

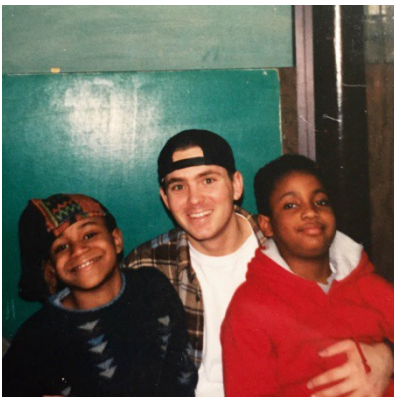
Good News from Inspired Youth, Dec. 2015

“Nothing that is worth doing can be achieved in our lifetime; therefore we must be saved by hope. Nothing which is true or beautiful or good makes complete sense in any immediate context of history; therefore we must be saved by faith. Nothing we do, however virtuous, can be accomplished alone; therefore we must be saved by love.” –Reinhold Niebuhr



Tutor and student at Family Day.

Leonardo M. (1st gr.) entered the tutoring program bawling. For four weeks he cried, didn't talk, and bit pencils. Various tutors tried different things to work with him. Rorie tried art. Zak tried tug of pencil. Mark talked to him in Spanish. Nothing worked, although the tutor usually helped him complete the worksheets of his homework. In Week Four of the Tutoring Program something happened. Leonardo was a changed person! He didn't cry. He walked willingly with the other children to the library, even helping to push the cart full of folders. He eagerly did his homework. We don't know how this happened. We are just amazed.



Tutoring picture from 1993!

As a college student in 1993, Scott Radtke tutored Woody D. and Rashad F. in Inspired Youth's predecessor program. Scott kept remembering helping the students. This fall he had time to tutor again. He looked up Beth Palmer's name on the internet and found the Tutoring Program at the library. Now he is a tutor on Wednesday afternoons, this time bringing his son, a 7th grader at Wilmette Jr. High School, and his daughter, a junior at Regina Dominican High School. And Scott still has a picture of himself with Woody and Rashad!

Joy to all, from Inspired Youth, Inc.

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.inspiredyouthchicago.org or sent to Inspired Youth, 5715 N. Ridge, Chicago, IL 60660.



Crafts at Epworth Halloween party.

This is the remarkable story of twins, K.G. and D.G., (5th gr.). When they entered the Tutoring Program at the beginning of 3rd gr., they couldn't read, write, or do simple arithmetic. Their tutor, Susan Mattison, was patient and helped K. bit by bit, but D. wouldn't do any work. In March, under the dictum of no work, no cookies, D. started to do her homework. In 2½ years the girls have hardly missed a day of afternoon tutoring, Saturday tutoring, or choir practice, and both keep learning. Now in 5th grade, they both do well in school and are leaders in the Tutoring Program and Inspired Youth Singers.



High school tutoring section.

Melissa D., (7th gr.) is from a large Mexican American family. Over 23 of her cousins, cousins-in-law, siblings, nieces, and nephews have been in the Tutoring Program during the past 15 years. Melissa's parents both have jobs; to earn extra money they collect scrap metal for recycling and sell corn at the beach in the summer. Melissa's mother cannot read or write, but she wants her children, grand-children, nieces, nephews, and their children to be in the Tutoring Program and do well in school. Melissa is a leader among her friends and relatives.



Mother reading to kindergarten son.

Jamine B. and her brothers were in the Tutoring Program several years ago. Her younger

sister is in the program now, and her son is a kindergartener in the program. As a 7th grader Jamine wrote very interesting stories for our magazine. Just a couple of years ago Jamine became a substitute teacher with the Chicago Public Schools. Hurray!

30 years ago the Tutoring Program began assigning children poems to memorize to recite for their parents in the spring Family Night. Every year students memorize poems by Shel Silverstein, Robert Louis Stevenson, Langston Hughes, etc. Besides memorizing their poems, the students often memorize their friends' poems as well. In May/June 2015, 45 students recited poems at Family Night.



Summer piano recital.

The 2015 Summer Piano Program was a gala occasion. 47 students came to Edgewater Presbyterian Church twice a week for hour-long piano lessons on Inspired Youth's 9 keyboards. Students were taught by 20 volunteer piano tutors who came from 1-6 hours each week to help students learn to read notes and play the piano. 39 students, ages 4-17, performed solos and duets on the keyboard/piano for the final recital, for a happy audience of 115-120 people.



5th-8th grade tutoring section.

F.F. (12th gr.), entered the tutoring program as a 3rd grader in 2006 and always tried hard. Now his little brother, also F.F. (5th gr.), is doing very well. One night at the tutoring program 5th grader F.F. read two stories, wrote answers to questions about both stories, made corrections on the essay he had written the previous week, and wrote sentences based on spelling words. Their parents are proud of both their sons.

Sandra A. was in the Tutoring program in the late 1990's. Her son, Larry S. (3rd gr.), is in the program now. Larry's step-father, Cameron W., appreciates the program. He said this about the program: "The Tutoring Program is good not only for Larry, but for all the children who attend. It's a very fortunate activity for the kids for their growth and learning. It's great that the tutors take time out of their own personal lives to actually care about these kids. It is extremely important that the community cares about the kids and not just their own personal families. It takes the kids a long way in life to understand the importance of love throughout the community. It's such a great opportunity that my son and other children in his school are provided with the help and the caring the Tutoring Program gives. And it's very touching that

the tutors don't ask for anything, and that they provide their free time just to help the kids grow. That's very important."

Tutoring Director Beth Palmer was asked to play the organ for the Memorial Service for her 50th reunion at Wellesley College. She also played the carillon, which she had played as a student.



Ms. Beth playing replica of 1636 organ for reunion.

In this 31st year of the Tutoring Program, thank you to everyone who has been a part of this exciting venture.