

Spring
2020



JUMP START

Eye on IYC



National Volunteer Week ... Month

Celebrate Service is the theme of National Volunteer Week, which is an annual celebration to say “Thank You” to America’s volunteers. Typically celebrated in April, this year’s week is - April 19th – 25th.

In honor of this week, let me say “Thank You” for being a volunteer in our Jump Start program. We appreciate your being a part of the Literacy Volunteers of Illinois and, moreover, we and School District 428 appreciate the commitment and care that you show all the young people you tutor and mentor in the Illinois Youth Centers. The Centers too appreciate your efforts and annually at this time celebrate them as well with Banquets and Volunteers of the Year, but sadly that like so many things is now on hold.

As we kicked off the New Year, it was great to meet and mix with so many of you at our Annual New Year’s Celebration. As we revisited activities of the past year while there and spoke of those to come in the new year, who could have predicted what would occur in just two short months!

As you learned from our staff and IDJJ officials, the IYCs are closed to visitors which includes family and volunteers. The population at all of the Centers has been dropping due to early releases and a hold on new admissions; currently the statewide population is below 200. School is being conducted at each of the IYCs, but varies by Center. Since late-March our staff like most in Illinois has been working remotely. While that does not allow for tutoring to occur, staff has developed learning-based projects for the youth surrounding this week’s 50th anniversary of Earth Day, and is piloting a Pen Pal project with tutors and students. Work is underway on a Mother’s Day activity packet; if you have any ideas for remote learning projects for the youth, please let your site coordinator know.

We do not have any indication as to when the Centers will admit volunteers, but will keep you posted. In the meantime I hope that all of you are doing well and are enjoying, to the extent you can, the Stay at Home order.

- Dorothy M. Miaso



**New Year Celebration
Sunday, January 5th
Cozyrna's Mexican Grill**



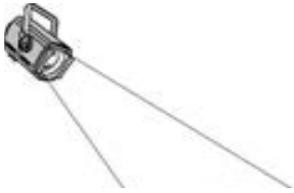
Nina Matthis, Teresa Urfer and Kurt Mohr - IYC-Warrenville



Dorothy with Dick Sullivan and Alex Dunbar - IYC-Chicago



Tom & Connie Gush - IYC-St. Charles



Volunteer Spotlight

Scott Milliman

LVI considers itself fortunate to count Scott as one of our regular volunteer tutors at IYC- Chicago. Since joining Jump Start three years ago, Scott has imparted an ongoing passion to help students realize the power of education as a tool to navigate their way to a successful life on the outside.

Scott is enormously popular with staff and students. He has a unique ability to connect with students; meeting them where they are with humor, compassion, and practical advice. Many of the youth with whom he works view education in binary terms, believing they fall in to the less favorable of two categories; intelligent or stupid; good or bad. In his own personable and engaging way, Scott effectively helps the young men to challenge this narrative and take practical steps toward achieving personally set goals. And based on his own experiences as a once disaffected student, he has a unique way of making study goals relatable to the young men that he works with. As well as helping numerous students graduate High School with Diplomas and GED's, Scott has role-modeled the first peer mentoring group in IYC-Chicago, and facilitated one young man's dream to win a place in a sound-engineering course at Columbia College; the ripple effects of which were felt throughout the Center.



Scott joined the Army in 2013 and served as a Cavalry Scout in the 2nd Infantry Division. After getting out of the Army, he said "I was looking for a way I could better impact my community and ran into a volunteer-posting for LVI. I chose the Jump Start Program because after being in the Army and outside of my community, I realized the importance of education and how much it has an impact on the trajectory of one's life. I continue to come in and tutor because I see how these youths' confidence levels are positively affected from completing a subject, a course, their GED or High School Diploma. "

Scott is currently studying Finance at the University of Illinois at Chicago with an expected graduation in May. From there he will be working in a leadership development program at a large software company. In finance, he has experience working in the compliance and regulatory fields within the futures and derivatives markets.

Scott says that a quote that relates to his coming in the Center is by Dr. King: "On the parable of the Good Samaritan: "I imagine that the first question the priest and Levite asked was: 'If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?' But by the very nature of his concern, the Good Samaritan reversed the question: 'If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?'"



