

# The Inspire Spotlight

Newsletter of Inspire: A Shalom Afterschool Initiative

December  
2019

## Inspire by the Numbers

10

Student Countries of Origin

22

Volunteers who come each week to work with our students

427

Books, color-coded by level and in the hands of our students!



### Inspired to Work Together

Every program year, Inspire students nominate and vote for their peers to be Inspire Student Advisors. Our Student Advisors are peer leaders. Generally, they serve as representatives for Inspire students, as peer mentors, and as liaisons between staff and students. For the first time, there was tie in the voting process and we elected two Student Advisors for the 2019-2020 program year. As newly elected Co-Student Advisors, Ramazani and Gato sat down to talk to Inspire's new Director, Teni-Ola Ogunjobi, about working together in their new roles, their leadership styles, their backgrounds and their experiences at Inspire.

#### **Q: How would you describe yourself?**

**Gato:** My name is Gato. I'm from the Congo. I'm a fair leader and anyone can trust me. They can trust me because I don't lie to them. I also speak three languages: Kinyarwanda, Swahili, and mostly English. I'm a 6<sup>th</sup> grader and I am nice, but not all the time. I play soccer and basketball only.

**Rama:** My name is Ramazani. I'm from the Congo. I speak Swahili and English. I'm in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. My favorite subject is math. I'm a cool dude. I do music. I sing in a group with friends. We sing in Swahili.

#### **Q: How did it feel to win the election as Inspire Co-Student Advisors?**

**Rama:** I felt happy. It felt good to be voted for by other students.

**Gato:** This felt like I was actually going to be President of the USA when I won. I feel like a trustworthy person. Inspire students have trusted me to be their leader.

*[continued on back...]*



## [Inspired to Work Together continued...](#)

### **Q: What type of Co-Student Advisor will you be?**

**Gato:** I will be a special one. I won't change after becoming a Student Advisor. I'll remain the same way I was before they voted for me: a nice person.

**Rama:** I want to be a good role model for the students. I want to work with the people, work together to make decisions. I will work with Gato, ask for help from students and teachers to decide what to do, and ask students questions about what they want and need at Inspire.

### **Q: How will you two work together as a team?**

**Both:** We will talk about it [an idea, issue, activity, change, etc.] together first and then make a decision on what we do next.

### **Q: How will you resolve an issue between you two if one of you makes a decision without including the other person?**

**Both:** We will talk to each other and let the issue go. We will ask for help from Inspire Teachers, Ms. Teni-Ola & Ms. Kristy, and decide what to do.

### **Q: As a representative of Inspire and its students, what would you tell strangers about Inspire if they have never heard about our program?**

**Gato:** Inspire helps kids keep doing their homework. It's an educational place where kids go that want to focus on their future. It helps kids focus on their future by them being able to concentrate on their learning in class. It also helps students get better in what they're not good at.

### **Q: What are important things to highlight about Inspire? What are your favorite elements of Inspire?**

**Rama:** The Learning Center. I read in the Learning Center. It helps us improve our reading because you get to do it over and over. I get to read with a partner/volunteer too. This is my third year at Inspire. Guitar with Ms. Lucy is my favorite enrichment activity. The field trips have been fun. Riding the train was fun and I've gone places I've never been before, like to an Ultimate Frisbee game and plays at a theatre.

**Gato:** This is my first year at Inspire. My favorite enrichment activity is Soccer. I get to learn about what I want to be in the future, a Soccer player, because I get to practice each week. I also come to Inspire for homework. My parents are working, so I come to get help with homework. Volunteers help with homework and we can use a computer.

### **Q: What is a challenge for you as a student or individual? How will the Co-Student Advisor role help with this challenge?**

**Rama:** Talking in front of everybody is a challenge. I would like to get better. Being a Student Advisor will help me get better at speaking in front of people because I'll get more practice speaking to a lot of people. I'll speak for students at Inspire.

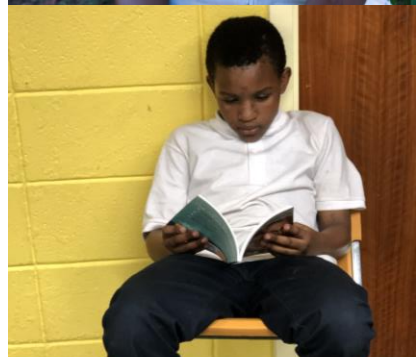
**Gato:** Making mistakes is a challenge, but you can try again. I want to improve the next time after I make a mistake. I can keep trying to not make mistakes as a Student Advisor.

### **Q: What are you looking forward to in your new role as Co-Student Advisors?**

**Gato:** I'm not really sure what I'm looking forward to in this role yet. I hope to make this experience fun so people can want to come [to afterschool] every day.

**Rama:** The power and responsibility that comes with being a Student Advisor.

As Rama and Gato work together to lead and support students and teachers at Inspire, we acknowledge our supporters for your gifts of time, talents, and financial contributions that make it possible for Inspire to be a place where our students receive not only academic support, but opportunities to lead and collaborate with their peers and adults. On behalf of Rama, Gato and all of our students, we say **thank you**.





## Fall 2019 in pictures

(clockwise from top left)

A crew of current students played their hearts out at our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual [Ultimate Frisbee Tournament Fundraiser](#); Inspire parents attend our 2019 Open House; Guests visit Inspire to engage students during afterschool & events on campus; Students engage in board games, yoga, finger knitting, & guitar during enrichment time; Inspire's former Program Coordinator, Ms. Natalie, spends time with students at her last event as a staff member (Thank you, Ms. Natalie!); Mr. Nestor selects team leads during soccer enrichment time.



# 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



## A Note from Ms. Teni-Ola

As the new Director of Inspire, I've spent a lot of time learning about our program and community. I've witnessed how Inspire meets the ongoing academic and social needs of its students and their families in the Clarkston community. I've also learned that our impact is directly related to the level of support from volunteers, partners, donors, and friends. Our supporters understand how important it is to equip these young people with the basic academic tools they need for success, expose them to new things, engage their parents in their education, and provide a safe space afterschool. Your gift will help the youth of our community become balanced young adults with many talents, interests, and a love of learning! Your support will give Inspire students a place of belonging and the academic support they need to catch up. Your gift will give them a better today and make possible a better future. Thank you, from the depths of our hearts, on behalf of these incredible young people, for that gift. In service,



*T. 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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Stone Mountain, GA  
404-832-5081  
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