



New generations of independent, fulfilled individuals centered in their strengths and committed to social responsibility.

Annual Report 2012-2013

FISCAL YEAR SEPTEMBER 1, 2012 – AUGUST 31, 2013



Project:VISION
a nonprofit youth organization

DEAR FRIENDS,

This has been another year of extraordinary achievements at Project: VISION. Thanks to our dedicated staff, volunteers, and supporters, our students have accomplished so much that we are proud and excited to share!

During the 2012-2013 school year, we served 85 students, reflecting a near 30% growth in the number of students served compared to the previous year. Our core programs, focused on helping our students LEARN, SERVE, and LEAD, are becoming stronger each year. We continued to build program elements such as academic goal-setting, enrichment activities, interactive tutoring, and college prep activities to motivate students to engage and take responsibility for their own education. We celebrated seeing many of our graduating eighth graders move on to selective enrollment high schools and graduating seniors enroll in college.

Service and leadership are also paramount to our programs at Project: VISION. Thanks to our partners at other local organizations, our youth continue to participate in many opportunities to learn about relevant community issues, from food insecurity to substance abuse to the environment. As we continue to build our programs, these are the opportunities that we hope to continue providing to our students. Community service not only empowers youth but also builds character that we need in our future leaders.

As an organization, we made significant progress in our efforts to ensure capacity building and sustainability that will allow us to continue serving more youth each year. With the help of consultants from the Executive Service Corp, our Board of Directors came together as a team to develop a formal strategic plan. For the first time, we were able to identify the organization's needs, set short and long-term goals for the organization, and

Project: VISION is a nonprofit organization with a mission to provide youth of Chicago's Chinatown and Bridgeport communities with tools for educational, personal, and civic development.

learn

Educational development means fostering success at school, building effective learning skills, and encouraging appreciation for learning and knowledge. We offer after school homework tutoring, college workshops, and ACT prep classes.

develop plans to achieve these goals. These include developing sustainable funding, building and retaining talented staff, and expanding community outreach efforts. In the upcoming year, we are looking forward to continuing our work as a Board to implement the next steps in our strategic plan.

As we look ahead to kicking off our tenth school year this fall, we are excited by the many possibilities it brings, including new program initiatives, collaborations, Board expansion, and general organizational growth. Most importantly, we are most looking forward to seeing more students come through our doors. We are especially well-positioned to provide quality and impactful programs to more youth in the coming school year, as Project: VISION was selected as a partnering agency of both the United Way of Metropolitan Chicago and Exelon Corporation's Stay in School Initiative. These new resources have already allowed us to add space to the Youth

Center and hire new program staff in preparation to serve a goal of 115 students: 60 middle school and 55 high school students in the 2013-2014 school year.

Many thanks again to you- our wonderful community of supporters, donors, and volunteers! Your generous support and encouragement inspire us to continue our work to help shape the lives of our students for the better!

Sincerely,



Krystle Goh Kim
Chair of the Board



Karen Chiu
Executive Director & Co-Founder

serve

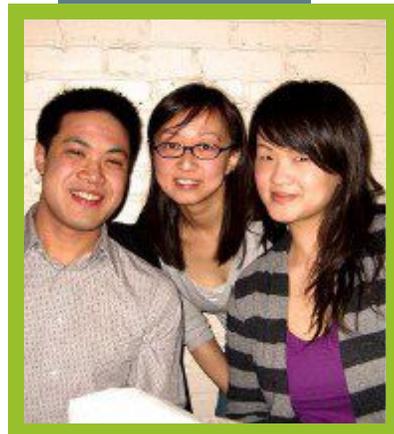
Community service is an integral part of positive youth development. Project: Youth Initiative aims to foster a sense of social responsibility in youth by building awareness, fostering positive attitudes, and providing meaningful service opportunities.

lead

Personal development means building each youth's strengths and interests, and fostering confidence and positive attitudes. Youth find mentors in our staff, while recreational activities and career development programs help build leadership skills.

our background

Project: VISION was an idea conceived by a group of young professionals, students, and volunteers who saw a need for community youth to have a place to call their own. In Fall 2004, with the help of a few volunteers and borrowed space from the Chicago Public Library and Valentine Boys and Girls Club in Bridgeport, Project: VISION piloted its first tutoring program. Since then, our programs have reached over 350 youths, while remaining primarily volunteer-run and continuing to provide all programs free to youth.



