

December
2023

The Inspire Spotlight

Newsletter of Inspire: A Shalom Afterschool Initiative

Inspire by the Numbers

5

Students attended
inspire this
semester!

3

Countries our
students are from

12

Lenovo laptops
received from the
Presbyterian Mission
Agency (PMA)

10

Home visits this
semester (average 2
per students)



Inspired to *imagine and create!*

The years 2020 and 2021 have been filled with so much doubt, uncertainties, fear, losses, etc. It felt almost impossible to dream of a bright future after all the tragedies that took place. After the program closed for two years, we finally were able to open our doors this year in October. This semester, we invested lots of our energy making beautiful arts such as painting on paper, canvas, glass frames, crafting, etc. We discovered the artistic hidden talents that these wonderful kids possess that we would have not imagine seeing in them the first time they walked in the Inspire door.

Nadiya's story:

"Art makes me fill happy," said Nadiya. Despite the various classes she is taking at her school, Nadiya mentions that she does not have art classes and she wished they had one at her school. Our first art project of the semester consisted on designing and filling our INSPIRE large board with our profile pictures and various elements that we consider as part of our identities. We asked each student to write down what they like the most or something that they cherish about their lives. We also asked them to feel free to do any types of collages or drawing to attach to the large board.

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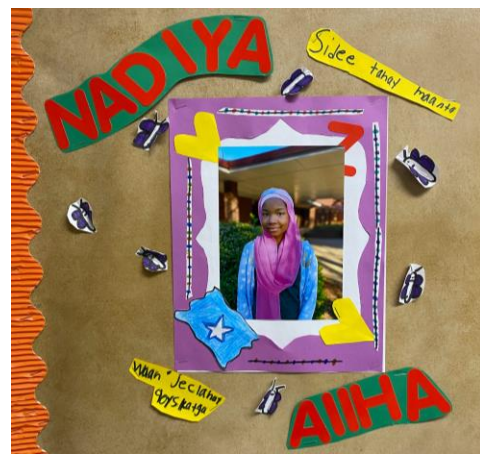


INSPIRE
a shalom afterschool initiative

Nadiya's story continued...

As I was watching them cutting various shapes, I heard Nadiya telling her friends, "this is so much fun!" As I observed her working on this project, I could see lots of excitement in her eyes. In her artwork, she included the flag of the country she is originally from, a note to her family that she loves so much, a note to signify her religion and butterflies painted with her favorite colors.

On week four, I joined Nadiya and tried to help her finish her writing assignment. The question to respond asked for the kind of topics students thought that people around the world should devote their time learning about. And Nadiya chose Art. I asked her: why art? She responded, "because it allows you to create all kinds of beautiful things."



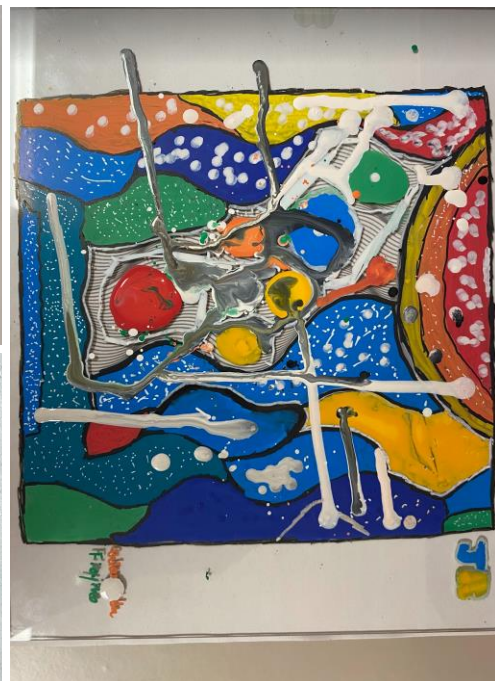
Brown's story:

"Brown expressed, 'I have so many ideas in my mind that I don't even know how to start.'" Upon Brown's initial arrival at the Inspire space, his inclination toward artistic expression was evident as he often sketched various anime characters on blank sheets of paper following his completion of homework assignments. For our large wall showcasing student artwork, I asked him to choose to craft something representing his identity or something that he enjoys. He brainstormed over ten possibilities before deciding on shimmering sparkles, though uncertain how to depict them. With confidence he responded, "I can come up with something !" His ingenuity was striking and I was amazed by what he came up with.



Brow dedicated seven hours across seven days toward the glass frame project we worked on this semester, and it was amazing watching him working slowly and deliberately. "I need to make it as beautiful as possible," he shouted. Brow finds that art boosts his creativity and happiness. His enthusiasm for vibrant colors and commitment to meticulous technique is tangible in his projects.

Some of our artworks...



Fall 2023 in pictures



Exploration topic on "Happiness," presented by Mr. Bernard.



Exploration topic on "Friendship," presented by Ms. Jihy.



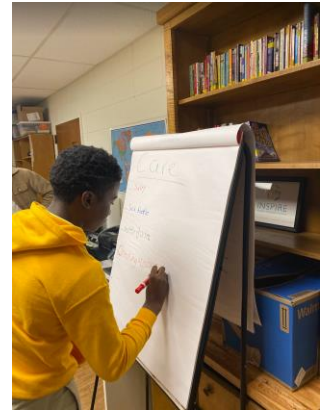
Home visit at Gianadda's home.



"Heart drawing" project led by Ms. Jihy.



Students engaging in a game during enrichment time.



Gianadda writing his understanding of what it means to care for others.



Students engaging in a game on the green field.



Gianadda and Nadiya studying on most popular Georgia's birds.



Takiya working on "Self-portrait collage" art project.



Field trip at the High Museum of Art in midtown Atlanta.



Brown leading a group game during enrichment time.



Ms. Elisa assisting Takiya as she is writing the topic she wants to learn more about this semester at Inspire.

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

From being an Inspire volunteer to the Inspire director, I have witnessed firsthand the tremendous value Inspire provides to refugee youth in the Clarkston community. While volunteering, I was moved by the students' journeys from knowing not a word of English to earning top grades, achieving milestones once thought insurmountable. Inspire has profoundly impacted and is still impacting academic performance, self-confidence, parent involvement, and future aspirations. It is difficult to overstate the dramatic effects donor contributions have on transforming students' lives, not only today, but in equipping tomorrow's leaders. Thank you for facilitating Inspire's capacity to expose refugee youth to new experiences, high-quality learning environments, and the foundational academic tools imperative for their success. Your donations enable Inspire to continue empowering refugee students to reach their full potential.



Elisabelle Kaputo
Director

How to Donate

All donations are tax-deductible.

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/ls/2WLWKQ7TLKPJC?ref=wl_share

5140 Memorial Dr.
Stone Mountain, GA
404-832-5081
ekaputo@shalompcusa.org

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