



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

Annual Report 2015-2016

FISCAL YEAR SEPTEMBER 1, 2015 – AUGUST 31, 2016



Project:VISION
a nonprofit youth organization

message from the chair

DEAR FRIENDS,

We're excited once again to share with you this year's progress and accomplishments! This was another solid year of foundation building which included developing the organization's growth strategy and strengthening our program model. Together with dedicated staff, volunteers, and supporters, we continue to maintain our position as the leading supplemental provider of education and personal development resources to the youth of Chicago's Chinatown and Bridgeport communities.

We strive to provide youth with support services, invaluable experiences, and unique opportunities that they may not otherwise be able to access. Our programs equip our young people with the after-school tools necessary for achieving academic success, while also helping them develop leadership skills and build on an ethos that service is its own reward. By making a meaningful impact in their formative years, we instill in our students, many from low-income and recently immigrated families, the confidence to chase after their personal goals and the desire to give back to the community.

Project: VISION's programs continue to make great strides in improving the outlook of our 130 students. We're proud to once again announce that 100% of our students have been promoted to the next grade on time and all 14 of our graduating seniors will be attending college in the coming year. Besides achieving academic successes, our youth were also active and engaged in the community: 121 youth volunteered to serve at food pantries, recycling centers, and parks, collectively earning more than 1240 service hours. In addition, 51 high school students spent nearly 1000 hours working on leadership

projects that resulted in accomplishments such as a community health fair and youth-produced "zine" highlighting Asian American youth experiences. However, for every youth we have the privilege of working with, there are many others in the community that still need our services.

We've been working diligently to scale up the programs to handle the increased number of youths this year while simultaneously laying the foundation necessary to accommodate the new students projected in the coming years. The Board's Strategy Committee developed a strategic plan that ensures the allocation of resources necessary to serving 200 youth by 2018. Organizational capacity building projects are well underway this year, including developing a major gifts program to enhancing operational processes to reinvesting into our young professionals in the Associate Board.

As we conclude 2016, we have already taken the first step in our growth plan, excitedly moving into a larger space in a safer and more accessible location in Chinatown. We look forward to growing into this new youth center, where the stories of even more youths will be written! On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, and youth of Project: VISION, we again thank you – our generous supporters – for your continued commitment to our mission.

Sincerely,



Gabriel Wong
Chair of the Board



Karen Chiu
Executive Director

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.

mariah's story

My most memorable leadership experience at Project: VISION was with the Health Awareness Prevention & Promotion by Youth (HAPPY) program, where my peers and I developed and carried out a community health fair. Going into this project, I didn't know much about health issues that affected the Asian American community, but I came out with an expanded knowledge especially about my team's topic on vaccinations, which are such an important part of public health.

Throughout this year-long project, I also learned to work with my partner, improve my communication skills, and practice decision-making even when there were differing viewpoints. This was a significant leadership training for me because I prepared a lot of research prior to our presentation, so that I was ready to answer any questions from our health fair attendees. Giving presentations has always been my biggest fear, but this project gave me the confidence to overcome it.



I am really proud of myself for dedicating time and effort into this project not only because I bettered myself, but I also know it was a meaningful and impactful contribution to my community. I felt empowered to be able to take the role of a leader and educator when teaching my peers and other community members about the importance of getting regular healthcare. I know that a lot of people, especially Asian Americans are not always knowledgeable or have access to quality care. My experience through this project has taught me the value of educating the community, and it has inspired me to do more. Now I am a student at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign studying Interdisciplinary Health Sciences at the College of Applied Health Sciences to become a registered nurse.

MARIAH, PV CLASS OF 2016 GRADUATE



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.

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

serve lead

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 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 500 youth and continue to be provided free to families.



our students

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

92% Chinese American
reflecting the demographics of the area

99% are enrolled in
Chicago Public Schools

85% from lower income families

85% from first generation
immigrant families

81% would be the first in their
families to attend college

*Project: VISION students surveyed in
2015-2016 school year

our purpose

Asian American communities like ours are often overlooked as underserved due in part to the misconception of the “model minority.” In reality, many community youth face socioeconomic barriers. Furthermore, like many urban communities, after school can be a vulnerable time for youth, as many must spend time home alone after school with little access to extracurricular programs. Youth also regularly face issues such as neighborhood crime and psychosocial challenges like stress and bullying. Without proper guidance, these factors all put youth at risk to engage in negative behaviors and falling behind in school.

