

## TUTORING NEWS: INSPIRED YOUTH

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### STUDENTS DO GOOD WORK

Rodrigo A., 3<sup>rd</sup> gr., is making fantastic progress. When he enrolled in the Tutoring Program in September 2017, his written work was poor. He covered it up by writing very small and illegibly. By February he was reading better, spelling accurately, and writing coherently. He has gained a lot from the Tutoring Program this year.

Layla S., 3<sup>rd</sup> gr., is reading books on her own at home. Layla checked out a book from the library by Tomie DePaola. She loved it. Now she is taking out other books from the library.

Michelle F., 3<sup>rd</sup> gr., loves to read graphic novels from the library. In the Tutoring Program she is working on writing complex sentences. She is doing better.

David C., 2<sup>nd</sup> gr. drew an excellent, detailed picture of a neighborhood fire for the cover of *Sunshine* magazine.

Donovan F., 1<sup>st</sup> gr., is a student in the Saturday Tutoring Program and sings in Inspired Youth Singers. In the spelling bee at his public school, Walt Disney Magnet School, he beat the other first graders *and* the 2<sup>nd</sup> graders. He was bested by a 3<sup>rd</sup> grader on the word "harvest." Yea, Donovan! His father, Ian F., encourages him and is proud.

Kayla S., kindergarten, learned to read simple words in one day, in May. That same day she learned to add. The next week she learned how to subtract. ... Kayla has always had a hard time pronouncing letters like k and gh, which are in the back of the throat. She practiced them over and over, *on her own, by herself!* Finally, she learned to say them. She is motivated!!!

We're working hard with 6<sup>th</sup> grader K. He often doesn't do his homework during the week, so he has missing assignments. He should be doing better than he is.

M., 8<sup>th</sup> gr., is very capable, but he doesn't want to do the details. We think he will start to do better.

A tutor was reluctant to work with 8<sup>th</sup> grader, N., because in previous years N. was hard to work with. Now it's completely different. N. concentrates the whole tutoring session. The tutor enjoyed working with him. N. always got a lot of D's and a sprinkling of F's on his report card. On his April report card, he got all C's and one B! We can hardly believe it. His tutor said N. is starting to do his homework because he wants to play football in high school and he has to have a certain grade average to do it. N.'s father didn't graduate from high school and has always regretted it. He drives his son to tutoring (most kids walk), and he always worries about him. N.'s report card shows he is finally starting to try. This is good news!

### HONOR ROLL (some), 2<sup>nd</sup> Marking Period

**A/B Honor Roll:** Berenice R., 3<sup>rd</sup> gr.; Rodrigo A., 3<sup>rd</sup> gr.; Michelle F., 3<sup>rd</sup> gr.; Raul V., 2<sup>nd</sup> gr.; Jordan J., 2<sup>nd</sup> gr.

**Perfect Attendance:** Marilu G., 3<sup>rd</sup> gr.

### HONOR ROLL (some), 3<sup>rd</sup> Marking Period

**A/B/Honor Roll:** Marilu G., 3<sup>rd</sup> gr., Andre Moneyham, 2<sup>nd</sup> gr., and others.

#### INDIVIDUALS IN PROGRAM 2017-2018

	<u>STUDENTS</u>	<u>TUTORS</u>
		ADULT, HS, 8 <sup>th</sup> gr.
Mon. HS Tutoring	4	22
Mon. 5th-8th Tut.	26	
W/Th 1 <sup>st</sup> -4 <sup>th</sup> Tut.	36	49* +12 New Trier HS
Sat. PS-8 <sup>th</sup> (+2 HS)	<u>29**</u> (59total)	<u>7</u> 51 WJHS 8 <sup>th</sup> gr.
<b>Individ. in Tut. Prog.</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>78 + 63</b>

Choir, PK-HS 6\*\*\*(35total) 5

**Total Individuals 101 83 + 63**

\*Several tutors volunteered more than one day per week.

\*\* Sat. students not in weekday Tutoring Program.

\*\*\* Choir members not in Tutoring Program

### WEEKDAY TUTORING: MON., WED., THURS.

Weekday tutoring is the backbone of the Tutoring Program. Students came to Bezazian Library every week to work on homework and other reading, writing, and arithmetic assignments. Fifth grade through HS students came Monday evenings; 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> graders came on Wed. and Thurs. afternoons. The math homework was often difficult, and the tutors from the neighborhood and from New Trier HS were wonderful at helping the students. Some students did IXL math homework on the library's computers. Students also needed work in writing basic sentences. All the students gained.

