



College Visit: UIC



Micah | 6th Grade

Last weekend, all of the 6th, 7th, and 8th graders took a trip to visit the open house at UIC, which is the University of Illinois-Chicago. It was only a short bus ride from Horizons for Youth, and the campus was really cool! First, we walked around and got to talk to teachers and people from all of the different departments. One of the science professors let my friends and me do a science experiment that showed how electricity works, and she gave us prizes for being the fastest to finish. I also got to talk to some college athletes, and they gave my new mentor and me free tickets to a soccer game.

My favorite part of the day was getting to see the dorms. Some of the students from the building showed us around and let us see all of the different kinds of rooms. On our tour, we saw all of the study areas, and they showed us how to organize a room and put bunk beds together. Our guide Sarah let us ask her questions, and she said that the most important things to do to get into college are getting good grades and saving money.

Our mentors all graduated from colleges that are far away, and they told us about how their schools were different from UIC. It was really cool seeing a college campus so close to home, and I can't wait to see some new ones soon.

Save the Dates!



Beethoven's Ninth at Chicago Symphony Orchestra!



Members of the Horizons for Youth community were treated to an unforgettable evening on Thursday, September 18th. Thanks to an anonymous donor, 100 of our students, mentors, and parents had the opportunity to attend the Chicago Symphony Orchestra to enjoy a performance of Beethoven's Ninth, conducted by Riccardo Muti.

The chance to take in Beethoven's greatest masterpiece in such a prestigious context is a once-in-a-lifetime experience for anyone, but it was an especially meaningful opportunity for our students, many of whom are learning to play instruments themselves. One of our students, Mario, plays the bassoon and has for several years expressed that it is his ultimate dream to someday attend the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Mario was ecstatic when he learned of this opportunity, and took full advantage of the special day with his new mentor, Tom, an avid violinist who shares Mario's passion for music. With music sheets in hand, Tom and Mario were in a state of bliss as they followed along with every note. It was a night that the two will never forget.

This amazing story would never have been possible without the generosity of an anonymous donor—who hopes that our students will be inspired by the symphony, which was composed when Beethoven was nearing complete deafness. Beethoven's Ninth carries a powerful message of triumph over adversity, something that undoubtedly resonates loudly with our students.

2014 Tutoring Underway!

On Cloud Nine

Benefiting Horizons for Youth 

15th Annual On Cloud Nine
February 7, 2015
Venue One | 1044 E. Randolph



4th Annual No Ordinary Evening
April 25, 2015
Navy Pier Grand Ballroom

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With all of our students back in school, we wasted no time getting our Tutoring Program up and running for the new year! At our West Loop tutoring location, we have more than 50 tutors that come in from Monday to Thursday to help our students with a variety of subjects. Many of our incredible volunteers from last year have returned to work with the same students they helped in the past, and—thanks to our “100 Volunteers in 100 Days” campaign—we now have many new great tutors to match with our new students.

Any of our students who are struggling academically or simply seeking reinforcement in a particular subject are paired up with a tutor who teaches specific content to supplement learning in the classroom and at home. Our tutors also play a crucial role in the development of other important skills, such as organization, test preparation, and executive functioning. For students with learning challenges, we use an in-depth psycho-educational evaluation to help staff members, teachers, and tutors understand the best ways to accommodate a student’s needs.

Along with closely monitoring our students’ grades and school-administered standardized test scores, we also track improvement by using our own pre-and post-tests for students in the Tutoring Program. With a talented, enthusiastic team of tutors and a proven plan in place, our Tutoring Program continues to be a critical component of our students’ success in the classroom.

We would like to once again express our sincere gratitude to everyone who helps make our Tutoring Program possible, especially The Helen Brach Foundation for their generous support.

Please visit our website at www.horizons-for-youth.org
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