

TUTORING NEWS: INSPIRED YOUTH

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INDIVIDUALS IN TUTORING PROGRAM, 2018-2019

	STUDENTS	TUTORS
Mon. HS Tut.	5	15
Mon. 5 th -8 th Tut.	17	
Mon. PS-4 th Tut.	5	
W/Th 1 st -4 th Tut.	25	13* + 12 HS fr NewTrier
Sat. P4- 8 th	24**43 total	7 + 49 fr. WJHS
Individ. in Tut. Prog.	76	35 + 61 HS/Jr Hi Tutors

*Several tutors volunteered more than one day per week.

** Sat. students who are not in weekday Tutoring Program.

STUDENTS GAIN

Andre M., 3rd gr., keeps improving in all subjects. At the end of 1st grade his math was poor. He could hardly write a sentence, his handwriting was illegible, and he was difficult to understand when he talked. He worked hard in the Tutoring Program in the 1st grade, the 2nd grade, and now in the 3rd grade. In 2nd grade, he moved farther away, but his grandmother Toby, still brought him to the Tutoring Program. Now by the 3rd grade Andre is doing much better in math and in writing, and his speech is clear. His mother knew about the Tutoring Program because all her friends in elementary school were in the program.

Michelle F., 4th gr., has gained significantly because of the Tutoring Program. As a 2nd grader she could hardly write a sentence. Since then she has been working hard in the Tutoring Program, and now as a 4th grader, she is writing fluently.

First Graders: Bianca F., 1st gr., Eliza A., 1st gr., and Ashley S., 1st gr., were all in the Saturday program last year as kindergartners, and they are all doing well in school as 1st graders.

Emily P., 1st gr., is also doing well. Her mother, Marisol P., was in the program as a high school student, and she realized how much it helped her. She wants her daughter to have the same benefits she had as a student.

Angel L., 1st gr., and Jocelyn L., 2nd gr., are also doing exceptionally well. Their brother, Everardo L., 11th gr., and sister, Yulisa L., 10th gr., were in the Tutoring Program while they were in 2nd to 4th grades, and Jocelyn wanted to come to the Tutoring Program, too. Everardo attends North Side Prep H.S., and is a tutor with Inspired Youth to gain service learning credits for high school. Yulisa attends Lane Tech HS.

Honor Roll, 1st 10 weeks: Jason R., 3rd gr., Leonela C., 8th gr., among others.

MONDAY EVENING TUTORING

Students work very hard every Monday evening at Bezazian Library. The group is mostly 5th-8th graders, plus three high school students, two 4th graders, a 1st grader, and a preschool student (taught by his mother). All the students study hard the whole time.

The students go to several schools: Goudy, McCutcheon, and Swift elementary schools, Senn HS, and Noble and UNO charter high schools.

The Monday evening tutors who work with these students are fantastic. They are dedicated, intelligent, and willing to work with any student on any subject. Monday evening tutoring is an important study time.

The first Monday in December students and tutors were divided into six groups for conflict resolution. The topic was using "I Messages," instead of automatically blaming the other person. All the groups worked well. Students and tutors work beautifully together.

FAMILY NIGHT, AN EVENING OF CONVERSATION AND PIZZA

Many parents came to the Monday Family Night at Bezazian Library on Columbus Day. The tutors sat with their tutees' families, and everyone had a good time. Around 10 parents, 10 tutors, 19 tutees, and 4 younger siblings came. Tutors and parents got to talk about how to help the children keep doing better in school this year, suggested by tutor Margaret Sullivan.

At the beginning of the evening, people were treated to pizza and soda, which they loved. The servers did a good job and included Jeffrey V., 5th gr., Itzel V., 6th gr., and Nathan B., 9th gr., as well as tutor Clay Cerny, who was in charge. This year there was enough pizza!

Lexy V., 10th gr., took excellent photos of the families and tutors. Lexy loved taking the photos. You can see them on Inspired Youth's Facebook page.

While the tutors and parents were talking about goals for the students this year, the younger children played with the library's Legos, alphabet blocks, plastic bubble toys, and toy train cars and tracks.

