be going to Lakeview HS. For her final report card, she received straight A's except for a B in Social Studies.

Karah P. (8<sup>th</sup> gr.) was one of four students to sing the national anthem and one of nine students to sing the song, "Today My Life Begins," by Bruno Mars. Karah will go to Crane H.S., which has a special emphasis on medical technology.

The color guard which opened the event was led by Summone S. (7<sup>th</sup> gr.) She barked out commands and the students followed her.

### **TOUGH CONCERNS**

\*Myeeshah, 7<sup>th</sup> gr., and some friends were hit by a car. Myeeshah's ankle was hurt, the same one that was broken a year ago. She could walk, but she had to have therapy three times a week in the morning, which took her out of school during that time. There was also a court date about the accident. We are concerned about Myeeshah's education.

\*Three families from the Tutoring Program know each other because they live in the same small apartment building. A situation of "he said, she said" about a supposed sexual incident caused one family to change their phone number and take their child out of the tutoring program.

\*A new cell phone was stolen from a Girl Scout helper. Within an hour it was taken to a pawn shop in a near-by neighborhood. Suspicion fell on a student from the Tutoring Program, who was the only one there from the neighborhood.

\*A student had a sore on his lip. He told his tutor that a rat had bitten him while he was sleeping. Then he said that when he woke up, his lip was like that.

\*One of our tutoring grads was arrested when he broke into a home. At the time he was found to be high on meth.

\*A 9<sup>th</sup> grader who has participated with Inspired Youth for several years stopped going to school in March. One problem was that other students made fun of the person because of

a physical condition. Another problem is that the person's friends are not a good influence. The student's parents say the student will go to summer school and do better next year.

### **TUTORING GRADS**

Sophia J. (8<sup>th</sup> gr.) was in the Tutoring Program and Inspired Youth Singers when she was in early elementary school before she moved farther away. This year she has been in the Chicago Children's Choir, in their traveling choir! Hurray!

Christina R. (12<sup>th</sup> gr.) is graduating for high school and will go to the University of Illinois at Carbondale in the fall. Her sister, Angela R., (11<sup>th</sup> gr.) plans to go to Indiana University at Bloomington in a year.

Ashley L. is in the 4<sup>th</sup> year at UIC. Ramiro L. has a job with a heating/cooling company.

Anthony D. is a supervisor for CeaseFire for the far north side of Chicago.

Precious S. is teaching special education in Rogers, a CPS school.

Kenny R., a tutoring grad and currently a tutor in the Monday night tutoring section, was the lead author in an article reporting research on cells in the nervous system. The article will be published in July. The photograph he took with an electron microscope will be on the cover of the magazine!

Caprice R., a graduate of the early days of the Tutoring Program, is working with a friend to start a tutoring program in Englewood, beginning in September. Inspired Youth wishes them well.

### **CONCERTS: INSPIRED YOUTH SINGERS**

#### **Singing in December with the Anthony Kawalkowski Orchestra**

The high point of the Christmas holiday for the Inspired Youth Singers was singing with the Anthony Kawalkowski Orchestra, in two concerts, on two different stages! The children sang at the Copernicus Center in Chicago's Jefferson Park in mid-December and at St. John Brebeuf Church in Niles, IL a week later. Thirteen children sang "The Little Drummer Boy" as part of the AKO holiday show. A video and photos are on Inspired Youth's Facebook page.

A treat for the children was that Santa came on stage in both concerts. When Santa was about to come down the aisle at St. John Brebeuf Church, one of the boys in the choir was jumping in anticipation! It's an old saying—jumping for joy--, but we rarely actually *see* it! The 9-year old boy was so excited about Santa coming, that he was jumping up and down. The boy has started to come to the Saturday Tutoring Program, but we're still trying to get him to come to the afternoon Tutoring Program. He needs both. His excitement at seeing Santa was worth a lot.

As a thank-you gift for participating in the concerts, each child received a \$20 gift certificate to Target's, plus a gold cylinder filled with school supplies, all a gift from the Kiwanis Club of Ravenswood. The children also received a \$5 gift certificate to McDonald's from Jaime, the conductor's assistant. The real gift was the music!