PV provides the safe place that youth need while engaging them in positive activities with the guidance of positive role models who can keep them focused on a positive path. PV values a holistic approach to youth development. Programs not only aim to provide academic support, ensuring that students reach high school and achieve college access and persistence, but also strive to help youth learn life skills, develop personal strengths, and build positive attitudes, character, and confidence that ultimately prepare them to become well-rounded, socially responsible future leaders who can continue to build our community.

what difference has PV made in my life?



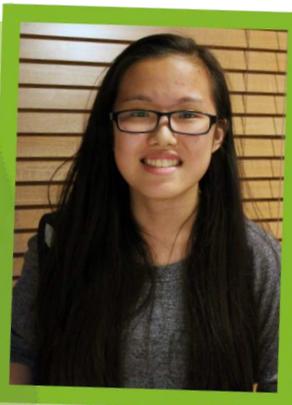
“Project: VISION is an important part of my school life and an important part of my community. It’s a place where bright students come to prosper. We come here to learn, but we also come here to give back and improve the community.”

EDMUND, GRADE 10

“ Thanks to PV’s program, I was able to surround myself with people who are just as motivated as I am. Being a part of PV has given me the chance to meet many people that I still keep in touch with today.”



MELODY, PV GRADUATE



“ Project: VISION has impacted and contributed to the person that I am and the values that I hold. Thanks to the tutors and resources offered at the center, I have the motivation and capability to excel at challenging courses throughout high school. The community service projects changed the way I see the community and my role in it. Initially, I participated to fulfill the program requirements and receive service hours, but it became much more. I enjoyed giving back and caring about the community I live in. Thanks to Project: LEAD, I also received extremely beneficial internship opportunities. I was able to experience for myself the hard work and dedication that goes to providing the services that Project: VISION offers that I would have otherwise taken for granted.”

EMILY, GRADE 12



The tutors make Project: VISION possible.
I'm grateful for all of them.

during the 2015-2016 school year...

Project: VISION programs provided academic support that youth need to work toward their high school and college goals, while encouraging them to take an active role in their education and nurturing an appreciation for learning. We served 130 youths through our After School Homework Tutoring Program, and Project: College Bound prepared 48 high school students for the application process through test prep, essay writing, financial aid workshops, and college campus visits. Our students worked hard, and the results are in:

85%

Made an improvement by at least one letter grade in a core class



73%

Met at least one personal academic goal



100%

Promoted to the next grade and on track to graduating high school on time



100%

High school seniors were accepted and committed to attending college in fall 2016





educational highlights

I have been a student at Project: VISION since 6th grade. Project: VISION is a great environment for kids to learn and grow academically because we have tutors who all care about us and keep us focused. In the past three years I have spent at Project: VISION, many tutors have helped me with my academics. Before PV, I would get frustrated struggling to understanding concepts and apply the material I learned to my assignments. But here at PV, many tutors guided me step-by-step to help me understand. Kim is one tutor who has really helped me in all aspects of learning since I first started. In math, she goes through the process of solving the problem, making sure to address any confusion or concerns I have. She always patiently and clearly explains why each step is done. When I struggle with understanding a literary text or writing an essay, she summarizes the story and gives me a general idea of where to start writing. She is a tutor that goes above and beyond to help her students. I am thankful for the dedication Project: VISION staff and tutors have to helping youth like me. The tutors, who truly care about each student's academic growth, have changed the way I view learning. Now I know that every question I ask is an important step towards learning and understanding!



KASSI, GRADE 9

stories

Project: VISION strives to help youth understand the importance of volunteerism and giving back to the community. Service Learning is built in to PV's programs because it provides youth with opportunities to use what they have learned in school and encourages a service-oriented mindset that future leaders need. This year, 121 youth (93%) volunteered with us to serve community organizations, including food pantries, recycling centers, and parks, collectively earning more than 1,240 service hours.

“

After participating in many service opportunities at PV, I was inspired to become more active in the community.



s of service

My favorite service learning activity was at the Greater Chicago Food Depository, where we helped pack pasta into separate bags to give to the food impoverished of the community. It helped me realized how fortunate I was to have access to food and I was proud to be a part of something bigger. I noticed that besides Project: VISION youth, there were many other people who volunteered their time to help. Not only was this experience fun, it benefits so many people in Chicago. I am glad that there are resources in my community that address issues like hunger to try to help the city become a better place. I realize that this is what giving back should be.



SHIRLEY, GRADE 10



... I want to continue to help others in any way possible and inspire others to do the same along the way.