**29th Annual Tutor & Adult
Learner Conference**
Saturday, April 18, 2020

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and mandates issued by the state, the UIC Administration cancelled all large campus gatherings at their campuses. This has forced the cancellation of our On the Road to Literacy Conference that was to be held on April 18th. Thank you to everyone who assisted in the planning and all who were planning on attending. We look forward to hosting you all at another time !



from the Centers ...

Congrats to Grads at IYC-St. Charles

March blew in like a lion in St. Charles, with a bump up in the census and a large number of new security staff. On March 13, eight young men were celebrated for either receiving their high school diploma, GED or Lake Land College certificate. Two ceremonies were held to accommodate graduates and their families, with breakfast being served at the morning ceremony and lunch being served at the second.

Black History Month was celebrated in February with a sports trivia contest created by Sandi Ivemeyer, program assistant, as well as other classroom activities. In February we had 28 active tutors, serving 29 youth, for a total of 115 hours – so we were very busy! Unfortunately, by March 15 the Jump Start program was put on hold due to the Coronavirus. Nevertheless, during that short two weeks of time, 21 tutors served a total of 15 young men !



Following the “Stay at Home” order and the hold put on volunteers in coming in to the Centers, in an effort to reach out to the youth at the Center, a pen pal arrangement is being explored, Earth Day packets have been created by Jump Start staff and were distributed. Plans are being made for providing supplies for the making of Mother’s Day cards.

Many thanks to the “Big Ideas Group,” facilitated by members of the Northern Illinois University Philosophy Department, who will be going on break until their fall semester. They have done a great job of opening young minds and stimulating critical thinking.

- *Melissa Auer, Program Director*

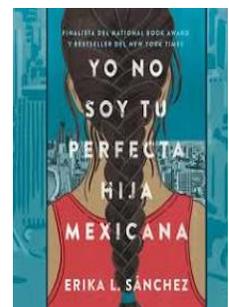
Real Men Read at IYC-Chicago

Youth population at IYC Chicago dropped to 34 in February with the Jump Start program serving 16 of those through seven active volunteer tutors; with another 6 trained and in the wings, ready to join. Unfortunately, in mid-March, as concerns over the Coronavirus spread, our active and potential volunteers like the others in all of the Centers, were instructed to stay away until such time that the statewide “Stay at Home” order changed. The number of Jump Start students dropped to 6 in early March as Coronavirus protocol led to the early release of many students.

The Book Club, *Real Men Read*, continued to meet every Monday at lunchtime through January and February but has been similarly hit by the response to the Coronavirus. Up to 6 young men and three staff members were half-way through reading the recently selected novel, *I’m Not Your Perfect Mexican*, when social distancing requirements lead to the postponement of the book club.

Monday evenings were all about tutoring with four tutors meeting the demand from students keen to put extra work into their studies.

The Spoken Word Session met every Wednesday evening to provide students the opportunity to write and perform songs with accompanying beats and a microphone. Four students performed original material during the Black History Month event on 13th March – just before lockdown measures came into place. The center will be operating with essential staff only until further notice.



- *Alex Dunbar, Program Coordinator*

News from the Centers *(continued)*

Black History Month Celebrated at IYC-Harrisburg

February turned out to be a very busy but rewarding month at IYC-Harrisburg. We had a visit from the Harlem Wizards performing their wizardry on the basketball court which had youth and staff alike in awe. They also selected members of the staff as well as youth to participate in several activities. All staff received a picture of the team. It was a very exciting time for all.



On Valentine Day, we had a Black History Presentation by Marlene Rivero. Miss Rivero portrayed Anne Bradford Stokes, an African American Civil War Nurse. (1833-1903) Miss. Stokes worked aboard the Navy's First Hospital Ship Red Rover of Mound City, Illinois. This was a very informative program.

On February 19th, our youth put on a Black History Month Presentation; "Recognizing Ripple Makers Throughout History" recognizing African Americans who have received the Medal Of Honor or Presidential Medal of Freedom! There were presentations on 18 of the award winners. Each one was performed by a youth of IYC Harrisburg. They did an outstanding job and the information was enlightening

- *Larry Durfee, Program Coordinator*

Graduation, Training, Book Club and More at IYC-Warrenville

On February 26th a well-attended graduation was held. In addition to family and friends of the graduates, administration, staff, state IDJJ officials and LVI volunteers attended to show support of the youth in this milestone event. Three graduates were present to receive their diplomas; the names of another 8 graduates previously released were recognized.

