

## TUTORING NEWS: INSPIRED YOUTH

5715 N. Ridge, Chicago, IL 60660, 773-561-4759, [inspiredyouth2@gmail.com](mailto:inspiredyouth2@gmail.com)

[www.inspiredyouthchicago.org](http://www.inspiredyouthchicago.org), [www.facebook.com/inspiredyouth](http://www.facebook.com/inspiredyouth)

Volume 26, Number 3, December 2017

### PRESENTS FOR 50 CHILDREN

The school dismissal bell rang, and crowds of children and their parents came across the street to Dorie Burrell's to pick up presents from Glenview UMC. They crowded in the small entry way and took the bags of presents for their family. They were smiling, and shy. Pictures of some of the children picking up their presents are on [Facebook.com/inspiredyouth](http://Facebook.com/inspiredyouth).

When V.A., 3<sup>rd</sup> gr., picked up her present, she was wreathed in smiles. In another family, when the mother picked up presents for her three children, she was very grateful.

Another family received two huge bags of presents for the two youngest daughters. The oldest daughter (now in 3<sup>rd</sup> gr.) has been going to the afternoon program since 1<sup>st</sup> grade. Her sister, who's now 5 years old, didn't go to preschool last year, so we gave her a Big Preschool Workbook to help her learn the letters and numbers. This year she's going to kindergarten, but it took her until the beginning of December to learn to write her 5-letter name. Nor does she speak clearly. It's sad. It was heart-warming to see two big bags of presents for her and her younger sister, who had just broken her arm.

Who gave 50 children presents? People at Glenview United Methodist Church, with the theme, "Whose Birthday is It, Anyway?" In early November three programs went to Glenview UMC to tell about their program, and the parishioners chose names of people they'd like to give a Christmas present to. Heather Conlon represented Inspired Youth and told them about the program. All 50 names were chosen.

Inspired Youth is very grateful to be included in Glenview UMC's "Whose Birthday is It, Anyway?" Thank you, Glenview UMC, and thank you, Susan Ready, for organizing this undertaking. It means a lot to all the families.

### PRESENTS FOR 16 MORE CHILDREN!

A church in the neighborhood, the Episcopal Church of the Atonement, received donations to buy children of the neighborhood Christmas presents. Margaret Sullivan, tutor and chair of

the Board of Directors of Inspired Youth, Inc., is a member of the Church of the Atonement. She suggested children of Inspired Youth as recipients of the presents. With funds from the Church of the Atonement, Margaret Sullivan purchased gifts for 16 children and one parent from Inspired Youth. When the presents were delivered to the families, the parents were very grateful. They appreciated the gifts very much.

### SINGING FOR MEN'S SHELTER DINNER

The Inspired Youth Singers and the Epworth Church School Singers sang for Epworth's annual Christmas dinner for Epworth's Men's Shelter. 17 youth (kindergarten through 9<sup>th</sup> grade) and 3 adults sang Christmas carols and other songs for the men's dinner.

The choir sang 15 songs in the concert. *Nine!* songs were accompanied by children on the piano: Raul V., 2<sup>nd</sup> gr., Phyllis R., 5<sup>th</sup> gr., Itzel V., 5<sup>th</sup> gr., Gregorio F., 6<sup>th</sup> gr., Leonela C., 7<sup>th</sup> gr., and Fatima E., 9<sup>th</sup> gr. Featured on the drum and claves were Jason R., 2<sup>nd</sup> gr., and Raul V., 2<sup>nd</sup> gr.

Seven songs in the concert were streamed **live!** on [Facebook.com/inspiredyouth](http://Facebook.com/inspiredyouth) by Scart Javier. All the children sang out, as they were directed by Ms. Dorie Burrell. The children looked festive in their white shirts, with the girls in red plaid vests. It was an evening of celebration.

### EPWORTH CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Epworth's 2017 Christmas pageant was magnificent. Six videos of the pageant taken by Scart Javier are on Facebook: Epworth Church Children – Chicago.

The pageant, directed by Epworth's pastor, Rev. Juyeon Jeon, was excellent. The costumes have been made and purchased over several years. The angels, wise men, shepherds, sheep, cow, and star were all beautiful.

