

TUTORING NEWS: INSPIRED YOUTH

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INDIVIDUALS IN TUTORING PROGRAM

2019-2020

STUDENTS TUTORS

Mon. HS Tut.	4	16
Mon. 5 th -8 th Tut.	14	
Mon. PS-4 th Tut.	5	
W/Th 1 st -4 th Tut.	26	23* + 12 HS fr NewTrier
Sat. P4- 8 th	28	total 41 7 + 45 fr. WJHS
Individ. in Tut. Prog.	77	46 + 57 HS/Jr Hi Tutors

*Several tutors volunteered more than one day per week.

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

TUTORING PROGRAM IN FULL SWING

Week-day day tutoring for Inspired Youth is held at the Bezazian Branch of the Chicago Public Library, behind a big Car Wash. Everyone knows the Car Wash. Few people know the library! Many of the tutors have volunteered with Inspired Youth for several years and are excellent with the children.

Saturday tutoring is held every other Saturday at the Margate Park Field House, part of the Chicago Park District. To get there is a good healthy walk, but it's a perfect facility, with two spacious rooms for tutoring, playground equipment, and fields. The tutors are 8th graders from the suburb of Wilmette, IL, and come in a school bus. The children love to work with the "teenagers."

STUDENT REPORT CARDS

On the 1st 5-week progress report, Michelle F., 5th gr., and Baron F., 1st gr., got straight A's. Malik O., 3rd gr., got all A's, except a C in gym because he didn't wear the required uniform. Dylin C., 3rd gr. got mostly A's. Jessica K., 3rd gr., got B's in reading and writing, and all the rest were A's. Dearie W., 1st gr., got all A's, with 1 B.

A few of the 10-week report cards: Jaylin S., 3rd gr., got all A's. Maria M., 7th gr., and Isabella R., 1st gr., were on the A/B honor roll.

DIFFICULTIES

A few girls age 12 don't want to do the academic work suggested at the Tutoring Program. They want to text their friends on their cell phones.

STUDENTS GAIN!

We expect the students to do well, but we are always surprised at how much they are gaining. Arianny L., 1st gr. needed to work on math and soon caught up with her grade level. Gianna S., 3rd gr., came to this country a few weeks ago, but she can already understand English. Yaritza A., 6th gr., was assigned a "short story" for the Tutoring Program, but the story she wanted to write had so many parts she wrote it in chapters! Monish A., 6th gr., is good at writing stories and likes to be challenged with difficult math. Neo C., 9th gr., recently came to this country, and already the book we suggested for him was too easy. Yasmine H., 10th gr., works hard at her math homework and does well.

FAMILY DAY, 1st-4th GRADERS

Family Day for the Tutoring Program's 1st-4th graders was enjoyable. Because of the Chicago teachers' strike, not very many kids came, but parents came with 100% of the children.

Four children from the Inspired Youth Singers led the singing, and it was excellent. People enjoyed simple refreshments, while the parents and the tutors talked with each other. It was an important and worthwhile day.

FALL FUN FEST – HALLOWEEN PARTY!

Vampires, princesses, supermen, superwomen, batmen, skeletons of all sizes, a raccoon, a chef, a park ranger, a cowgirl—all came to the Epworth/Inspired Youth Fall Fun Fest (Halloween Party). All ages and sizes were there, from a 3-month old baby to many adults. 55-60 youth and over 23 adults had a wonderful time at the Halloween Party.

People decorated pumpkins (plastic), strung beads, made a mouth of teeth (edible), played musical chairs, and wrapped mummies.

People came from the Epworth Sunday School, Inspired Youth Tutoring Program, and Inspired Youth Summer Piano Program. Some people also brought their friends. Many ethnic groups all came together: African Americans, Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, and people from north and South India. It was glorious. (See pictures on Inspired Youth's Facebook page.)

22 TURKEYS GIVEN TO TUTORING FAMILIES

It was a beautiful day and a beautiful tradition. On the Saturday before Thanksgiving, Inspired Youth gave 22 turkeys to families in the Saturday Tutoring Program and to a few families of tutoring grads. When Ms. Stokes received the turkey, she was so grateful. She kept saying, "Thank you, thank you." When another parent (and grandparent) knew we were giving the turkeys she asked, "Could I have a turkey, too?" We took her a turkey, and she was very happy.

The turkeys were from the families of the 8th grade tutors from Wilmette Jr. High. They have been giving turkeys to students of the Saturday tutoring program since 1994. The Chicago families always appreciate it. This year many of the families in the Saturday program are Hindus from India, and don't eat turkey. Because of this, we gave fewer turkeys than in previous years, but the families who received them were very grateful.

FACEBOOK POST FROM CAMILE BOYCE

"Thankful Tuesday, I'm thankful for Beth Palmer! She is truly an amazing person. Beth has been an inspiration to my children and now my grandkids. For many years Beth has been making a difference for the youth on the North Side at Inspired Youth Inc. Beth is in charge of the tutoring program and also teaches kids how to play the piano. Thanks for being a positive leader in the community. Our family has been blessed by your kindness and genuine love."

