

⌘ *Good News from Inspired Youth, Dec. 2011* ⌘

Inspired Youth builds bridges between people. In this season of hope, peace, love, and joy, meet some of your neighbors.

Frehiwet N. and her four siblings have been in Inspired Youth since 2005. She gave this speech at Family Night in June 2011. "Hi everyone. My name is Frehiwet N. I just finished high school and graduated from Loyola Academy. Next year I will be attending St. Joseph's College in Indiana. I have been part of the tutoring program for 6 years, and I don't know how to tell you how helpful it was for me.



"I remember when I was in 7th grade and going to the library every day. Then one day Miss Beth had an extra tutor and asked me if I needed help, and that is how I got involved in this program. Back then I just came from Eritrea and I didn't know how to speak EN, write or read. As you can see, now thanks for this wonderful program, I have improved a lot. Without the tutoring program I don't know if I would have gone to a wonderful high school, and also I wouldn't be standing here today telling you that I will attend college next year. This program has been a lot of help for me, and I am sure it goes the same for all the students who participate in this program.



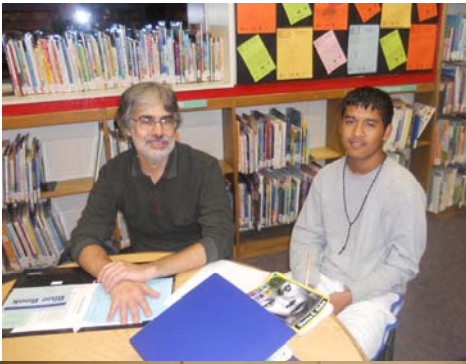
"I am here today, my last tutoring night, to thank all the tutors. Thank you for coming here every day to help all of us with our homework and with anything we need help with. Especially thank you, Ms. Beth, for organizing this program. Thank you for all your dedication and hard work to make sure all of us students get help with our work. Next year I will miss you all, but I will try to visit on the days I am here. Best wishes to all, and thank you so much."



Leslie A. (9th gr.) and her four siblings have been in the tutoring program since 2003. Even after moving out of the neighborhood, they have hardly missed a day in all that time. Last summer Leslie reflected, "When I first went to the tutoring program, they helped me in math, and thanks to the tutoring program, it helped me. I used to have an F in math, and I have good grades now. Kim, my tutor, used to help me a lot with math, and then I used to understand it better. Sometimes I didn't want to do a problem, but my tutor said, 'Don't give up, keep doing it, try your best,' and I did. She helped me a lot and I really appreciate her helping me. On my Constitution test, I had a 100! Kim was quizzing me, and Ambar [her sister] was, too. They were giving me questions. My first time that I took the test, I had a 100% on that test!"



Edgar S. was in the tutoring program from 1998 to 2003 when he was in 5th through 9th grades, and also in the Summer Piano Program. He is grateful for the experience. He said, "You don't know how important the tutoring program was for me all those years. It kept me off the streets. Kids have to have something to do, or they'll get in trouble in the streets."



In Oct. 2011, over 65 IY students and tutors wrote letters and/or postcards to the alderman urging him to vote against cuts in the 2012 Chicago City budget for library funding. The local branch of the Chicago Public Library is where Inspired Youth tutors.

Myreanna S. (6th gr.) wrote, "I go to the library every single week for tutoring. Tutoring helps me be a better reader and helps me with my homework. Where will I go if the library closed? This is the only library in this area. The library is important to many students."



Lamarr S. (6th gr.) wrote, "The reason the library is important is because it gives kids a place to read, learn, and discover. Also the library gives me and my friends a place to belong in peace to do homework or just read a good book. In my opinion the library rocks!! For most of us it's like a getaway paradise. In conclusion, I would love and value that this library stays up and continue to help kids and others improve! And me myself is a lover of a good book!

☺ "

The Inspired Youth Singers have had a spectacular year. Last



December they sang at the Harold Washington Library in downtown Chicago (*see the Dec. 2010 holiday letter*). In March 2011 they sang at the prestigious Four Seasons Hotel in downtown Chicago for a banquet given by Lawyers Lend-A-Hand to Youth. In August they sang at the Good Shepherd Hospital in Barrington, IL, and then spent the afternoon at Lake Barrington as guests of Cathy Davis Pezdirtz, with a spiritual retreat led by Dorraine Koga and her youth group--plus swimming.

Inspired Youth Singers at the Four Seasons Hotel

Tax- deductible donations to Inspired Youth may be made through PayPal on our website www.inspiredyouthchicago.org or sent to "Inspired Youth," 5715 N. Ridge, Chicago, IL 60660.

Season's joy to all of you from Beth Palmer, Director, Inspired Youth Tutoring, Inspired Youth, Inc., inspiredyouth2@yahoo.com, www.inspiredyouthchicago.org, www.facebook.com/inspiredyouth.



Inspired Youth at Lake Barrington