It was a happy evening, and the tutors and parents got to know each other.

WED./THURS. AFTERNOON TUTORING

Wed./Thurs. afternoon tutoring is very important for the 1st-4th graders who come to the Tutoring Program at the library after school. Their school homework is very hard for most of the children, and the tutors help them do it.

The afternoon tutors are very dedicated to helping the children. Some of them have been tutoring for many years, and they are patient with the kids. The children often don't want to do the homework of their hardest subjects, but the tutors help them with it. After completing their school homework, the tutors help the students with the work in the individual folders prepared by the tutoring director.

On Thursday afternoons, for the last portion of the tutoring time, several students from New Trier High School in Winnetka, IL, come to work with the children. The children love to work with the teenagers, and the high school students are excellent tutors.

FAMILY DAY, 1st-4th GRADERS

It was perfect day for a Family Day. Parents from 8 families came to talk with the tutors and get suggestions about helping their children with their school work. The parents got to know their children's tutors, and tutors got to know their tutees' families. Altogether 45 people were there: 18 students, 10 parents, 8 siblings, and 9 tutors.

Family Day came as the last part of Wednesday tutoring. It began as Everardo L., a tutoring grad and high school student at North Side College Prep, introduced the program in Spanish. A small section of the Inspired Youth Singers led the audience in two songs, with Raul V., 3rd gr., accompanying "This Land Is Your Land," on the keyboard. Then the families got to have special cookies and punch, served by tutoring grad Armando S., 11th gr., along with his and Raul's mother.

Photos taken by NeNe, a tutoring grad and mother of Jordynn J., 3rd gr., can be seen on Inspired Youth's Facebook Page.

Tutor Marian C., commented about Parents' Day, "I thought you did a beautiful job arranging Parents' Day. It was wonderful to see how much both the parents and the kids enjoyed themselves. Your efforts were clearly appreciated."

During the cookie time, the parents, tutors, and children, had good conversations. It was a beautiful afternoon.

SATURDAY TUTORING IS AMAZING

Every other Saturday, 10am-12pm, over 40 children, 4yrs. old through 13 yrs. old, go to Margate Park Field House in Uptown Chicago to work with over 40 8th graders from Wilmette Jr. High. This is the 25th year of this program relating Wilmette Jr. High and the Tutoring Program.

The last couple of years in Saturday tutoring students have concentrated on writing. In the sessions this fall, the students have done two projects: writing about a picture from the book *Harris Burdick* and writing a scary short story on a prompt. The scary short story was done "round robin," where one team of tutor/student writes, and then passes it to another team. All the students are very creative.

28 TURKEYS GIVEN TO TUTORING FAMILIES AT SATURDAY PROGRAM

"Thank you, thank you, thank you," a father said as he was handed a turkey. He couldn't stop thanking the tutoring program for the gift the Saturday 8th grade tutors had given his family.

One mother was sick, but she brought her children in the rain to Saturday Tutoring at Margate Park to get a turkey.

A few families were asked beforehand if they wanted one a turkey. One woman kept wondering what she should say. "Yes. No. Yes. No." She had never cooked a turkey before, but she kept hearing about them and was curious about this tradition. Finally, she missed the deadline for telling the Tutoring Program she didn't want one, so she was getting one. She asked a Monday tutor, Dave Carmody, to give her directions on how to cook it. He gave her (2 specific ideas from his long experience with turkeys.

The Tutoring Program ordered the turkeys a week beforehand at the local Jewel. Three men from the meat section and the assistant manager all helped prepare the order. They were all happy for the families of Inspired Youth!

TUTORING GRADS

Tutoring grad Brenda H., a senior at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, is applying for an internship to work in Senator Tammy Duckworth's office in Carbondale.

Tutoring grad Caprice King, a tutoring student from the mid-1980's wrote: "Beth, because of you, I know how important education, tutoring, and mentoring are!!!! I love you with all my heart and soul."