our students

youth between the ages of 12 and 21 from Chinatown, Bridgeport, and surrounding neighborhoods

85% Chinese American
reflects the demographics of the area

90% from first generation
immigrant families

95% are enrolled in
Chicago Public Schools

65% would be the first in their
families to attend college

80% from lower income families*
*receive free or reduced school lunch

*Project: VISION students surveyed in 2012-2013

our purpose in this community

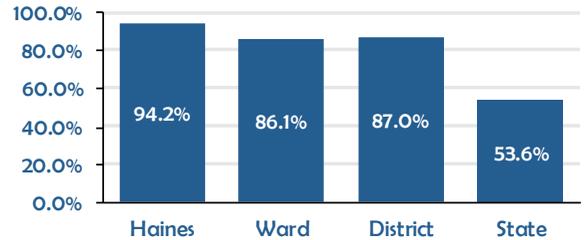
Asian American students are often associated with the “model minority” stereotype. However, the generalization actually disadvantages many students, especially those who struggle in school and are in need of support, and yet are overlooked. Every community has an underserved population, and we are no exception.

In fact, our youth face many socio-economic barriers to academic success. At John C. Haines School in Chinatown, 94.2% of students are from low-income households, and nearly 30% are limited English learners. In 2012, Haines 8th graders scored in the 29th percentile of the NWEA MAP reading test, which assesses student growth over the school year. The 50th percentile marks the national average of growth. PV’s goal is to prevent these students from falling behind and to ensure that they reach high school and college successfully.

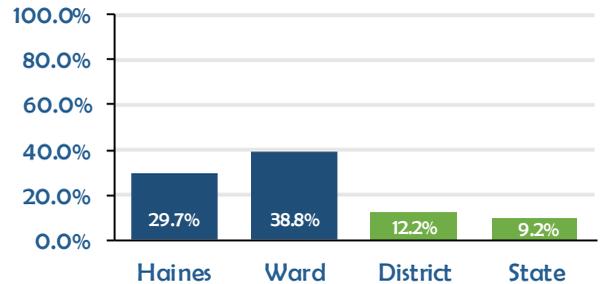
Furthermore, youth often do not have access to all social and emotional supports and personal development opportunities they need to succeed. After school can be a vulnerable time according to the 2012 Illinois Youth Survey: 53% of 8th graders in Chinatown report having no adult supervision more than three days each week. One in three youths participate in no activities outside of school, and 60% believe their activities make little to no difference, putting them at risk for engaging in negative behaviors. In fact, by 8th grade, 16% of youth admit to using at least one illegal substance within the past year, and 33% report being bullied in at least one way. Engaging in PV programs helps keep youth safe and provides a place where youth can engage in positive activities with positive role models.

statistics from 2012-2013 academic year at local schools

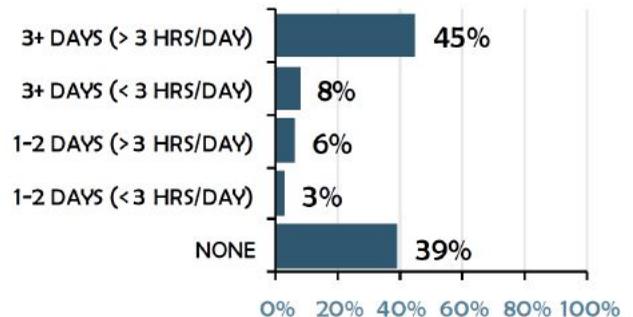
percentage of low income students



percentage of limited English Learners



amount of time spent home alone each week after school by 8th graders



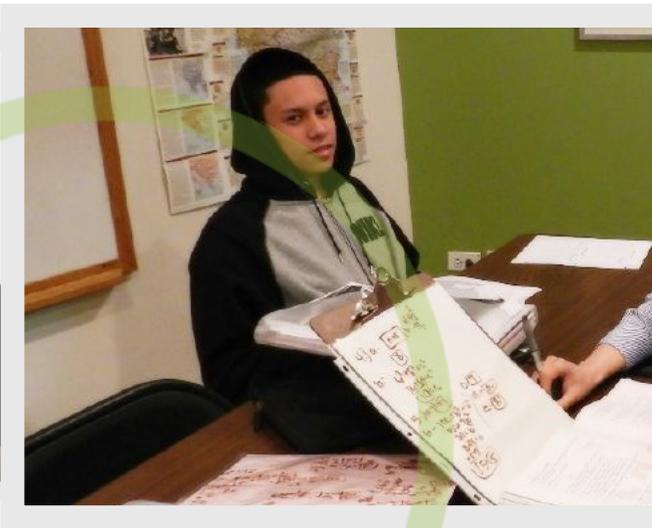


“ Project: VISION is filled with tutors who are willing to help enrich our minds, help us develop social skills, and prepare us for the future.

