

The Inspire Spotlight

Newsletter of Inspire: A Shalom Afterschool Initiative

June
2020

Inspire by the Numbers

11

Girls participated in first Girls on the Run program!

38

Volunteers supported students each week!

34

Students received printed homework, snacks, supplies & face masks during COVID-19 school closures!



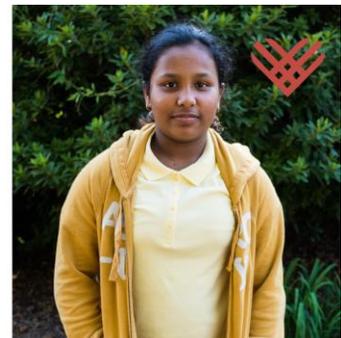
Inspired to Return to Afterschool

By Kaweena Chandrakumar, Inspire Student

This school year was my first year at Inspire. Last school year I attended a different school, so I could not get into the Inspire afterschool program. This year I got lucky because I changed schools and became an Inspire student. To say this program is great is an understatement. I would describe Inspire with words similar to awesome. I enjoyed my time at Inspire each week, but the time was cut short because of the worldwide disaster that is going on. COVID-19 has been spreading around the world fast. So far, America is the top country with the most cases of people getting the Coronavirus. To be straight up honest, my emotions are all over the place. I just do not know how I am supposed to feel anymore. I do not know if I am supposed to feel scared, happy, terrified, or other feelings. I am just emotionless and confused right now. I think humanity is coming to an end similar to the predictions I read. Last year, I read about a prediction that humanity was coming to an end between 50 to 250 million years from now. The predictions seem like they might come true based on the number of people dying from this disease. This is scary and I would feel safer once they find a cure for COVID-19. I want to feel safe to go back outside and be with my family and friends, to go back to school, and to go back to afterschool at Inspire.

The teachers and volunteers at Inspire are great helpers and supporters. They have inspired me in many ways. Not only the teachers and the volunteers, but my peers included. They have helped me with my projects and assignments. They are real inspirers, helpers, and supporters. They have inspired and supported my peers when they both needed and did not know they needed them. The Inspire teachers and volunteers have helped my peers in ways like the time when one of my friends said he did not need help but then he was able to get all of his work done on time by working with a volunteer. Like I said, they are amazing, and it is hard for me to describe the people and experience at Inspire in any other words.

[continued on back...]



INSPIRE
a shalom afterschool initiative

Inspired to Return to Inspire Afterschool continued..

I cannot talk about Inspire being so amazing without talking about the activities I have experienced in the program. We do a lot of different activities each day at Inspire. Some activities that we do are soccer, basketball, arts & crafts, Ultimate Frisbee, yoga, and more. There are many different activities that we do that are fun and entertaining to do. I think that everyone - my teachers, peers, and friends - enjoy the activities as much as I do.

Girls on the Run (GOTR) is a program for girls, more specifically pre-teen girls, to encourage them with the development of self-respect and healthy lifestyles. This year was Inspire's first season with the GOTR Heart & Sole program. We did dynamic, interactive lessons through running games. We would meet up twice a week for 90 minutes to practice for the program finale 5k run, to have fun, and to create new relationships with Inspire girls and new girls in the community. Both the coaches and the girls were amazing and fun to be around and hang out with during our GOTR practices. All of our work in the program would have ended in a celebratory 5k run in April. The season was cancelled early due to COVID-19. I miss being able to experience new enrichment activities like GOTR at Inspire.

There are many ways that school and afterschool support my learning and growth. They help me with my homework and projects, and I get access to school supplies and tutoring when I need it. They help me improve my skills in talking to volunteers, teachers, and students to work with each other and try to get a job done together. Inspire has helped me by maintaining my body weight when either doing GOTR or other enrichment activities. Each day we get good snacks and do fun activities. We have school supplies and technology to get our work done and volunteers are around to help us do our work. I get support with my schoolwork, my ability to talk to and work with teachers, volunteers, and students has improved, I stay healthy, and much more.