CARVING HUGE PUMPKINS

10 children, helped by 11 adults, were treated to carving faces on huge pumpkins at Epworth Church. They used special pumpkin-carving knives, and no one got hurt. Afterwards, the children got to sort the seeds out, a messy job that they loved. The seed will be baked, and the children can eat them. The children got to take the huge jack-o-lanterns home. Everyone had a good time. (See the

pictures on Facebook.) By the way, Illinois is the largest pumpkin-growing state in the nation.

EVERY COSTUME POSSIBLE: FALL FEST

The Halloween party (Fall Fest) at Epworth Church was glorious. Batman, skeletons, Spidermen, witches, princesses, hobos, fairies, and a nurse. These were some of the children –and adults—at Epworth’s 2018 Fall Fest (Halloween Party).

The party started slow, with around 10 people, but more guests kept coming and coming. One woman invited all her friends and their children. Finally, around 60 people of all ages were at the party.

There were many activities to choose from. The kids had a bean bag toss and a ring toss. They made necklaces, painted mini pumpkins, and decorated (and ate) cupcakes. The highlight of the day was the costume contest. The children went up by age groups onto a tiny stage in a big room in the basement of the church, and the children showed off their costumes. The children enjoyed being in front of people, and everyone enjoyed seeing them. Finally, everyone got a prize.

The party ended with a lunch of pizza, Halloween cookies, and soda. As the children left, everyone got a goodie bag of candy and school supplies. It was a happy day. (See pictures on Facebook: Inspired Youth.)

SORROWS

Gun violence has taken the lives of many tutoring students in the past several years. V.’s father was killed 7 years ago when V. was 2 months old, and the family still grieves. In the early ’90’s J.’s 16-year old brother was killed on the night of the 4th of July. M. O’B. was also killed one night. Others have died in their teens, 20’s, or early 30’s because of gun violence or other causes: Donna, Kim, Antonio, Nikki, Shawn, Joseph, and Cecily’s brother. The Tutoring Program keeps working to have kids “make it” through their young years.

BAD NEWS

Jessica’s dad was laid off from his job as a hotel worker when the hotel workers were on strike in Chicago.

Layla’s dad was taken to the hospital with chest pains because of a large blood clot. He was in the hospital for several days, and Layla and her sister missed several days of tutoring.

Marilu’s mother was in the hospital for abdominal pains. Marilu missed several days of tutoring. Their mother will have an operation in a couple of months.

CROP WALK, October 2018

2 people said they wanted to go on the 36th annual Chicago CROP Walk. Then a 3rd decided to go. Finally, the group from Inspired Youth and Epworth Church, led by John Sansone of Epworth, ended up with *15 people!* Ten children ages 3 (**3!**) to 15, plus 5 adults walked a 2-mile route on the near South Side of Chicago, beginning at the historic 2nd Presbyterian Church on Cullerton and S. Michigan Ave. They walked to “Help CROP Stop Hunger.” The group from Epworth UMC and IY walked fast. One mature walker could hardly keep up with the walkers age 3-6 yrs. old! And they all walked the whole 2 miles.

The day of the 2018 CROP was beautiful, sunny and not too hot, a good day for walking. When the walkers got back to the 2nd Presbyterian Church, they were

treated to a piece of cheese cake, hot dogs, chips, and balloons! Everyone had fun on the 2018 Chicago CROP Walk. (See pictures on Facebook.)

CHILDREN'S CHOIR SINGS AT THE BREAKERS, November 2018

20 children sang at the Breakers at Edgewater Beach, a retirement home. They were accompanied by 4 adults. It was a wonderful concert, with the children singing 14 songs. A highlight of the program was that there were 6 child accompanists: Gregorio F., 7th gr., Eduardo F., 7th gr., Phyllis R., 6th gr., Michelle F., 4th gr., Raul V., 3rd gr., and Donovan F., 2nd gr. The singing and the accompanists were all outstanding.

EDGEWATER THANKSGIVING SERVICE AT CHICAGO ISLAMIC ISMAILI CENTER

Every 6-7 years the Chicago Ismaili Center, which is a member organization of ECRA (Edgewater Community Religious Association) gets the honor of hosting the annual interfaith Thanksgiving Service.