The script for this year's pageant told the story of the birth of Jesus, taken from Matthew and Luke. All the actors were perfect. The narrator was an adult (Sheila M.), and the other actors with speaking parts were children: the angel (Dayveana B., 5<sup>th</sup> gr.), Mary (Jamyla J. (9<sup>th</sup>

gr.), shepherds (Malik O., 1<sup>st</sup> gr., and Donovan F., 1<sup>st</sup> gr.), and lead wise man (Gregorio F., 6<sup>th</sup> gr.).

Six Christmas carols were sung during the pageant. All six carols were played on the piano by child pianists: Fatima E., 9<sup>th</sup> gr.; Leonela C., 7<sup>th</sup> gr., Gregorio F., 6<sup>th</sup> gr., and Phyllis R., 5<sup>th</sup> gr. The whole group of children sang out well, with the congregation joining in on four of the carols, and Beth Palmer playing the pipe organ.

Besides the videos, costumes, actors, and music, the highlight of the pageant was the roses. As the congregation and children sang (and the children did motions for) "Joy to the World," mothers brought their infants and toddlers to the altar to give roses to baby Jesus (5-mo. old Ethan F.), who lay in a wooden manger. Altogether 8 babies and toddlers gave baby Jesus roses, including Jamesha Y., who was only one-week old.

After the pageant there was a special community hour, which everyone enjoyed.

Epworth's 2017 Christmas pageant was spectacular. Look at the videos on Facebook.

## CAROLING

Two days before Christmas, three children and five adults sang carols at The Breakers. The residents joined in. It was a festive occasion.

The Inspired Youth Singers have been invited to sing at the All American Nursing Home on Wed., Dec. 27, and to the Uptown Care Center on Thurs., Dec. 28. Both of these centers called Inspired Youth and said they wanted the children to sing during the holiday season. The staff and the residents enjoyed the children singing when they came last year.

## 2018 CALENDARS FOR 22 FAMILIES

Susan Ready of Glenview UMC gave the Tutoring Program 22 calendars (2018) with pictures of cats, dogs, horses, wild life, plants, flowers, and mountains. We showed them to the 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> grade section and said each family could take one. You would have thought they were boxes of candy, the eagerness of the children in grabbing a calendar to take home! The few calendars which are left will be given to the 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders who don't have younger siblings.

## CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

Susan Ready also gave the Tutoring Program boxes and boxes of Christmas cards. We put a card in each student's tutoring folder and asked the children to write a holiday greeting on them. 24 children wrote letters or short notes on the cards, and we gave the cards to people at the Uptown Care Center, a nearby seniors' residence. The children loved writing a message on the card and drawing a small picture and coloring it.

Here is the letter a 3<sup>rd</sup> gr. girl wrote:

*I am 8 years old. I love dogs. There is a dog that lives next door. His name is Rumble. He is white with black spots. I play tag and ball and I sometimes throw a stick and he catches it. I have known him since he was a puppy. We have great memories.*

*I am in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and I am learning how to multiply. It is hard but I am getting better at it. It is almost time for winter break and that makes me feel mad, because I will be home alone and no one to talk to and play with.*

*I hope you have happy holidays.*

*Love, Layla*

## LARRY WHITE, FORMER STUDENT, PRESENTS PAINTING TO BETH PALMER

Larry White, a tutoring student in the early 1990's, paints after his job in Green Bay, WI. He just brought Beth Palmer a stunning oil painting of the sun, with pieces of mirror as the rays.

## DONATIONS TO INSPIRED YOUTH, INC.

Inspired Youth has a wide range of donors. In the past year gifts have come from a foundation, church women's group, service organization, and around 70 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 \$25 to \$4,000. Inspired Youth appreciates all these donations.

Because of the many people who volunteer, 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.

Contributions to Inspired Youth can be made through PayPal on the Donations page of the website: [www.inspiredyouthchicago.org](http://www.inspiredyouthchicago.org), or

mailed to "Inspired Youth," 5715 N. Ridge,  
Chicago, IL 60660.