LVI through the Fleming Fund purchased a tasty cake for the reception that followed. The keynote speaker was Denzel Burke who has since left the facility and is attending college and working for a nonprofit in the juvenile justice field. His remarks were very encouraging and inspiring. Earlier in February a tutor training was held where we welcomed two new tutors. The training included a volunteer orientation and a tour of the grounds by the Center's Volunteer Coordinator Mr. Crockrell.



In March, with the help of Leisure Times Activities Specialist, Ms. Timm, we got our first book club off the ground, assisted by new tutor, Cyndi Entwisle, a reading specialist. We began with "The Hate U Give", since many of the youth are familiar with the movie.

Volunteer Brad Promisel, who has a passion for chess recently began leading a weekly chess club as part of Leisure Time Activities programming. While now in hiatus, we look for that to resume. See comments from Brad on page 7. Volunteer John Saf graciously donated a foosball table to be used in the Teen Center that is being developed. Thanks, John !

There were many fantastic programs for the youth during Black History Month. The counselors who lead the drug groups had youth research then paint African masks. They were displayed and youth were given a chance to talk about theirs to people who attended the program. Two young women who lead the drug program also explained the history of "stepping", which is a dance, then gave a powerful demonstration.

Finally, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, we are working on special projects with LTA Ms. Timm, which we'll tell you more about in our next issue !

- *Teresa Urfer, Program Coordinator*

What's In a Name ?

In September 2017, the administration and school board of School District #428 decided that the schools inside the Centers should each be given a name. Except for IYC St. Charles, none of the schools had one. The following were chosen because, through education, they made a significant contribution to society.

- Sandi Ivemeyer, Program Assistant, IYC-St. Charles

Thurgood Marshall Alternative High School at IYC-Chicago

Born in Baltimore in 1908, Marshall was descended from slaves on both sides of his family. He attended Baltimore's Frederick Douglass High School (*originally Colored High and Training School*) and went on to attend Lincoln University, a historically black college in Pennsylvania. After graduating with honors, he applied to the University of Maryland's Law School but was rejected based on race. This firsthand experience with discrimination had a profound impact on him and helped shape his career.

Following his 1933 magna cum laude law school graduation from Howard University, another historically black school, he began his long association with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) where, at age 32, he founded and became the executive director of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund. In that capacity, he took on and won many cases addressing racial discrimination; his greatest achievement was the landmark *Brown vs Board of Education of Topeka* case, in which the Supreme Court ruled that "separate educational facilities are inherently unequal". In all, he won 29 out of the 32 cases he argued before the Supreme Court. In 1961, Marshall was appointed by President Kennedy to the US Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit where he served until 1965, when President Johnson appointed him Solicitor General of the US. In 1967, President Johnson nominated him for the Supreme Court; he was confirmed by a Senate vote of 69–11. Marshall retired from the Supreme Court in 1991 due to declining health. In 1993 he died of heart failure at age 84. An obituary read, "We make movies about Malcolm X, we get a holiday to honor Dr. King, but every day we live with the legacy of Justice Thurgood Marshall".

Thurgood Marshall was the first African American to serve as a US Supreme Court Justice and the first to serve as a US Solicitor General.

Booker T. Washington Alternative High School at IYC Harrisburg

Born in a slave hut in Virginia in 1856 to a father he never knew, + Booker T. Washington was from the last generation of black Americans born into slavery who became a leading voice of former slaves and their descendants. Booker's early years were spent on a plantation, there was a schoolhouse nearby and he would look inside and see children his age sitting at desks wishing he had the opportunity to learn, but it was illegal to teach slaves to read or write.

Following the Emancipation Proclamation, Booker and his mother moved to Malden, West Virginia. At age 10 years old, he got a job as a houseboy and was allowed to go to school one hour per day during the winter hours. Largely self-taught, at age 16 he walked 500 miles to attend Hampton Normal Agricultural Institute in Virginia working at odd jobs along the way and as a student to support himself. He graduated with excellent grades in 1875 and returned to Malden where he taught children in a day school and adults at night. In 1881, the Alabama legislature approved \$2,000 to open a "colored" school - the Tuskegee Normal School for the Training of Black Teachers - and Washington was recommended to run the school.