After the concert at St. John Brebeuf, the kids were treated to a bowling party, sponsored by Jaime. You can't imagine how excited the kids were at the bowling alley! Even after



an hour and a half of bowling—after singing in a concert--, they were still excited, and they weren't even tired! A few of the kids had been bowling one or two times before, but for many, this was their first time. And they got better and better. Some of the kids are "special ed," but they figured out the scoreboard! They learned from each other.

At the end of the bowling party, each child got to play a note on Jaime's violin--an exciting day!

### **Youth Choir Fest, 2014: A Miracle**

The 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Youth Choir Fest, held in March 2014, almost didn't happen. In November 2013, people thought the 32<sup>nd</sup> year of the Youth Choir Fest, held in February 2013, would end up being the last. One choir director had moved to a church which didn't have children. In two other churches, all the children were older, and some were away at college. It looked as if Inspired Youth and the Epworth Church School Singers were the only choirs that could participate and we should call it off. But Eva Schwinge of Epworth said, "Let's have it anyway with just two choirs. It will still be a good celebration." So we went ahead.

What happened was a miracle! Three other choirs came, for a total of five youth choirs. More adults and children came than have come for several years. Epworth's sanctuary was packed. And one of the churches even said they would like to host the event next year. It was a happy day!

The youth choirs which sang were from Hermon Baptist Church, and Elston Ave. United Methodist Church, along with the Shielded Choir of Oasis Christian Ministries International, the Inspired Youth Singers, and the Epworth Church School Singers. The choir with the most singers was from Epworth, with 19 children singing!

All the choirs sang well. The favorite of the afternoon was the group from Elston Ave. UMC which did praise dancing along with their songs. The songs were so catchy, the Inspired Youth Singers said they wanted to sing them.

After the concert a light supper was served by the Epworth Girl Scouts. In previous years not all the churches stayed for refreshments. This year *everyone* stayed! The parlor at Epworth Church was jam packed. The Girl Scouts almost ran out of food. The 33<sup>rd</sup> annual Youth Choir Fest turned out to be a wonderful occasion, a miracle. Pictures are on Inspired Youth's Facebook page.

### **Singing at the Four Seasons Hotel: Lawyers Lend-a-Hand to Youth Banquet**

The 18 children were hyper when they gathered at Epworth Church after school to go downtown to sing for the banquet. They were talking so loudly the 8 adults couldn't hear each other. The kids were hyper on the bus, and the bus driver almost had to say something. They were hyper in the small banquet room where they put their coats.

When they started singing, all their energy went into the music, and the performance was the best they had ever done. They sang 30 songs, for over an hour, as the guests were

going into the banquet hall at the luxurious Four Seasons Hotel on Chicago's Magnificent Mile.

The guests going into the banquet all smiled as they stopped to listen to the children before going into the banquet hall. One woman sat on a couch and listened to the whole concert, tapping her fingers along with the music.

This was the fourth year the Inspired Youth singers performed for the Lawyers Lend-A-Hand banquet. The choir was the youngest group to perform there; five of the 18 singers were 5-7 years old, and they all sang well.

Featured were two soloists, **Fernando** and **Roberto** (both 5<sup>th</sup> gr.). **Fatima** (5<sup>th</sup> gr.) accompanied three songs on the piano. **Jasmine T.**, a tutoring grad and long-time choir member, conducted the choir.

When the concert was over, the children went to the room where their coats were and drank water from elegant crystal goblets. **Edgar** (8<sup>th</sup> gr.) discovered that rubbing a finger along the top of the glass makes a musical tone. Everyone gathered around him watching how he did that and trying to do it, too. It was a beautiful evening.

## **INSPIRED YOUTH, JUNE AND JULY**

### **Inspired Youth Singers**

The Inspired Youth Singers have been invited to perform at the meeting of the Kiwanis Club of Ravenswood at the end of June.

On Saturday, July 12, 2014, the Inspired Youth Singers will join the Epworth Church School Singers to perform during an open house celebrating the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Epworth United Methodist Church. Please come to the open house, 1-4pm, and stay for the worship service at 4:00 pm. You are also invited to Epworth's anniversary banquet following the worship service. Look at the website [www.epworthchicago.com](http://www.epworthchicago.com) for information about purchasing tickets.

