

## ✳ *Good News from Inspired Youth, Dec. 2017* ✳

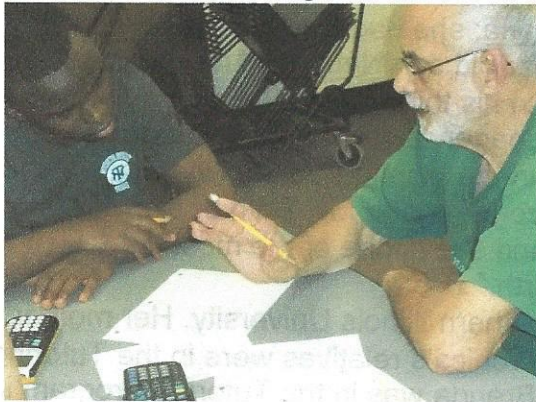
*"This is the moment we have dreamed of all our lives. We'll be the change we wish from others. We'll stand tall for what is right. And in my heart there'll be no doubt the arms of the world will come reaching out and embrace me to be all I can be. Now nothing can stop me." Theme song of the Montreal Olympics, 2010.*



First Day of Tutoring



Writing



Algebra



Enjoying Tutoring

Maria Najera was a student in the Tutoring Program 25 years ago. Here is Maria's email from last November:

"My name is Maria Y. Najera. I was a part of the Inspired Youth Tutoring Program in the early 1990s. Those years were full of fond memories of Beth Palmer and the volunteers working to help the kids from Goudy Elementary with their school work. I feel very fortunate to have been part of the program during that time. The program introduced me to many first-time experiences which strengthened my education. I remember the first time I was taught how to use a computer, how to perform a poem in public, how to carefully complete my homework and be able to double check my work. As a child of only Spanish speaking immigrant parents it was difficult to get assistance at home with school work. This program pivoted me toward a more rounded education. I was able to graduate Goudy grade school. I went on to Mather High School and graduated in the Honor roll. After that, I was accepted to the University Of Illinois at Chicago and graduated with a psychology major. Currently, I work as a social worker with the Department of Human Services. I enjoy working in the community and helping out its residents. I feel this would not have been possible without the assistance from the Tutoring Program."

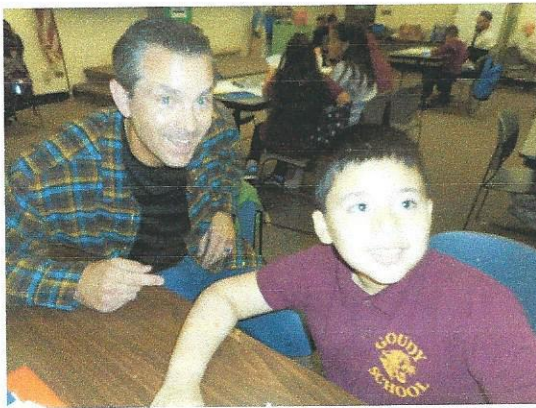
Alejandro S., 7<sup>th</sup> gr., has been in the program since 4<sup>th</sup> grade. He was good at reading, but he needed to work on math. We worked and worked and worked on math. Now he is one of the top students in math in his section in Goudy school. He does well in all subjects, and his grades have soared.

Frances C., 7<sup>th</sup> gr., works on math in the Tutoring Program. Last year, her math improved so much that her teacher called Frances' mother to say what a high score she got on a standardized test. Frances is also on her school's debate team.

In 2016-17, 84 students, preschool through high school, wrote one or more stories for Inspired Youth's magazines: "Letters to President-Elect Donald Trump," "Editorials!! Here's What I Think...", "In the Year 2036," articles for "Chicago: History, City, People," "Scary Short Stories—Round Robin—Based on Various Prompts," "Animal Reports," and stories for IY's magazine *Sunshine*.

***This is the 33<sup>rd</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.***

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



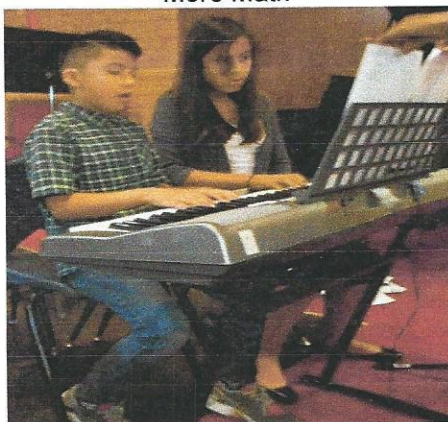
Celebrating Good Work



Math



More Math



Student Piano Recital

*inspiredyouthchicago.org  
inspiredyouth2@gmail.com  
facebook.com/inspiredyouth*

Last year, in September 2016, Jason R., then 1<sup>st</sup> gr., couldn't do simple math or read any words. He worked and worked and kept learning. On the January and April report cards he received all A's, with one B, and he received an award in his class for the student who improved the most in math. Now in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, Jason continues to do well. Jason has a lot of energy. As we walk from the school to the Tutoring Program and then walk home, he loves to run fast to the next street and wait for the rest of the children.

Andre M., 2<sup>nd</sup> gr., entered the Tutoring Program as a 1<sup>st</sup> grader in February 2017. He liked to read, but math was hard. His written-expression was poor and his hand-writing was illegible. It was hard to understand his speech. Since then, he has gained in everything. His math is much better. His hand-writing and written-expression have improved, and his speech is much clearer. Andre is a hard worker.

Layla S., 3<sup>rd</sup> gr., has discovered she can check out books from the library and bring them back the next day so she won't have to pay a fine. On the walk home, she runs up to every book kiosk and looks inside to see if there are any books she'd like to take home, for free. At the tutoring program, Layla is working really hard this year. She's doing her assigned math work and more.

Dayveana B., 5<sup>th</sup> gr., is imaginative in writing and reads well. She works on math in the Tutoring Program. Her father and many relatives were students in the Tutoring Program. Dayveana is mature in caring for her younger sister.

*From Shirley E., Nathan B.'s mother:* "Hi! I had three children attend the Inspired Youth Tutoring. Beth is a wonderful teacher, tutor, and she is such an inspiration to all the children. She had my 32-year old daughter Shana; she had my 23 year old son Sam; and she has my 14 year old son Nathan. And she did a great job with them. Sam is in his third year of college. Shana is doing wonderful. She's a manager at her job. And Nathan is continuing to be successful in the Inspired Youth Tutoring Program. It's a wonderful program, and Ms. Beth does a wonderful job with all kids, and she is one of the most respected ladies that I know on this earth."

In Inspired Youth's 2017 Summer Piano Program, 52 beginning piano students performed in the two recitals. The teachers were wonderful volunteers, including "kid teachers" who learned to play the piano with Inspired Youth. Tutoring grads as tutors was the vision for the Tutoring Program, and now it's happening in the Summer Piano Program.

Benda H. is a junior at Southern Illinois University. Her mother, Veronica S., and many of Veronica's relatives were in the Tutoring Program in the late 1980's. Brenda was in the Tutoring Program in 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades and always loved to read. As a HS senior at Rickover Academy, she did community service with the Tutoring Program. Last spring she interned at the White House Historical Association in Washington, D.C., and completed a program with the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation. In July of 2017 she studied in Rome, Italy with the John Felice Rome Center. Yea!!!

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