PROJECT: VISION STUDENT ”

education highlights

Education has always been at the foundation of Project: VISION's programs.



“The tutors' tireless devotion and dedication . . . are the core of the organization.”

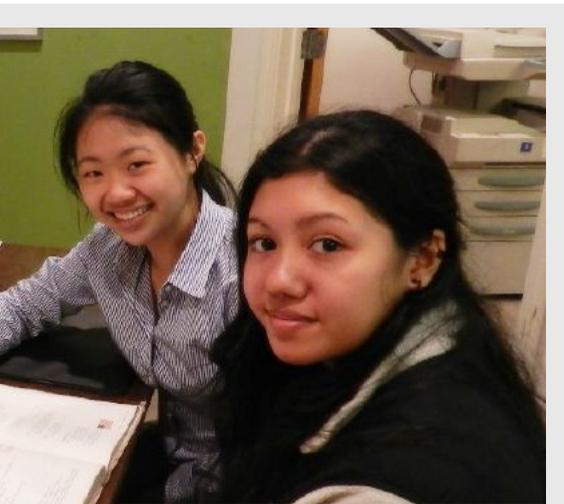
FORMER PROJECT: VISION STUDENT, COLLEGE GRADUATE

during the 2012-2013 school year...

The After School Homework Tutoring Program assisted 50 youths in grades 6 - 12.

The tutoring program encourages students to strive to reach their potentials and to take responsibility for their education. Students set goals for themselves each school year. In fact, 84% of this year's students met at least one of their academic goals.

- Each student received an average of 5.3 hours of tutoring each week, totaling more than 170 hours over the year and helping 90% of students maintain B-average or above grades.
- In surveys, over 90% of students believed the program helped them perform better in school, improve study skills, prepare for tests, and feel more confident at school.
- 20 high school students participated in our college prep programs. Of note, 15 students completed the ACT Prep Class with an average improvement in composite score of 2.1 points. In English and Math, students improved by averages of 2.5 points and 6.9 points, respectively.
- Many of our students reached major milestones: 7 students were accepted into selective enrollment public high schools, and 100% of our graduating high school students enrolled in 4-year universities!





PROJECT: VISION STUDENT

Project: VISION strives to help youth understand the importance of volunteerism and realize that they can make an impact with community service. According to the Illinois Youth Survey, 24% of community youth participate in service or volunteer activities. At Project: VISION, 75% of our students engaged in service this year. 65 youths participated in our projects, collectively earning over 660 service learning hours.

Some of our service projects included:

- Volunteering at Bridgeport's Benton House weekly food pantry
- Helping at the Hustle Up the Hancock event hosted by the Respiratory Health Association of Metropolitan Chicago to raise funds for lung disease prevention and research
- Helping the Asian Health Coalition campaign against teen tobacco and alcohol abuse in our community

“ Project: VISION helped me succeed . . . my teachers here inspired me to assist others. ”



service highlights

We need programs to help youth understand how important it is . . . to give back

PARENT OF A PROJECT: VISION STUDENT



By providing meaningful and engaging service projects, our goal is to build positive attitudes that motivate youth to continue engaging in service for years to come. This will in turn help us build a stronger community.

In fact, 75% of students who participate in service learning at Project: VISION believe that because of these projects, they better understand why it is important to give their time to volunteer work. In addition, 80% of students feel they are contributing to their community in a meaningful way by participating in service activities





“ the program provided skills and tools

FORMER PROJECT: VISION

According to the 2012 Illinois Youth Survey, the majority of our community's youth do not feel they make an impact in their school environments: for example 65% feel they participate none or very little in deciding class activities and rules. Almost 70% believe they do no or very little activities at school that make a difference.

leadership

At Project: VISION, we want to help youth develop strengths, interests and skills. Our programs aim to engage youth, help them to become peer advocates, and teach youths to take opportunities to make positive changes in their communities.





and me with the
needed to succeed

IN STUDENT, COLLEGE GRADUATE



highlights

o change this. By helping
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unities and help make
unity.

