

NORTH SHORE[®]

SERVING CHICAGO'S NORTH AND NORTHWEST SUBURBS

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Meet North Shore magazine's Top Ten Volunteers of 1993

They're all **WINNERS**

Robert Boone

Show Robert Boone a high school student and he'll show you a skeptic—especially when it comes to writing.

From an early age, students are told that good writing skills enhance any discipline, that there's no way to avoid writing and that they actually can write well with practice. The last part almost always furrows some brows.

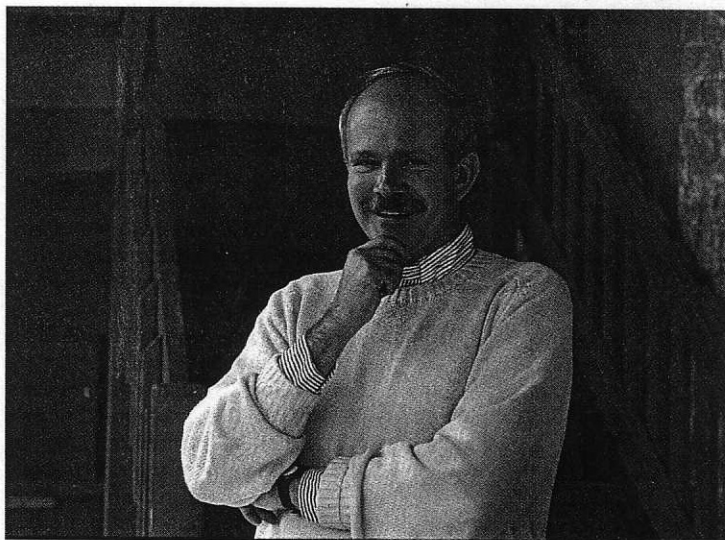
Since 1991, Boone, 52, has been making believers out of high school students with Young Chicago Authors, a program that consists of a writing scholarship program and neighborhood workshops.

Fifteen Chicago-area high school students a year are asked to join the scholarship program. Boone meets with the students every Saturday for two hours, coaching them on fiction, poetry and other creative writing efforts. In addition, the students are required to perform two hours of community service a week. If students remain in the program through their sophomore, junior and senior years, they earn \$2,000 a year for college tuition.

The workshop program is designed for students who have not yet discovered that they can write—the true skeptics. Boone holds workshops throughout the Chicago area for these students.

"Young Chicago Authors fills a void for non-journalism students who aren't involved with student newspapers or yearbooks," Boone says. "It also gives them some confidence in their writing abilities."

Young Chicago Authors grew out of Boone's business, the Glencoe Study Center. He started it in the late 1970s after retir-



ing from a teaching job at Highland Park High School. The tutoring center specializes in ACT, SAT, GED and general test preparation skills.

Boone, a Glencoe resident since 1969, knows firsthand what it takes to become an accomplished writer. He is the author of "Hack," a biography of baseball player Hack Wilson; an SAT study book; and a literature anthology textbook. He also wrote a column for "Writing!" magazine for 12 years. He and his wife, Susan, have three children.

With Young Chicago Authors, Boone has found the perfect outlet for his two greatest passions.

"The students feel surprised and rewarded when they find they really can write," Boone says. "And it's very rewarding for me, too."