This year the program was held in the Social hall of Chicago Downtown JK. More than 475 people from different faith communities attended. Also present were: Honorable Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky and 48th Ward Alderman Harry Osterman.

Heads of several churches & other religious organizations labeled the event as one of the most well-attended & best organized Thanksgiving events that they had ever attended. Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky, in a written statement, said that she was most impressed particularly with the spirit of community service that she observed. She also expressed desire to participate in future programs of the Ismaili community.

The huge Ismaili Center was full for the Edgewater Thanksgiving Service. Before the concert, when the Inspired Youth Singers/ Epworth Church School Singers practiced, there were only a few people in the huge space. Suddenly the whole room was full. Every seat was taken. Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts sat on the floor in front and at the side.

For the program, the Inspired Youth Singers sang "It's Up to You and Me." They were great. Microphones high above the children carried the sound to the back of the hall, and the children sang out—even in front of 475 people! The children also behaved well during the remarks of the several speakers.

The Inspired Youth, and especially choir director Philinda Carter, were excited to see Congresswoman Jan Schakowski. Congresswoman Schakowski read Lincoln's proclamation of 1863, which established the 4th Thursday in November as a day for giving thanks. Afterwards Philinda was overjoyed that she got to shake Jan Schakowski's hand. Philinda told the congresswoman she was going to vote for her in the next election.

SINGING AT FRIEDMAN PLACE, HOME OF THE BLIND, November 2018

11 children and 3 adults sang at Friedman Place, Home of the Blind, in a beautiful concert the day before Thanksgiving. Four other adults also came as chaperones.

Five children accompanied the choir on the piano, Michelle F., 4th gr., Raul V., 3rd gr., Donovan F., 2nd gr., Eduardo F., 7th gr., and Gregorio F., 7th gr. The child accompanists were starting to get comfortable performing. If they made a mistake, they kept playing -- because the singers kept singing! And the children sang out. They were wonderful.

Around 25 residents, sight impaired, and 3 staff members listened. As an audience they were relaxed and congenial. If they wanted to know something they asked questions— how many children there were, what part of the city they came from. A different child announced each piece, telling their name, age, and the title of the next piece. Since the audience couldn't see, we wanted them to hear the sound of individual children's speaking voices so they could know more about the singers.

The audience loved the program. Many sang along on familiar songs and clapped along on some of them. At the end of the program a few children shook hands with the residents and told them their name. One woman in the front kept hugging 6-year old Bianca and wouldn't let her go. This was how important the children singing for them was.

Videos and photos of the concert, taken by Elida E., are on Inspired Youth's Facebook page. It was a beautiful afternoon

SINGING AT "WINTER WALK ON WILSON," November 30, 2018

Adilene S., 6 yrs. old, saw Santa across busy Wilson Ave. just as we got of the Broadway bus. She immediately started to run to see him, and we had to hold her back. When we finally crossed the street, everyone had their picture taken with Santa. Adilene and all the children were so happy! (See IY's FB page.)

Santa was part of the "Winter Walk on Wilson," held on a Friday evening before Christmas in the re-converted space of the original Wilson el-stop. The space was huge. The Wilson el-stop had once been the plush end of the line of the red-line CTA train, and the reconverted space was enormous.

For the Winter Walk on Wilson, vendors set up tables for people to buy things. Around 150 smiling people mingled around.

When the Inspired Youth Singers performed, everyone gathered around in a loose semi-circle near the few chairs in front of the singers. The 15 Inspired Youth Singers sang 3 songs, with Gregorio F., 7th gr., accompanying "Il Est Ne." The children looked festive, with girls in red-plaid vests and boys in white shirts. After Inspired Youth, two other groups performed, including Barrell of Monkeys. It was a gala event.

PRESENTS FOR 51 CHILDREN

In December, members of Glenview United Methodist Church gave Christmas presents to 50 children in Inspired Youth's afternoon tutoring program, including the children's younger siblings. The children had been looking forward to this for weeks, and they were so happy to get the presents!