### SATURDAY TUTORING:

#### Good Relations, Good Writing, Good Projects

In the Saturday Tutoring Program 51 8<sup>th</sup> graders from Wilmette Jr. High School come to Chicago every other Saturday to work with pre-school through 8<sup>th</sup> graders from Uptown/Edgewater. All the students do excellent work. They spend an hour as tutoring pairs doing individualized reading, writing, and arithmetic assignments which the tutoring director prepares. Then they spend two half-hours each session doing various projects, e.g., writing, conflict resolution, free time on the playground equipment, and other activities. All these activities provide an opportunity for wholesome educational relationships.

A special feature of the program is the writing assignments planned by Ms. Stephanie Deininger and Mr. Jon Rennels, teachers at Wilmette Jr. High School. The writing projects are a wonderful experience for all the students. The first writing assignment was “Brown Bag Short Stories,” where students were given an arbitrary “character,” “setting,” and “conflict/problem” and asked to write a fictional short story using them. The Saturday tutoring pairs along with a few students from the weekday tutoring program wrote a total of 55 “Brown Bag Short Stories,” all very imaginative and very creative.

In other writing assignments, 52 children wrote forceful editorials on various topics under the rubric, “Here’s What I Think,” 24 upper elementary Chicago children wrote stories based on pictures from different parts of the world, 22 students wrote articles on various countries in the world, and 20 younger children wrote stories for our magazine “Sunshine.”

The last day of Saturday tutoring was warm, with a temperature in the 80s. After an excellent session of tutoring, the 8<sup>th</sup> gr. tutors and the Chicago students played games on the lawn of Margate Park. Then they had a pizza party, with huge slices of thick pizza. The kids gulped down the pizza and lined up for seconds and thirds. It was a wonderful day.

### **MONDAY EVENING FAMILY NIGHT**

“What is so rare as a day in June? Then, if ever, come perfect days.”

*(James Russell Lowell)*

Parents’ Night for the 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders was one of those “perfect days.” It was gorgeous. 47 people came to the Family Night—students, parents, siblings, and tutors. (37 people came to last year’s Family Night.) Everyone enjoyed it.

18 students recited poems by memory, humorous poems, poems about people, poems about nature, and inspirational poems. All students did well. Exceptional were Dayveana B., 5<sup>th</sup> gr., reciting “Double Dutch”; Leonela C., 7<sup>th</sup> gr., reciting “The Road Not Taken”; and Gregorio F., 6<sup>th</sup> gr., reciting the first part of “Paul Revere’s Ride.” The audience applauded loudly for the poems, which were announced by Miguel O., 8<sup>th</sup> gr., and Yasmine H., 8<sup>th</sup> gr., both of whom did very well. Tutor Meghan Ford took great pictures.

A group from the Inspired Youth Singers led the audience in singing a few songs. Accompanying the songs on the keyboard were Gregorio F., 6<sup>th</sup> gr., Leonela C., 7<sup>th</sup> gr., Itzel V., 5<sup>th</sup> gr., and Raul V., 2<sup>nd</sup> gr.

After the singing and the poems everyone got to enjoy pizza, soda, and cookies. It was a beautiful evening.

### **AFTERNOON FAMILY DAY, 1<sup>st</sup> -4<sup>th</sup> GRADERS**

The Spring Family Day for the 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> graders (and siblings) of the Tutoring Program was spectacular! 31 students came, along with 11 tutors, and 24 parents from 19 out of 21 families! This may be a record! The 24 parents included 4 fathers and one grandfather. 11 younger siblings also came.

28 children recited poems into the microphone, mostly by memory. The children's choir of 11 students led the group in singing 5 songs, 3 with child accompanists (Jordynn J., 2<sup>nd</sup> gr.; Raul V., 2<sup>nd</sup> gr.; and Eduardo F., 6<sup>th</sup> gr.). The announcer, David C., 2<sup>nd</sup> gr., did an excellent job. The photographers, tutors Marshall M. and Zak Yasin, were wonderful. Their photos are on Inspired Youth's Face Book page. The afternoon ended with delicious pizza, slurpy pouches of pop, and yummy chocolate chip cookies. It was a beautiful day.

### **CHILDREN'S BOOKS GIVEN BY THE LIBRARY OF THE U.S. COURTS**

As soon as the children of the Tutoring Program came into Bezazian Library, they ran to the books from the Library of the U.S. Courts. Each child grabbed two books to take home. Some children selected books for their younger siblings. They were so happy with the books.

During the week students from the Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday sections of the Tutoring Program selected books to take home. The children and their families are excited about the books.

What a bonanza! The 160 books were brought to Inspired Youth by John Klaus and Claude Hayes of the Library of the U.S. Courts. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> year Inspired Youth has been selected as the recipient of the book drive of the Library of the U.S. Courts, located in downtown Chicago.

