

# ✧ Good News from Inspired Youth, Dec. 2018 ✧

*"If there's ever to be any peace on earth, it's up to you and me."* -Jill Jackson and Sy Miller



*Student concentrates.*



*Student works hard with tutor.*



*Student and tutor are proud.*



*Piano tutor accompanies student in recital.*

76 students, ages 4-16, study this year with 35 adult tutors and 61 junior high and high school tutors. They come at various times—M., W., Th.—to a branch library, and every other Sat. to a Park District Field House. All the students are gaining. (See Inspired Youth's Facebook page for more photos.) Here are a few stories.

Donovan F., 2<sup>nd</sup> gr., is a student in the Saturday Tutoring Program and sings in the Inspired Youth Singers. Last year in the spelling bee at his public school, Walt Disney Magnet School, Donovan, as a 1<sup>st</sup> grader, 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."

The D. family came from Somalia in July 2018. They are all gaining tremendously. In September, the beginning of the school year, they could hardly read English. By November they were gaining so fast, the material we put in their folders was too easy.

Marwan, 7<sup>th</sup> gr., works diligently. Mushtaq, 5<sup>th</sup> gr., is a whiz. Hassan, 4<sup>th</sup> gr., wants harder books to read. It is amazing to witness how fast they are gaining.

Marco O., 6<sup>th</sup> gr., has greatly improved in written expression. A year and a half ago he could hardly write a sentence. Now his written work is much better.

Miguel O., 9<sup>th</sup> gr., is starting to work hard in school. Last year in 8<sup>th</sup> grade he didn't try, and got mostly C's. This year at Noble Charter School he is studying hard and is getting mostly A's.

Nariah D., 1<sup>st</sup> gr., keeps gaining from being in the Tutoring Program. The 3<sup>rd</sup> week in September, she couldn't add 1 + 1. She couldn't read a single word. She couldn't spell, and her penmanship was illegible. After 8 weeks of the Tutoring Program, she could read *Tip*, and she started to read *Bears*. She could add sums up to 10 by counting on her fingers (which still needed a little work). And she was working on printing the letters so they could be read. Nariah was also helpful. She loved to push the cart with the folders. That little 1<sup>st</sup> grader walked so fast that the others could hardly keep up. We know she will continue to learn.

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, with Dorie Burrell and Kayla Juarez directing.

In Inspired Youth's Summer Piano Program, 63 students performed in the final two recitals. 9 piano tutors played duets with the students. The 63 piano students came from all over the world: India, Saudi Arabia, Ethiopia, Cameroon, Mexico, Bolivia, the Philippines, and the US. The 18 piano tutors who helped the students during the summer came from the US, Mexico, China, Cameroon, Korea, and the Philippines. It was a wonderful Summer Piano Program.

***Joy to all, from Inspired Youth***

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27 children and 5 adults practice in the children's choir. These 10 children sang "It's Up to You and Me," for 450 people at Edgewater's Thanksgiving service in Nov. 2018 at the Islamic Ismaili Center.

A special feature of the Saturday Program is writing assignments, planned by Ms. Stephanie Deininger of Wilmette Jr. High School. In 2017-2018, 55 "Chicago students" with their 8<sup>th</sup> gr. tutors from Wilmette Jr. High wrote imaginative "Brown Bag Short Stories," 52 students wrote forceful editorials on "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."

Email from a tutoring grad, Sandra Bruno.

"Hi Beth! For years I have meant to look you up and reach out to you. My sisters and I were part of the tutoring program for two years at Epworth in the early 1990s, shortly after we moved to the US from Mexico. We also participated in the choir, and I recall you brought us gifts on our first Christmas in the US.

"My family and I always recall those days and we will always be so grateful to you and the church for welcoming us and helping us. Thanks to the tutoring program, we learned English and went on to graduate from high school. I attended Princeton University and then Tulane University School of Law. For the past ten years or so I have been practicing immigration law. I now live in Ithaca, New York. My younger sister attended Cornell University and is now working for shipping company in the Chicago area.

"Thank you again for all you do." ~Sandra Bruno.

Tutoring director, Beth Palmer, was honored by the Edgewater Historical Society as a "Living Treasure" of Edgewater, a community in Chicago of 50,000 people. She was introduced by Ken Roman, a tutor and tutoring grad who is on Inspired Youth's Board of Directors.

Tutoring grad Larry White has another job, but loves to paint. (See the photos.) Josh Hartwell, a piano parent, saw Larry White's *Collage of the Sun* in Beth Palmer's home. He had this to say about the collage: "You would think the bright colors would be the sun, but they're actually the background. And the mirrors, while they're not necessarily dull, are not that bright, so that your eyes immediately go to the background. And then the sun pops out as you're looking at the background, which is the exact opposite of what you would normally expect. It definitely is a good piece. Even the yellow underlay... There's a lot to look at. The more you look at it, there's more."

***This is the 34<sup>th</sup> year of the Tutoring Program. Thank you to everyone who has been part of this exciting endeavor. Inspired Youth, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) corporation with the IRS, so donations are tax-deductible. Gifts to Inspired Youth, Inc. may be made through PayPal on [www.inspiredyouthchicago.org](http://www.inspiredyouthchicago.org) or sent to Inspired Youth, 5715 N. Ridge, Chicago, IL 60660.***

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*Collage of the Sun, created by Larry White with acrylic paint and mirrors*



Larry White gave collage to Beth Palmer on Christmas Eve Morning, 2017.