### **Summer Piano Program-Piano "Tutors" Needed**

Inspired Youth's Summer Piano Program will run from June 16 through July 29. If you know of people who could be "volunteer piano tutors," or if you know of students who would like to participate, have them contact Beth Palmer, 773-561-4759, or [inspiredyouth2@yahoo.com](mailto:inspiredyouth2@yahoo.com).

The location of the Summer Piano Program is Edgewater Presbyterian Church, 1020 W. Bryn Mawr, Room 304. Piano "tutors" are needed Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs., 1-2pm, 2-3pm, 3-4pm, and Mon. and Tues., 6:30-7:30pm and 7:30-8:30pm. Piano books and guidance are provided. People who have had music lessons in the past on any instrument can help. It is an exciting program. People have a good time.

## **GIFTS TO INSPIRED YOUTH**

### **Fund Raiser**

One of the tutors, John Hoffman, is a promoter of the company, FashionBar. FashionBar presented an exclusive Fashion Show in mid-February at the Drake Hotel in downtown Chicago. Inspired Youth, Inc. was a beneficiary of a portion of the event proceeds. Tutor Lauren Sandherr designed flyers and a tri-fold poster display for the event. Thank you, FashionBar, for show-casing Inspired Youth.

### **School Supplies from Beecher, IL**

Students from the National Honor Society at Beecher HS in Beecher, IL donated two huge storage boxes full of bright and shiny school supplies to the Tutoring Program.

Beecher, IL is a far southern suburb of Chicago, many miles from Uptown on the north side of Chicago. The links of connections from Beecher HS to Inspired Youth was long and improbable. Here are the steps:

Victoria, a college student at Loyola University and a volunteer tutor with Inspired Youth, interviewed Pete, another tutor, for a class assignment. Victoria asked her mom to proofread the essay. Her mom, coordinator of special services for the schools in Beecher, IL, showed the essay to a teacher, who showed it to her daughter, Gabrielle, who is in the National Honor Society. Gabrielle asked Ms. Kimmel, the advisor of the National Honor Society, if the members of the NHS could raise money through a candy sale, to buy school supplies for the children of Inspired Youth. They raised the money, the supplies were purchased, and the school supplies were brought to Chicago, to be used by the children of the Tutoring Program. Who could have anticipated it?! Is this a crazy story?!

This shows how important every single person is. We can never know how our actions will affect other people and what will come of them. And this story isn't finished. The school supplies they donated will help the children in the Tutoring Program. The children, as they grow up, will influence many other people. A volunteer tutor once observed that each one of our students would influence at least ten other people in their lives. What we do matters.

Inspired Youth appreciates every gift: They will all be multiplied in the lives of the children.

### **Books from the Library of the U.S. Courts**

“I have done this four or five times now [giving books to various tutoring programs], 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 books from the Library of the U.S. Circuit Court, 7<sup>th</sup> Circuit in May. Judges, staff, and lawyers had collected around 80 books of all types and levels for Inspired Youth.

The children who were enthusiastic about receiving the books were **Fernando, Roberto, Fatima,** and **Valeria**, all 5<sup>th</sup> graders. They were met by Judge Rueben Castillo, Gretchen Van Dam (head librarian), John Klaus, Claude Hayes, and Genita Robinson. The children had their picture taken with Judge Castillo and piles of books! After the picture was taken, each student had to narrow their personal piles down to two books which they could take home. The children were so excited about receiving books that they tried to learn phrases in French on the train ride back home!

The next day after this, Mr. Klaus and Mr. Hayes delivered the books to Bezazian Library, and students of the afternoon tutoring program each got to look through the books and select one for themselves and one for their younger siblings at home. Pictures of this exciting time are on [facebook.com/inspiredyouth](https://www.facebook.com/inspiredyouth).

The books were taken one afternoon (in two shopping carts) to Goudy School and another day to the Family Night for 5<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders, where students from the Tutoring Program got to select books to take home. It is wonderful to see children and youth excited about books!