FRIEDMAN HOME OF THE BLIND

The day after Thanksgiving 9 children and 3 adults went to the Friedman Home of the Blind to perform for them. 30 residents of the home sat in a large semi-circle, and the Inspired Youth Singers-Epworth Church School Singers performed for half an hour for the residents. Most of the children had only been in the choir since September, so they only felt they knew nine of the songs. A special feature of the concert was that three children accompanied songs on the piano: Baron F., 1st gr.; Donovan F., 3rd gr.; and Gregorio F., 8th gr. Another special feature was that a third grader who loves to sing, and usually does not sing all the songs during choir practice, sang well the whole time in this concert!

HOLIDAY GIFTS FROM GLENVIEW UMC

It was a beautiful day in early December when Ethyl Doyle and her husband brought huge bags of gifts from Glenview United Methodist Church to Ms. Dorie Burrell's home. Sarafina Anderson helped bring the gifts into Dorie's living room, and she sorted the gifts for 30 children into bags for 15 families. After school was dismissed, the families came to get the gifts for their children. Adults and children were very happy.

Inspired Youth is grateful to Glenview United Methodist Church for the gifts and to Susan Ready for organizing everything at Glenview UMC. At the beginning of November, Bob Guillen, a tutor from Inspired Youth, had gone to Glenview UMC to tell about the Tutoring Program and to have people sign up to get gifts for 30 students from Inspired Youth, including younger brothers and sisters. In December the beautifully wrapped gifts came, a happy day.

INSPIRED YOUTH TO BE ON CBS RADIO!

Inspired Youth will be featured on the CBS radio show, "Different Drummers." Inspired Youth was selected for the broadcast because it was one of 7 organizations which received a grant from the United Methodist Foundation in October 2019.

The recording of "Different Drummers" was done in the CBS studio in Chicago's Loop on Sunday, Dec. 15. The people on the show were David C., 4th gr.; his tutor, Dan Hutchins; and tutor, Meghan Ford. Dan Hutchins and Meghan Ford are on Inspired Youth's Board of Directors. The radio show will be aired at a future date.



At CBS Studio

SINGING FOR EPWORTH'S MEN'S SHELTER

The men's warming center (overnight shelter) of Epworth Church was been serving homeless men for 33 years. This year for the men's holiday meal provided by Epworth Church and organized by Mistead Sai, the children's choir sang a medley of songs for them. Six children and three adults sang for the men during the dinner.

The concert began with Donovan F., 3rd gr., playing the piano while the group sang. Then Baron F., 1st gr., played the piano to accompany the choir. After a few more songs, Gregorio F., 8th gr., played two songs to accompany the choir. Altogether the choir sang 15 Christmas and other songs, concluding with "We Wish You a Merry Christmas."

In the middle of the concert, Epworth's pastor, Rev. Donald Guest, gave a very meaningful message to the crowd. The men appreciated hearing Rev. Guest speak.

The highlight of the evening was the dinner prepared by members of Epworth Church: chicken, ham, sweet potatoes, stringbeans, finger vegetables, and a variety of delicious desserts. As the men left the dinner, they were given a large bag of various items, prepared by members of Community Church in Park Ridge, where Rev. Carol is now the pastor. The evening was meaningful to all who were there.

PERFORMING AT ST. ITA'S CATHEDRAL

On the Sunday before Thanksgiving 14 children in the choir, 3 other children, and 8 parents and chaperones participated in the Edgewater Community Thanksgiving Service at St. Ita's Cathedral. The Inspired Youth Singers-Epworth Church School Singers sang "One Day" in the huge chancel of the elegant cathedral. The song was conducted by Ian Fuller. The audience was treated to the several other choirs, soloists, and clergy meditations during the service. Two tutors from Inspired Youth's Tutoring Program, Carolyn Kryl and Margaret Sullivan, were there. Everyone appreciated our children's choir.

GIFTS FROM CHURCH OF THE ATONEMENT

22 other children from the Tutoring Program received holiday gifts from members of the Church of the Atonement. This was organized by IY Board Chair, Margaret Sullivan. The families were grateful.

GRANT GIVEN TO INSPIRED YOUTH, INC.

Inspired Youth, Inc. received a special grant! The United Methodist Foundation of the Northern Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church awarded Inspired Youth, Inc. a grant to continue working with low-income children and youth to further their education.

The award was given in Mid-October in Downers Grove, at the Doubletree Suites & Conference Center, in celebration of the United Methodist Foundation's 70th anniversary.

John and Tina Sansone, along with Susan Mattison, Ken Roman, and Beth Palmer drove to Downers Grove to receive the award. Ken Roman, a tutoring grad and now a professor of microbiology at Northwestern University, spoke on behalf of Inspired Youth, in gratitude for the award.

Inspired Youth, Inc. is grateful for the gift from the United Methodist Foundation, in celebration of the Foundation's 70th anniversary.



Inspired Youth Singers perform in a cathedral

EPWORTH'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT: SPECTACULAR!

19 children and 10 adults were in the Christmas pageant at Epworth Church. 5 other children and 4 parents also came. The angels, shepherds, wise men, and stars each had individual striking costumes. The group sang 6 songs, with the adult kings singing solo verses. Shepherd Jaylen S., 3rd gr., said his part—loudly. The angels said their lines well. After the worship service with the pageant, there was community hour and a piñata filled with candy!