YANCY, GRADE 11

The H.A.P.P.Y. project was a great leadership experience that taught me a variety of skills that I know I will need in the professional world. It was an authentic learning experience because we worked alongside medical students and healthcare professionals.

Our goal was to raise awareness about preventative healthcare issues through presenting a community health fair, and I believe we succeeded in doing that. Together with my teammates and mentors, we worked every month to plan out every aspect of the project. The skills we practiced each month such as communication and teamwork are definitely the same things we will need in our future careers. We researched information, formatted the display of the information, reached out to the community through media, and practiced our presentation and communication skills. Compared to regular school projects, this leadership program required much more planning and good communication skills with the public and not just our peers. Overall, this was a great leadership experience for me, but it was even more satisfying knowing that I helped people in my community learn basic healthcare knowledge.



leadership

At Project: VISION, being a leader means you gain experiences that foster personal growth and positive attitudes. PV youth also learn to become active citizens who are prepared for the future.

By helping youth develop strengths, our programs aim to engage youth and provide examples for their peers and help make a difference. This year, 50 middle school youth participated and 51 high school students completed a leadership program.

Community Quest was a great program that helped me become a leader. At first, I didn't really know what to expect, but it was a great experience. My first activity was a scavenger hunt around Chinatown, and it helped me learn more about my community and opened my eyes to what we know as Chinatown today and the community's history. During the scavenger hunt, I practiced a few skills, including communicating with my peers, showing initiative, and encouraging teammates to keep trying. At the end of the program, I presented the history of Chinatown as well as our community's future to American youth. I contributed an art piece that depicted travelling from the past to the present and the future. Overall, it gave me a new perspective into what being a leader could mean.

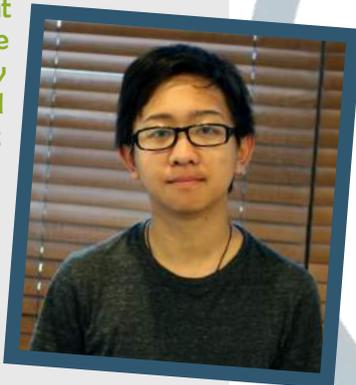


highlights

...ans taking opportunities to learn and growth, build character, and nurture to make good life choices and become future.

...interests, and leadership skills, our empower them to become positive the positive changes in their community. participated in the Young Leaders' workshop, at least one leadership project.

...e learn about what it means to from the program. I thought as much more than that. The and it gave me the opportunity es to the long history behind leaders that helped make it leadership skills of my own, iative, and motivating my we all contributed to a zine r own experiences as Asian cted Chinatown as a train erall, the program has given for my community.



TIMOTHY, GRADE 11

JUDY, PV GRADUATE

Project: LEAD gave me the support I need to help me with my education and to prepare for the future. Over the summer of 2016, I was offered a position in the Development department at BUILD, Inc., a nonprofit youth organization. This opportunity was made possible through Project: VISION's High School Scholars Program, Project: LEAD, and Exelon's Stay in School Initiative. I gained a combination of leadership, networking, collaborating, and communicating skills, as well as the confidence to apply what I learned. I was able to put forth my best work to contribute to the day-to-day operations of an organization. I had projects which often consisted of researching and analyzing potential grants and sponsorships to create and format comprehensive spreadsheets. Through this experience, I was able to build the confidence to use many of the professional skills needed for the future like asking questions when I am uncertain and communicating my ideas and results to others. I am very grateful that I was given the opportunity to be a part of Project: LEAD. This program has made a positive contribution to my life. I have gained many valuable skills and received insightful advice from great mentors and leaders that I can continue to take with me in the future.



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.



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statement of financial position

	2016	2015
assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	83,725	52,645
Contributions Receivable	2,170	7,842
Refundable lease deposit	3,800	1,800
Prepaid Insurance	808	807
Prepaid Programming Expense	1,516	704
Prepaid Fundraising Expense	725	592
TOTAL ASSETS	92,744	64,390

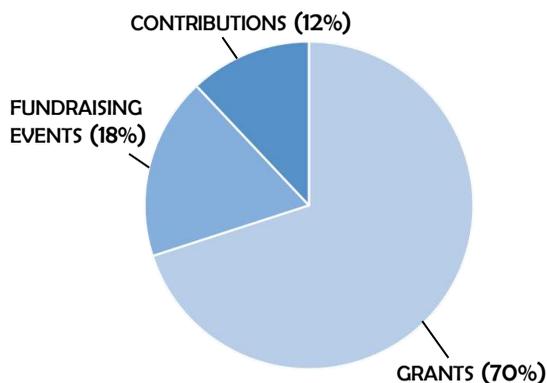
liabilities		
Accounts Payable	268	4,647
TOTAL LIABILITIES	268	4,647

net assets		
Temporarily Restricted	60,200	38,282
Unrestricted	32,276	21,461
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	92,744	64,390

