

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

Annual Report 2010-2011

FISCAL YEAR SEPTEMBER 1, 2010 – AUGUST 31, 2011



Project:VISION
a nonprofit youth organization

DEAR FRIENDS,

I am proud to report that Project: VISION wrapped up another productive and rewarding year of programs and services delivered to our community's youth during 2010-2011! With the help of dedicated staff and volunteers, we continued to work through and overcome the challenges of being a small grassroots organization.

Despite obstacles, what keeps us doing what we do is being able to help every student that walks through our door. We continue to be encouraged and inspired by our students every day—when asked to describe what Project: VISION means to them, one student recognized our “tutors’ tireless devotion and dedication to students,” while another appreciated the “positive and friendly environment that welcomes everyone” at the Center.

Education has always been at the foundation of Project: VISION's programs as we believe it is the key to youths' success. This year, we reached 60 youths with a variety of programs. By providing each student with an average of 200 hours of free homework tutoring over the entire school year, we continued to help our students gain confidence and become stronger learners.

Central to Project: VISION's mission is the development of social responsibility in our youths. This year, we continued to bring service learning and leadership building activities to the forefront of our programs. Fifty youths participated in service projects, completing over 500 hours of service collectively. Students engaged in a variety of projects, from recycling toys at the GAIA Movement to serving dinner to homeless women in transition at Deborah's Place to promoting an anti-tobacco message in our own neighborhood by creating a photo gallery. By providing meaningful projects like these, we are helping our youths build positive attitudes toward volunteerism in hopes of encouraging them to continue engaging in service for years to come.

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.

As an organization, we are continuing to make strides toward building capacity and becoming a stronger and more sustainable operation. By strengthening our Board of Directors, developing collaborations with other community organizations, and expanding our staff and volunteer forces, we were able increase our revenue by 28.8% this year. This made it possible for us to support our expanding programs and the growing demand for our services. Beginning in Fall 2010, we increased access to our programs by extending our service hours by an additional 8 hours each week—the Center is now open Mondays thru Thursdays from 2-7pm. Also, we gained additional classroom space to help us accommodate more students for tutoring, workshops, and classes.

Looking ahead to 2011 - 2012, we see many exciting opportunities! We plan to further strengthen our programs by developing more metrics as a means for program evaluation and expanding our volunteer tutoring staff. Furthermore, we look forward to building our collaborative efforts with partnering organizations such as the Asian Health Coalition and After School

Matters to bring more diverse programming to our students. We also recently learned that Project: VISION has been chosen as a Springboard Foundation grantee; we are very excited to work with the Foundation in the coming year to build program capacity and to enhance our organizational stability and self-sufficiency.

Finally, thank you to all for your continued support and encouragement! It is the generosity of many that makes it possible for us to bring our mission to more and more youths every day!

SINCERELY,



Karen Chiu
Executive Director

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

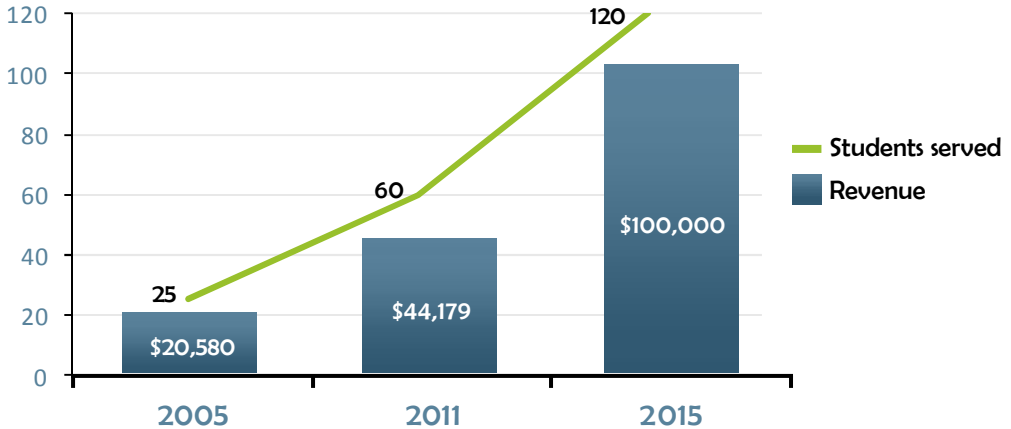
Personal development means building each youth's strengths and interests, and fostering confidence and positive attitudes. Youth find mentors in our staff, while recreational activities and career development programs help build leadership skills.

