

# NEWS ADVISORY

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## UPTOWN-EDGEWATER TUTORING AND MENTORING PROGRAM HONORED WITH AWARD

CHICAGO, ILL. (January 28, 2010)—Inspired Youth, a northside tutoring/mentoring program, was recognized Wednesday, January 27, by The Lawyers Lend-A-Hand to Youth organization for its work on behalf of children in the Edgewater and Uptown neighborhoods. Inspired Youth offers students in kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade a mix of academic tutoring and mentoring in arithmetic, reading and writing at the Bezazian Library and Margate Park.

Inspired Youth was honored with the Much Shelist Founders Award, a \$7,000 award donated by the law firm Much Shelist Denenberg Ament & Rubenstein, P.C. Since 2005, the award has been presented to a promising tutoring/mentoring program that has been in existence for five years or fewer. Morrie Much, one of the firm's founding partners, presented the award at Inspired Youth's Wednesday afternoon tutoring session.

The honorees are chosen by a Much Shelist selection committee from a group of high quality tutoring and mentoring programs recommended by Lend-A-Hand. However, the law firm's commitment extends beyond funding. Much Shelist partners volunteer with various programs as tutor/mentors or board members.

In making the presentation of the check, Much praised Inspired Youth's director Beth Struck Palmer saying, "With no organization and very little money, what she has done is organize about 140 tutors and mentors to provide services for more than 100 children. That's about 4,000 tutoring hours a week not including the choir and piano lessons provided here."

Much said that Lawyers Lend-A-Hand to Youth took him and his partners to see several

other tutoring/mentoring programs throughout the city, but they were attracted to Inspired Youth's community feel. He attributed that spirit to the parents, children and volunteers.

Inspired Youth is located at 5715 N. Ridge Road, Chicago, and can be contacted at 773.561.4759 or at [Inspiredyouth2@yahoo.com](mailto:Inspiredyouth2@yahoo.com).

### **National Mentoring Month**

January 2010 has been designated National Mentoring Month by the White House. In a presidential proclamation earlier this month, President Obama highlighted the contributions role models make in the lives of children and urged support of programs like Inspired Youth.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/presidential-proclamation-national-mentoring-month>

### **About Lawyers Lend-A-Hand To Youth**

Lawyers Lend-A-Hand to Youth promotes one-on-one mentoring relationships that foster consistent, long-term bonds between the mentor and young person. Lend-A-Hand awards approximately \$200,000 in grants a year to exemplary tutor/mentor programs, raises community awareness of the importance of mentoring to disadvantaged youth, and recruits lawyers and others in the legal community as volunteers to support local groups.