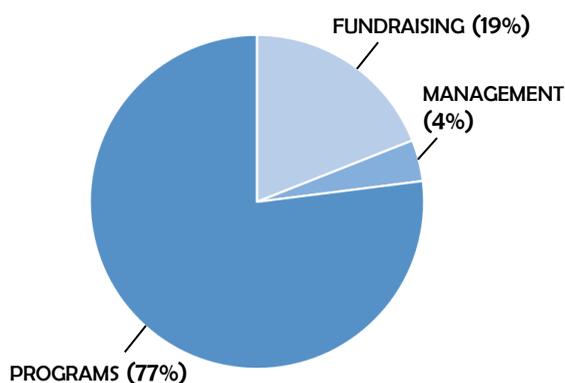
	2016	2015
revenues and other support		
Contributions* <small>*Corporate and individual donations</small>	27,156	30,455
Fundraising Events	43,989	32,274
Grants	169,110	119,922
Contributed services	-	1,000
Other Income	331	1,515
TOTAL REVENUES AND SUPPORT	240,586	185,166

expenses		
Program Services	159,599	155,530
Support Services		
Management/General	8,044	7,122
Fundraising	40,210	29,344
TOTAL EXPENSES	207,853	191,997

2016 revenues and other support



2016 expenses



looking forward



LAUREN, GRADE 12

I first started coming to Project: VISION as an 8th grader looking for some extra help with my algebra class, but I never expected that PV would be a part of my life for the next five years. Being here allowed me to not only improve my academics and be a better student, but it has provided me with many opportunities to grow to be a part of my community.

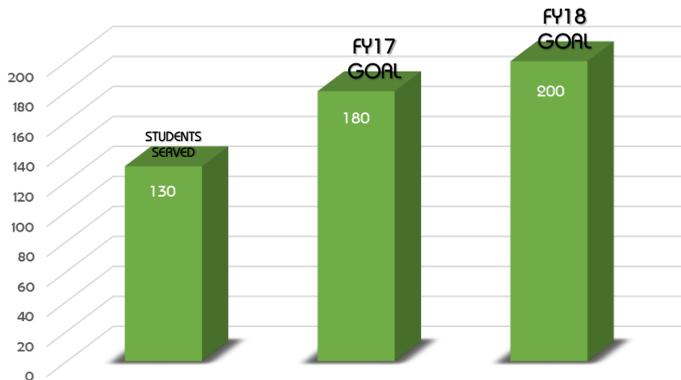
Growing up, I always wanted to excel academically, but I have to admit that the pressure of grades and test scores wore me down. At times, I felt like giving up because I couldn't do it on my own. That is where PV came in. My tutors provided me with help, guidance, and the confidence to do the best that I could in school, and now I can say that I have achieved many of my academic goals and have also grown into a more well-rounded student.

Beyond academic help, PV also provides an environment for learning and understanding of one's essence, abilities, and leadership while being a part of the community. As a younger student, I always admired other students who were active in the community. I never imagined I could do the same things, but PV opened so many doors for me to go out and impact the community. I got involved in volunteering and really gained an understanding of how I could impact those around me in my community. I also learned to work with my peers, practice leadership, and I improved myself through summer internships that will prepare me for my future professional life.

PV gave me many opportunities that I would never have encountered by myself, and I am very grateful for that. I am not sure where I would be if I were not part of PV's programs. As I continue onto the next phase of my life in college, I hope to gain the knowledge and skills that will allow me to give back to the community as much as PV has given to me.

In the coming years, Project: VISION aims to help even more students like Lauren reach their full potentials and achieve their dreams. By 2018, we hope to be serving 200 each year

Timeline of Student Served



FY17 GOALS

90%
student
retention

100%
grade
promotion

100%
seniors college
acceptance

To achieve this target, Project: VISION will be working on . . .

- Increasing the impact of service and leadership programs by addressing social and emotional learning and character building.
- Expanding the reach of our programs to better address the needs of English Language learners and at-risk students transitioning into college.
- Building, training, and retaining a team of strong committed program staff.
- Developing and implementing a diversified, sustainable fundraising strategy to support growth.
- Building committed leadership teams, including the Board of Directors and Associate Board, to lead the organization into its next phase of growth.



Project: VISION, Inc.

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



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