Among the wide range of children's books were many *Magic Tree House* books. All the *Magic Tree House* books are imaginative, with a wide range of geographical and historical settings, and all are written for children.

Pictures of a few children with the books are on Inspired Youth's Facebook page, Facebook.com/inspiredyouth, with the red-white-and-blue logo of a child reading a book.

Thank you, Library of the U.S. Courts, for thinking of Inspired Youth and knowing how much the children will enjoy these books.

### **TUTORING GRADS**

Estefany V., 8<sup>th</sup> gr. will be going to Sullivan HS in the fall in a pre-nursing program.

Myreanna S., 12<sup>th</sup> gr., is graduating from Amundsen HS and will be going to Northern Illinois University, on many scholarships.

Susanna, 12<sup>th</sup> gr. is graduating from Rickover Academy and will be going to Loyola University Chicago.

Michel, her friend, got married and moved to Mexico.

Ken Roman, a tutor and a Board member of Inspired Youth, will be getting an assistant professorship at Northwestern University. His research specialty is understanding the biology of pain.

David Roman, Ken's brother, just received a master's degree in business administration. It's his second master's degree, after a master's degree in aeronautics. Congratulations, David.

Adan H. has a job in Texas. His mother is proud of him.

Thomas B. and his girlfriend have moved to Tacoma, WA. She has a job teaching, and Thomas has a job in industry. Thomas' sister, Amilia B. has a job and is doing fine. Keith B. just got a new job in a restaurant in downtown Chicago. Rachel S. has a job teaching nursing. This family was in the Tutoring Program for several years in the 1990's. Their mother works at the Breakers and is very proud of all her children.

On a sadder note, Finner Bryant, son of Pat Charles (former Chair of the Board of Inspired Youth, Inc.), died the last week of April, 2018. Finner was a student in the Tutoring Program in the late 1980's. His many friends were distraught about his death.

Luis M. was badly injured when police battered the door of his apartment down, stormed into his apartment, and attacked him, looking for someone else. Half of Luis' face is now paralyzed from being beaten by police.

### **TUTORS' GOOD NEWS**

Gerson Ecker volunteers as a tutor on Wednesday afternoons. His middle son, a lawyer in Connecticut, was just appointed to the Supreme Court in Connecticut. Gerson is beaming!

Erin Schwartz, a teacher at Wilmette Jr. High School and a co-coordinator of the Saturday Tutoring Program, applied for a grant for Inspired Youth from her college in Iowa, and Inspired Youth will be receiving a grant soon!

### **“SILVER AWARD” ART PROJECTS**

Two 9<sup>th</sup> grade girls from Wilmette, who were Saturday tutors last year, are doing their Girl Scout “Silver Award” with children from Inspired Youth at Epworth Church. This involves three two-hour sessions of art instruction and art projects for 20-25 children, 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade.

The first session was exciting. The children used tempera paints and made color wheels. They were given primary colors and had to mix the secondary colors. After painting the color wheel, each student received a small photo of flowers and a small canvas-covered board. The children drew flowers on the canvas, modeling the photo, and then they painted the flowers with tempera paints. The paintings were beautiful! The students got to take their art works home.

The second art session was working with water colors. The children experimented with colors, with cleaning the brushes, and with mixing colors. As a bonus, each child got to take home the trays of 24 water colors and the four beautiful, expensive brushes.

In the final art session, the children used graphite (special lead pencils) and colored pencils, and blended the colors with a special white pencil stick. The children loved it and were completely engrossed.

Thank you, Girl Scouts (former Saturday tutors), for treating the children to this special experience.

## **TWO CONCERTS DURING SPRING BREAK**

19 children sang at the Uptown Care Center on Wednesday of Spring Break; 22 children sang at the All American Nursing Home the next day. They sang beautifully! Playing the keyboard to accompany the children were Gregorio, 6<sup>th</sup> gr., Eduardo, 6<sup>th</sup> gr., Itzel, 5<sup>th</sup> gr., Raul V., 2<sup>nd</sup> gr., and Jordynn J., 2<sup>nd</sup> gr. Leading the motions was Donovan, 1<sup>st</sup> gr. The surprise was Jordynn J. She had learned to play the song in one day, the day before!

The residents and the staff loved the concerts. At the Uptown Care Center one resident liked it so much he gave the group \$5. Another resident was so moved by the children's singing she had tears of joy while they sang. She spoke for the audience at the end of the program, telling the children how much she enjoyed it and how well they sang.

At the All American Nursing Home the residents also loved the concert. After the children finished singing, the director, Ms. Shawn G., had the children put on smocks (garbage bags) and they dyed Easter eggs for the residents. The children loved dyeing the eggs. Even the parents loved dyeing eggs. Everyone was excited and engrossed.