He started the school in a church and built what is now known as Tuskegee University into one of the nation's leading institutions. He is perhaps most widely known for his Atlanta Compromise speech in which he urged racial cooperation and the acceptance of social segregation as the price for acquiring education and economic security, angering some in the African American community, and, for his autobiography, *Up From Slavery*. He died on November 14, 1915, at age fifty-nine of arteriosclerosis and exhaustion.

Booker T Washington was an educator, author, orator, and adviser to multiple US Presidents. Between 1890 and 1915, he was the dominant leader in the African American community and of the contemporary black elite.

What's In a Name? (cont.)

Samuel Sublett Jr. Alternative High School at IYC-St. Charles

IYC St. Charles was a trendsetter in school naming as it has had a name for its school for quite some time. When what we know as the “new school” was built in the early 1960’s it was named after one of the Center’s highly esteemed employees, Samuel Sublett Jr. Born in Chicago in 1928, Sam attended DePaul University where he earned a bachelor and a master’s degrees; he earned a second master’s degree from Northern Illinois University. He began his career as a teacher at IYC St. Charles, which at the time was part of the juvenile division of the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC). He was later named the Center’s Educational Facility Administrator before taking on a variety of other positions in IDOC. Considered a leader in the corrections field he was involved with various national and state professional organizations and was a member and past president of the American Correctional Association, past president of the National CNCE Juvenile Corrections Agencies and a past president of the Illinois Academy of Criminology. He was awarded the Walter Dunbar Accreditation Award, the highest bestowed by the Commission on Accreditation for Corrections, for his work in creating a 10-volume set of comprehensive corrections standards, which set the bar for corrections operations in adult and juvenile corrections, parole, probation and community-based jails. He was also involved with his local community of St. Charles and was instrumental in assisting St. Charles in acquiring the vacant State of Illinois land that is now Campton Park. He retired from IDOC in 1993 and passed away in his home in St. Charles in 2012 at the age of 84.

Sam Sublett spent more than 40 years in the world of corrections, literally writing the book on national standards for both adult and juvenile correctional institutions along the way.

Maya Angelou Alternative High School at IYC-Warrenville

Maya Angelou was born Marguerite Annie Johnson in 1928 in St. Louis, where she spent the first four years of her life. Following her parent’s tumultuous break-up, she and her older brother spent their next four years living with their paternal Grandmother in Arkansas then back to their mother in St. Louis, back to the grandmother’s and, finally, at age 14 settling in San Francisco with her mother where as a young adult she became the city’s first black streetcar toll-taker, a dream come true at the time. Before becoming a renowned poet, she dallied in other occupations including fry cook, sex worker, night club dancer and performer, cast member of the opera Porgy and Bess, coordinator for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and journalist in Egypt and Ghana during the decolonization of Africa. She was also an actress, writer, director, and a producer of plays, movies, and public television programs, publishing during her lifetime seven autobiographies, three books of essays, several books of poetry, and is credited with a list of plays, movies, and television shows spanning over 50 years. She received dozens of awards and more than 50 honorary degrees. She is best known for her autobiographies, especially her first, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, in which she publicly discussed painful aspects of her personal life. She was active in the Civil Rights Movement and worked with Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X. Beginning in the 1990s, she made around 80 appearances a year on the lecture circuit, something she continued into her eighties. In 1993, Angelou recited her poem "On the Pulse of Morning" at the first inauguration of Bill Clinton, making her the first poet to make an inaugural recitation since Robert Frost in 1961. She was respected as a spokesperson for black people and women, and her works, which are widely used in schools worldwide, have been considered a defense of black culture. She died at age 86 in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

I decided many years ago I had obviously been invented by someone else – by a whole society – and I didn’t like their invention.
- Maya Angelou

Unbound to Lit for Life

As we all know, change is constant, and our “Unbound-College Bound” program is no exception. We are re-focusing and rebranding. The program designed to help students establish higher-education and employment-related goals will still help students in those areas, but to better serve the whole youth the program will focus on helping students create an individualized “life plan,” to serve as a guide to achieve those goals. Students may also be able to attend group sessions on life skills and financial planning – Literacy for Life, or Lit for Life, for short. The majority of youth currently involved reside at IYC-Chicago or have been released, but the goal is to involve more students at both Warrenville and St. Charles. Volunteers are needed to help with this program, so if you are interested in learning more, check in with the Jump Start Coordinator at your Center or contact me at 312-459-3458 or djohnson@lvillinois.org.

