

The Inspire Spotlight

Newsletter of Inspire: A Shalom Afterschool Initiative

May
2024

Inspire by the Numbers

22+

Volunteers visited
Inspire this semester!

33+

Students visited
Inspire this semester!

100%

of students who say
they've learned
something new this
semester

305.5+

Volunteer
hours donated this
year - THANK YOU!!!



On A Journey To Acquire, Aspire and Impart!

What a phenomenal academic year it's been! Our talented Inspire kids continue to amaze us with their incredible gifts and abilities. We witnessed them blossom from not recognizing words to crafting full sentences and even teaching one another! Their learning progress has truly been remarkable. None of these achievements would have been possible without the unwavering support and dedication of our extraordinary volunteers.

Inspired to ACQUIRE: *Learning from the teachers*

"Me English Not Good," Fiston proclaimed with a smile, the first time he joined us in the homework space. But behind that cheerful expression lay a deep yearning for help with his English skills.

While he sometimes struggled to articulate his needs verbally, Fiston found other ways to convey the anxiety and stress of learning a new language. Whether it was playfully teasing his friends or admitting he couldn't answer a question because his English wasn't where he wanted it to be, his determination to improve shone through – Thank you to our volunteers for never giving up on him and many of his friends experiencing the same struggle!

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INSPIRE
a shalom afterschool initiative

Inspired to ACQUIRE: *Learning from teachers...*

When our children arrived with their homework, we realized that most of them struggled to comprehend the assigned problems. Our volunteers were enthusiastic about assisting them, but navigating the situation proved challenging when the students did not understand the basic instructions. Recognizing this barrier, we decided to focus on fundamental English phonics and vocabulary spelling exercises. It became evident that reinforcing these essential building blocks was a significant need for our students.

After a long day, who would want to be overwhelmed with new materials? Certainly not our Inspire kids! To make the learning experience more engaging and enjoyable, we devised strategies to enhance their educational journey, ensuring they could maximize their potential.



Inspired to ASPIRE: *Thinking beyond the box*

Our kids are passionate about SO much more than just homework! To kick off the Spring semester, we asked them to unleash their curiosity and share the topics they wanted to dive into. Every Wednesday, we had the privilege of hosting guest volunteers who treated our students to 20 mind-blowing minutes on their chosen subjects!

But these weren't just ordinary presentations – oh no, no, no! They were opportunities for our kids to expand their knowledge horizons, learning invaluable life lessons on treating neighbors with kindness, serving others with compassion, and behaving respectfully at home.



We all know Mondays can feel like an uphill battle, especially for students fresh off a weekend of freedom. To help our students muster the courage to take on afterschool activities, we boosted their spirits with motivational videos tackling topics like courage, self-esteem, and curiosity.

Talk about starting the week off on the right foot! With their batteries recharged and their minds fired up, our kids were ready to conquer any challenge that came their way.

Inspired to IMPART: *Demonstrating knowledge acquired*

What's the best way to solidify everything we've learned this semester? By teaching each other, of course! Our kids showcased their newfound knowledge through electrifying peer teaching activities that put their skills to the ultimate test. But these sessions weren't just educational – they were downright entertaining! We witnessed kids pinpointing their friends' mistakes with precision, rushing to correct them with a fervor that even our volunteers couldn't match. Talk about excitement for learning!



"Who wants to be Ms. Elisa today?" That's all it took to spark a frenzy of eager voices, desperate to take on the honorable duty of serving refreshments. And how energized they were! With confidence and poise, our little servers dished out snacks and beverages, basking in the positive reactions of their grateful peers. But their spirit of service didn't stop there – it extended to project collaborations, where they selflessly lent a hand to ensure everyone's success.



From peer teaching triumphs to service-oriented standouts, our Inspire kids continue to amaze us with their dedication, enthusiasm, and unwavering support for one another.

If you missed any sessions, browse some of our Spring semester pictures...

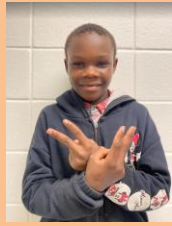


(In S shape; From Top Left)

Ms. Jihy leading a game; Stephanie's birthday celebration; Exploration topics writing activity; Fanne working on Art project; Mural Project in partnership with First Pres of Atlanta, Home visit at Aminatou's; Valentine's Day Celebration; Divine receiving excellent behavior award; Olivier proud of his Math work; Mr. George leading a Math session; Ms. Esther leading an English session; Lusaya and Sadiki enjoying their snack time outside; Ms. Leah working with Fiston on Phonics; Visit at Atlanta Science Festival; Thursday soccer game!

...For more pictures, visit our social media platforms...

Your Support Makes the Difference



\$2,500
Sponsor
one student for
the entire school
year

\$10
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



\$100
Provide one
student with
supplies for the
year

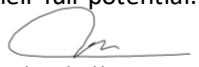
\$100
Ensure safe,
reliable
transportation for
all students for one
month



A Note from Ms. Elisa

When conversing with our children at the bus stop, it's truly remarkable to hear their diverse and unique stories, not only about their daily activities but also their dreams and future goals. At its core, Inspire aims to create a safe space for Clarkston Youth, where they can not only excel in their academic pursuits but also broaden their horizons across various subjects. I'm immensely grateful to our volunteers, who have generously contributed **OVER 300 HOURS** to support our children in this endeavor. Inspire has had a profound impact on academic performance, self-esteem, parental involvement, and aspirations for the future. Your support has allowed Inspire to expose refugee youth to new experiences, enriching learning environments, and essential academic resources crucial for their success. Your donations are instrumental in enabling Inspire to continue empowering refugee students to realize their full potential. **THANK YOU!!!**




Elisabelle Kaputo
Director

How to Donate

All donations are tax-deductible.

ZELLE: info@shalompcusa.org

ONLINE: Visit

<http://bit.ly/GiveToInspireAfterschool>

CHECK:

Make checks out to **"Inspire"**: Shalom International Ministry PCUSA, INC

Mail checks to:

Inspire: A Shalom Afterschool Initiative
c/o Shalom International Ministry PCUSA, INC
5140 Memorial Drive,
Stone Mountain, GA 30083

SUPPLIES:



Check out our

to donate specific items we need by

visiting: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/?ref=wl_share

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