After dyeing eggs for the residents for Easter, the children were treated to a raffle, led by Ms. Shawn G. The children have never been so attentive as they were waiting to see if their number was picked. As it turned out, every child finally got a prize. What a glorious day!

## **37<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL YOUTH CHOIR FEST**

31 children performed in the 37<sup>th</sup> annual Youth Choir Fest, held at Epworth UMC in April 2018. The Inspired Youth Singers and the Epworth Church School Singers performed 14 songs in the concert, with Dorie Burrell and Kayla Juarez directing. Nine children of the choir accompanied the choir's songs on the keyboard or piano. Three children played piano solos as a prelude to the concert. Freya J., 4<sup>th</sup> gr. drew a beautiful picture for the cover of the program. Between 50 and 60 people were present at the concert.

Many people participated in various ways. John Rimmer, father of singer Phyllis R. (5<sup>th</sup> gr.), played two contemporary spiritual songs on the alto and tenor saxophones. Pastor Juyeon Jeon of Epworth Church greeted the people and gave an opening prayer. Richard Swanson from Epworth announced the program. Bruce Green of Epworth controlled the sound board.

After the concert there was a party for everyone, sponsored by Epworth UMC and Eva Schwinge's Girl Scouts. At the end of the day, all the children received a special treat prepared by Vivian Johnson: "goody bags" filled with school supplies and sweet treats.

Many people helped clean up after the party, including Tina Sansone, chair of Epworth's Staff-Parish committee, her husband John Sansone, and Marshall Mitchell of Epworth Church.

Among the guests were neighbors who tend plants in Epworth's garden plots and a couple whose daughters were in Eva Schwinge's Girl Scouts many years ago. Coming from the suburbs were Catherine Davis Pezdirtz and her daughter Karen Davis. Catherine Davis Pezdirtz was on the committee which first hired Beth Palmer as organist of Epworth UMC in 1983.

The 37<sup>th</sup> annual Youth Choir Fest was a gala occasion on a beautiful day.

### **ICE SKATING WITH THE GIRL SCOUTS**

In April, several tutoring students went ice skating with the Epworth Girl Scouts. They went to a rink in Skokie, IL and had a wonderful time. The girls who had been ice skating before with the Girl Scouts and Eva Schwinge were starting to get good. They skated smoothly. But for several girls, this was the first time they had ever skated. Four college students from Loyola who were helping Ms. Eva with Girl Scouts went as chaperones. One was an excellent skater. Everyone had a wonderful time.

### **GIRL SCOUTS GO HORSEBACK RIDING!**

Several girls from Inspired Youth went horseback riding during a Girl Scout camping trip. They loved it!

### **PROCEEDS FROM WILMETTE JR. HIGH BASKETBALL GAME**

In May 2018 Inspired Youth Inc. received a gift from the proceeds of WJHS basketball game between the students and the faculty. A teacher later remarked, "The students always win!" Inspired Youth is very grateful for this gift.

### **TUTORING DIRECTOR HONORED**

Tutoring director, Beth Palmer, was honored at the Spring Banquet of the Edgewater Historical Society as her work with children for over three decades was announced. She was selected as one of three "Living Treasures" of Edgewater, a community of 50,000 in Chicago. In 2014, 52 people were selected as Living Treasures. Since then, four people were selected every year. Surprising Ms. Palmer at the Spring Banquet were IY Board Chair, Margaret Sullivan, Treasurer, Kenny Roman, and long-time tutor Jim Conlon who was representing Heather Conlon, former IY Board Chair.

In the actual ceremony honoring the "Living Treasures" on Saturday, June 9, 2018, at the Edgewater Library, 14 adults, 2 high school students, and 4 children from the Tutoring Program and the choirs surprised Ms. Palmer by being there. Ms. Palmer was introduced in a wonderful speech by Ken Roman, a tutoring grad and tutor who is also on Inspired Youth's Board of Directors. Ms. Palmer was honored with a "Living Treasure" plaque from the Edgewater Historical Society and bouquets of flowers

from students Roberto S. and Yahir S., and Rosetta Pillow, a former tutor and grandmother of several tutoring grads. For Ms. Palmer's acceptance remarks, she displayed an acrylic and mirror art-work of the sun created by tutoring grad Larry White. The art-work was on display on a music stand during the entire program. The whole ceremony honoring the "Living Treasures" was beautiful. A short video of an earlier interview with Ms. Palmer is on the website of the Edgewater Historical Society and also on Inspired Youth's Facebook page.

### **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 75 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 \$2,500. 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.