#### **MESSAGE FROM A FORMER STUDENT**

Dear Miss Beth, I'm not sure if you remember me because it has been years and I have grown so much the last 13 years. You are such a big part of my life and I have never forgotten you. My name is Yolanda and I have a brother named Nam. My cousins are Ahn, Nancy, and Jennifer. Since I could remember, you had always helped all of us with homework at Epworth Tutoring Center and piano lessons. It's so amazing to find you on Facebook because I can finally tell you thank you. Sincerely, Yolanda

#### **Good News**

These students were on Principal's Honor Roll at Goudy School (they received all A's): Yulissa L., 5<sup>th</sup>, Analucia G., 2<sup>nd</sup>, Katie H., 1<sup>st</sup>

These students were on the A-B honor roll at Goudy School (only A's and B's): Karah, 8<sup>th</sup>, Ladaja 8<sup>th</sup>, Keily 8<sup>th</sup>, Joanna, 7<sup>th</sup>, Fatima, 5<sup>th</sup>, Isaac, 4<sup>th</sup>, Frankie 3<sup>rd</sup>, Edwin, 2<sup>nd</sup>, Giselle, 2<sup>nd</sup>, Phyllis, 1<sup>st</sup>

These students received the Citizenship award for their class in the final marking period at Goudy School: Myreanna, 8<sup>th</sup>, Ariana, 7<sup>th</sup>, Marleni, 7<sup>th</sup>, Valeria, 5<sup>th</sup>, Keyde, 3<sup>rd</sup>.

In the 8<sup>th</sup> gr. graduation ceremony at Goudy Elementary School, one of the students of Inspired Youth, Myreanna Smith, was given an award for the Most Improved Student in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. In presenting the award, her teacher Ms. Oehlsen said,

“At Goudy Elementary School, many of the students challenge their brains, their bodies, and their spirits every day, which makes it tough to choose just one 8<sup>th</sup> grader for the Most Improved award. However, one student stands out for her consistent hard work, her ability to overcome obstacles, and her incredible academic gains. That student is Myreanna S.

“Myreanna doesn't make excuses. No matter what's going on in her life, she

gets the job done. She repeatedly takes on tasks that are just a little too hard for her and in the process she achieves a lot more than she could before.

“Myreanna’s diligent efforts have won her a spot in Amundsen High School’s International Baccalaureate Program. That means that the first reward for her hard work is even more hard work. But she’s up to the challenge. Her bravery, persistence, empathy, and grit will serve her well in high school and college and beyond.”

Posts from Larry White, tutoring grad

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. We came in this world by ourselves, and we're going to leave this world by ourselves.

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 to make the next person feel good. That's why they're called gifts. Never stop pursuing what your heart and spirit urge you to do. Act, plan, dream, believe, because at the end of the day, we are who we believe we are--point blank, period.

Jack Jacobson, former teacher at Wilmette Jr. High, initiated the program where 8<sup>th</sup> graders from Wilmette Jr. High come to Chicago to tutor students from Uptown/Edgewater in the

Saturday Tutoring Program. Here is an email he wrote recently to Tutoring Director, Beth Palmer:

Dear Beth: I have followed the program all year and continue to marvel at the marvelous work you do. If you were Catholic, I would recommend you for sainthood for surely what you have done all these years is miraculous. I don't know anyone who has had a more positive impact on thousands of kids, both in Uptown and Wilmette, than you. For my part, while I am obviously out of the loop, I continue to kvel ( yiddish for with pride) at the contributions of my Wilmette families and colleagues. It is hard for me to believe that it has been 14 years since I retired and I continue to be grateful for the many blessings I have. I hope you and Frank are well and hopefully we can see each other next year. With respect and admiration- Fondly Jack

Note from Genita Robinson, Executive Director of Lawyers Lend-A-Hand to Youth about giving Inspired Youth books from the court’s book drive:

Beth, Many thanks to you and to Fernando, Roberto, Fatima, and Valeria for helping me and the court staff to remember why we do this annual book donation.

~Genita

**FALL TUTORING**

The 2014-2015 season of the Inspired Youth Tutoring Program will begin with tutors' orientation meetings on Mon., Sept. 8, 6:30-7:50pm; Wed., Sept. 10, 3:30-5pm, and Thurs., Sept. 11, 3:30-5pm. Tutors come on the day they will volunteer. The students will come beginning Sept. 15, 17, and 18. If you know of people who could tutor a child, tell them to email [inspiredyouth2@yahoo.com](mailto:inspiredyouth2@yahoo.com) or call 773-561-4759. It is worth while for everyone.