Here's how it happened. In early October (!) parents gave gift suggestions to Sue Ready of Glenview UMC. Sue Ready organized Inspired Youth suggestions along with 3 other organizations.

On a Sunday in early November, Zak Yasin, a tutor with Inspired Youth, went to Glenview UMC to represent Inspired Youth. He had pictures of each child, along with a suggestion of what they needed. Members of the congregation chose one or two children to buy presents for.

In December, Sue Ready's husband, Ken Ready, drove huge bags of the presents to Dorie Burrell's apartment. When the gifts arrived, they were sorted by family, and each family's gifts were put into large sacks. The children and their parents came after school and picked them up from Dorie's apartment, just across the street from the school.

The children were so happy to get the presents. Some opened their gifts right away. Others waited until Christmas day.

Thank you, Sue Ready and Glenview UMC, for being so generous with children and families of the Tutoring Program -- for over 30 years! It makes everyone happy.

WINTER COATS GIVEN TO TUTORING STUDENTS

Students had the opportunity of signing up for winter coats through Bezazian Library. Eight students from four families of Inspired Youth took advantage of this opportunity. The coats came, and they were warm!

SINGING FOR EPWORTH'S MEN'S SHELTER

"The children were so well behaved!" "The children sang beautifully." "The children singing is always my favorite part of the shelter dinners." People said these things about the children singing for the dinner given for the men's shelter at Epworth Church.

20 people sang in the choir--18 youth, age 4 through 15, and 2 adults. The choir sang 17 songs, and **14 of the 17 songs were accompanied by children**, with some children accompanying several songs. Fatima E., 10th gr., Gregorio F., 7th gr., Eduardo F., 7th gr., Phyllis R., 6th gr., Michelle F., 4th gr., Raul V., 3rd gr., Donovan F., 2nd gr., and Girivar M., kindergarten, all accompanied songs. There was also a vocal solo: Dayveana B., 6th gr., sang "Who Would Imagine a King." Everyone enjoyed the music, and everyone was proud of the children.

A special feature of the evening was that a former pastor of Epworth Church, Pastor Carol Hill, came with members of her current church, Park Ridge Community Church, to serve the meal to the men. At the end of the evening, Pastor Carol's husband and three children also came. It was a beautiful evening.

You can see pictures and a video of the concert on Inspired Youth's Facebook page.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT AT EPWORTH CHURCH

Angels, shepherds, sheep, Mary, Joseph, wisemen, and narrator—it was beautiful! At least 20 children and 7 adults were in Epworth's Christmas pageant. 5 children had also practiced in the rehearsals but couldn't come on the Sunday of the performance.

The costumes were magnificent. They had been created and purchased over several years. Sheep's outfits with wooly hats; angels' white flowing dresses, sparkly halos, and large wings with **actual feathers**; shepherds' garments, head gear, and canes; the kings' regal garments and crowns; Joseph's tunic and head gear; and Mary's beautiful blue dress and shawl on her head—all the costumes were graceful and rich and told the story of Jesus' birth.

There were 6 songs in the pageant, and all were accompanied by youth musicians on the piano. Freya J., 5th gr., Phyllis R., 6th gr., and Gregorio F., 7th gr., played for the children's songs. Fatima E., 10th gr, played the opening prelude and accompanied 3 songs with congregational singing, along with Beth Palmer on the pipe organ. There was also a vocal solo: Dayveana B., 6th gr., as Mary, was a hit with her vocal solo, "Who Would Imagine a King." All the musicians were excellent.

After the pageant, which was part of the worship service, everyone was invited to a time of feasting and fellowship in the church parlors. It was a beautiful day.

Pictures and videos of the production are 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 55 individuals, including present and former tutors, parents of 8th graders from Wilmette Jr. High School, pastors, friends, family, and community members. Donations have ranged from \$15 to \$3,000. 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, or mailed to "Inspired Youth," 5715 N. Ridge, Chicago, IL 60660.