When school and afterschool was suspended because of the COVID-19 spread, my way of learning and level of support has changed in many ways in when we moved from regular school because we not able to gather in groups or go outside to be with friends. These changes impacted me because my teachers were not able to explain the lesson explicitly or go in-depth with the activities or lessons. Another way these changes impacted my learning is that I did not get all the details or understand the deeper meaning of all my work, I would only understand some of the details. The other way that my learning has changed is that I missed out on all the extra lessons and practice in afterschool that give me deeper meaning of the lessons I was taught in regular school. Being isolated at home, experiencing the changes of going from regular school to virtual school and being away from afterschool has been hard. It feels like I am missing a lot.

I am looking forward to many things when I return to regular school and afterschool. I am looking forward to getting back to school in general because school is kind of like my safe haven (not saying that my home is not a safe haven). Another thing I am looking forward to is seeing my teachers again. They are fun to hang out with as an adult friend. The thing I miss most about them is that they can be comforting when they "sense" that someone is angry or sad. I am also looking forward to seeing my friends again. For example, I like hanging out with them and just chilling and talking about random things. I look forward to going back to school, seeing my teachers, and hanging out with friends when I return to regular school and afterschool. I am looking forward to so much more when I return to regular school and afterschool.

COVID-19 has changed so much of our lives. This time at home in isolation has given Kaweena and all students time to experience life without regular school and afterschool programs like Inspire. Inspire provides extra support to students from teachers and volunteers to understand the details of their schoolwork and practice ideas and skills they learn in school. Inspire has given students new experiences like learning Ultimate Frisbee and going ice skating this program year. We all miss life at Inspire and look forward returning to our work in holistic development for middle school youth in Clarkston.





Spring 2020 in pictures

(clockwise from top left)

Inspire students in their communities during COVID-19 home visits; Inspire volunteers facilitate enrichment activities and support with homework; Inspire girls participate in first season of Girls on the Run Heart & Sole program with coaches; Guest volunteers spend time with students in the Learning Center; Volunteers help students make cards in arts and crafts session; Students receive face masks (THANK YOU MS. DIANNE) and end of program year letters from volunteers; Volunteers from The Paideia School teach students how to play Ultimate.



Your Support Makes the Difference

\$2,000

Sponsor one student for the entire school year

\$8

Provide one student with **snacks** for one month

\$250

Ensure **translation & interpretation** are available for family engagement

\$1000

Make possible **field trips** for the year

\$85

Provide one student with **supplies** for the year

\$100

Ensure safe, reliable **transportation** for all students for one month



Save the Date!

Saturday

October 3, 2020

Join us for our **4th Annual Inspire Ultimate Frisbee Tournament Fundraiser**

Python Park -

Avondale Estates, GA

Middle school, high school, and adult leagues!

Check our [website](#) later this summer for details and to register!

A Note from Ms. Teni-Ola

As the world faces historic challenges with the growing COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic compounded by ongoing effects of systemic racism, it has never been more critical to stay connected to the communities that we know and love. Amid the stress, uncertainty, and traumatic experiences taking place, we are reminded just how much Inspire needs its community to continue to address the academic, social, emotional, and practical needs of our students and their families. Our volunteers, partners, donors, and friends understand the importance of creating and sustaining change in small and big ways to impact the lives of our youth. Your gift will help our students sharpen their talents, develop their interests, and discover a love for learning! Your support will give Inspire students a safe space, activities to channel their energy, and the academic support they need to catch up. Your gift will give them a better today and make possible a better future. The COVID-19 outbreak is going to have resounding and long-lasting impacts. From health and wellness to economic effects and increased gaps in education, we will need to support and empower each other through the unknown. Thank you, on behalf of these incredible young people, for that gift.



In service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Teni-Ola Ogunjobi".

Teni-Ola Ogunjobi
Director

How to Donate

All donations are tax-deductible.

ONLINE: Visit

<http://bit.ly/GiveToInspireAfterschool>

CHECK (our preferred method):

Make checks out to **"Inspire"**

Mail checks to:

Inspire: A Shalom Afterschool Initiative
c/o New Church Development Commission
1024 Ponce de Leon Ave. NE
Atlanta, GA 30306

SUPPLIES:



Check out our  to donate specific items we need by visiting: <http://bit.ly/InspireAmazonWishList>

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To See Photos, Visit:
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