- Dr. Danielle Johnson
Senior Program Associate

Volunteer Perspective Brad Promisel

I have been sponsoring a chess club at IYC-Warrenville since the start of this new year.

Having taught chess for over 20 years, I know it promotes social-emotional learning just as much as academic skills. Over time youth (and adults!) develop patience and focus, learning and applying new strategies. A club strengthens interpersonal skills, providing a vehicle for positive discussion. I have found, not surprisingly, that the IYC youth can feel insecure about their proficiency; chess can make you feel vulnerable, wondering if your opponent's next move will lead to your downfall. First and foremost, I want our weekly sessions to be a fun diversion for the youth. Additionally, I want to build their self-esteem and help them to see how chess and life is about "making the right moves".



Continuing Education

I was lucky enough to attend the 40th Annual Conference of the Illinois Adult and Continuing Educators Association (IACEA) in Springfield in early March. The three-day conference offered a plethora of workshops and general sessions – over 60 in all that you might say offered something for everyone. I attended a number of thought-provoking and inspiring presentations on working with adult learners that ranged from identifying the challenges faced by GED students matriculating into college to how to improve vocabulary. I hope to incorporate some of them into our tutoring in St. Charles, perhaps following more of a blended learning model, rather than tutoring solely on Gradpoint/Connexus.



Stay tuned for more information!

-Melissa Auer

Hope Holds Power

From March 11th through the 13th, I had an opportunity to attend a conference called *The Power of Hope* in Manitowac, Wisconsin, and I am grateful to LVI for giving me the opportunity to attend. I came back with a renewed sense of hope for all our kids and the importance for all of us to believe in them.

Rick Miller, who founded the non-profit called “Kids at Hope”, facilitated the conference. His organization “is committed to creating generations of adults and institutions who adopt a research and evidence-based protocol and strategic cultural framework based on three leading principles and practices:

- We believe that all children are capable of success-NO EXCEPTIONS.
- We connect with all children in a meaningful, sustainable way
- We mentally time travel with children to help them envision a future then accompany them on their journey.

- Teresa Urfer

Untitled

by Daquan R,
Youth at IYC-Chicago

When I die, don't cry.
Just look in the sky
And say I love you and goodbye.

I can picture me and son on the beach.

It was days I couldn't sleep.
Cause it was about the beef.
Tried to take my mind up off the streets.
But it was never easy.

I just want my son to be successful
And be the best
And never follow my footsteps
And never get into this mess

Been through so much pain
I just want my brother to rest.

I know my mamma felt this pain
I just want her to be blessed.

Sometimes I be feeling down
Gotta keep my eyes open
And watch who I'm around.
Cause it's some people be hating that
wanna drag me down.

I had to take a soul just for my brother
Cause I got the message

But I hate to say I love and miss y'all
But we all brothers.

I can picture me and son on the beach.

*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful,
committed citizens can change the world;
indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.*

– Margaret Mead

Questions? Suggestions? Or, Refer a friend to volunteer ...

Larry Durfee, Program Coordinator
IYC-Harrisburg
1201 W. Poplar
Harrisburg, IL 62946
618/252-8681 ext. 122
ldurfee@lvillinois.org

Melissa Auer, Program Director
IYC-St. Charles
3825 Campton Hills Road
St. Charles, IL 60175
mauer@lvillinois.org

Teresa Urfer, Program Coordinator
IYC-Warrenville
30W200 Ferry Road
Warrenville, IL 60555
630/983-6231
turfer@lvillinois.org

Alex Dunbar, Program Coordinator
IYC-Chicago
139 North Western Ave.
Chicago, IL
adunbar@lvillinois.org

Literacy Volunteers of Illinois
641 West Lake Street, Suite 200
Chicago, IL 60661
312/857-1582
www.lvillinois.org

Dorothy M. Miaso
Executive Director
dmiaso@lvillinois.org

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