This year, 15 Project: VISION students participated in the Teen Advisory Panel (TAP), a collaborative initiative with our partner, the Asian Health Coalition. The team helped to build awareness and prevent youth substance abuse in the community, an issue that affects teens every day but is little discussed. Students created media pieces including a magazine writing project and recycled materials arts project which highlight the negative impact of substance abuse on physical, emotional, and public health.



thank you!

Project: VISION's beginnings were made possible by the generosity of those who gave their time and resources. Today, our volunteers, donors and funders, and community partners continue to provide invaluable support for our work. We thank them all for their generous commitments and contributions to our organization and, more importantly, our youths' futures.



board of directors

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Springboard Foundation

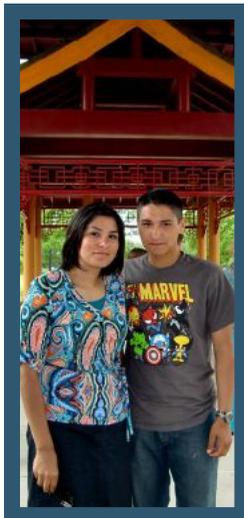
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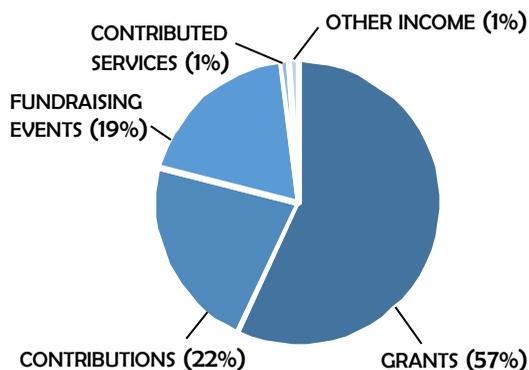


statement of financial position

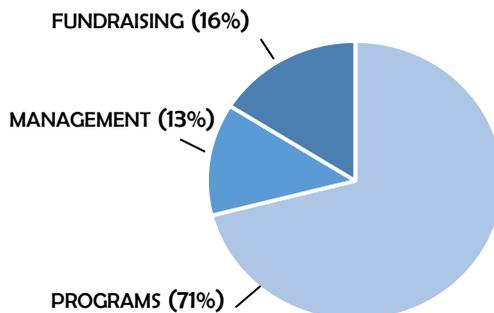
	2013	2012
assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	42,131	12,824
Contributions Receivable	500	N/A
Refundable lease deposit	1,800	N/A
Prepaid Insurance	771	609
Prepaid Programming Expense	1,029	N/A
Prepaid Fundraising Expense	799	500
TOTAL ASSETS	47,030	13,933
liabilities		
Accounts Payable	497	116
TOTAL LIABILITIES	497	116
net assets		
Temporarily Restricted	27,250	5,000
Unrestricted	19,283	8,817
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	47,030	13,933

	2013	2012
revenues and other support		
Contributions* <small>*Corporate and individual donations</small>	19,211	17,250
Fundraising Events	16,760	11,020
Grants	51,250	23,289
Contributed services	1,000	1,000
Other Income	1,170	787
TOTAL REVENUES AND SUPPORT	89,391	53,346
expenses		
Program Services	40,209	40,509
Support Services		
Management/General	7,495	7,147
Fundraising	8,971	3,803
TOTAL EXPENSES	56,675	51,459

2013 revenues and other support



2013 expenses



we look forward to

Expanding program capacity by...

- increasing service to 6 days per week to assist 60 middle school and 55 high school students.
- building our English Language Learner program to assist students with limited English skills.
- partnering with the Exelon Corporation's Stay in School Initiative to bring a leadership and career readiness program to students.
- increasing student engagement in service learning and leadership initiatives.
- implementing staff and volunteer training programs.

Growing organizational capacity by...

- recruiting new board members who bring diverse skills and expertise to the organization.
- building board committees to actively implement capacity-building measures identified in the organization's strategic plan.
- increasing community outreach efforts and building relationships with other local organizations.
- continuing to develop a sustainable fundraising strategy that is based on diverse sources.





Project: VISION, Inc.

MONDAYS THRU FRIDAYS 3PM TO 7PM | SATUDAYS 10AM TO 1PM



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