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 250 youths, while remaining primarily volunteer-run and continuing to provide all programs free to youth.



Growth of Project: VISION



our students

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

96% Chinese American
reflects the demographics of the area

90% from first generation
immigrant families

96% are enrolled in
Chicago Public Schools

63% would be the first in their
families to attend college

90% from lower income families*
*receive free or reduced school lunch

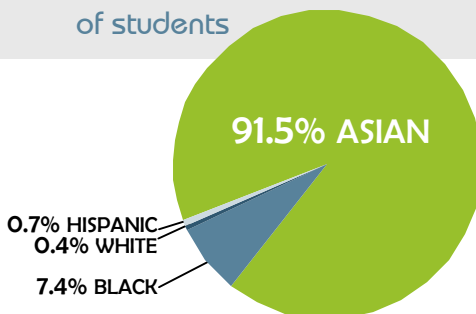
our purpose in this community

It's a common misconception that Asian American students already excel academically, and therefore, these communities have little need for tutoring and after school programs. The truth is, every community has an underserved population and we are no exception.

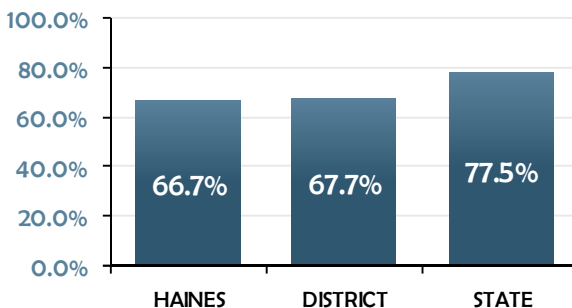
We are often asked what the teenagers in these neighborhoods need—and what they lack is academic support. Take for example, John C. Haines School, our neighborhood elementary school, where 91.5% are Asian American. During the 2009-2010 school year, the percentages of 7th grade students at Haines School that met or exceeded ISAT standards in Reading and Science were slightly lower when compared to the district and significantly lower than those of the state.

statistics from the John C. Haines School's 2009-2010 academic year

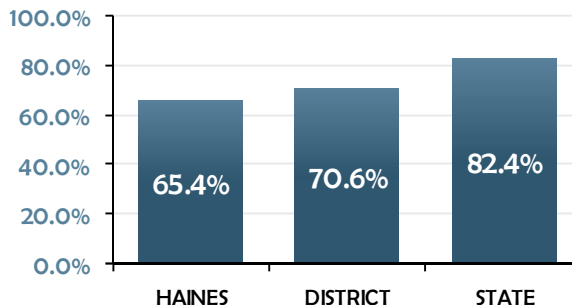
racial breakdown
of students



percentage of 7th graders meeting
or exceeding Reading standards



percentage of 7th graders meeting
or exceeding Science standards





“

Project: VISION has been so beneficial to my education

Not only do they offer homework tutoring, they provide so many opportunities that help you prepare for the future.

”

PROJECT: VISION STUDENT, GRADE 11

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 2010-2011 school year:

The After School Homework Tutoring Program assisted over 30 youths in grades 6 - 12.

- Each student received an average of 5 hours of tutoring each week, totaling more than 200 hours during the school year.
- We made our tutoring services more individualized by developing student profiles, by helping students set personal goal plans, and by providing daily progress and regular check-in reports.

Project: VISION helped 15 students prepare for the ACT college entrance exam.

- 11 students completed the course, with an average composite score improvement of 3.0 points.
- The average score improvement on the English section was 4.4 points.





PROJECT: VISION VOLUNTEER

Project: VISION strives to help youth understand the importance of volunteerism and realize that they can make an impact with community service. This year, 50 youths participated in our projects, collectively earning over 500 service learning hours.

Some of our service projects included:

- Recycling projects at the GAIA Movement
- Serving dinner to homeless women at Deborah's Place
- Volunteering at the Hustle Up the Hancock event to raise funds for lung disease research

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.

“community outreach gives youth courage to pursue their own interests and navigate life

”



service highlights

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

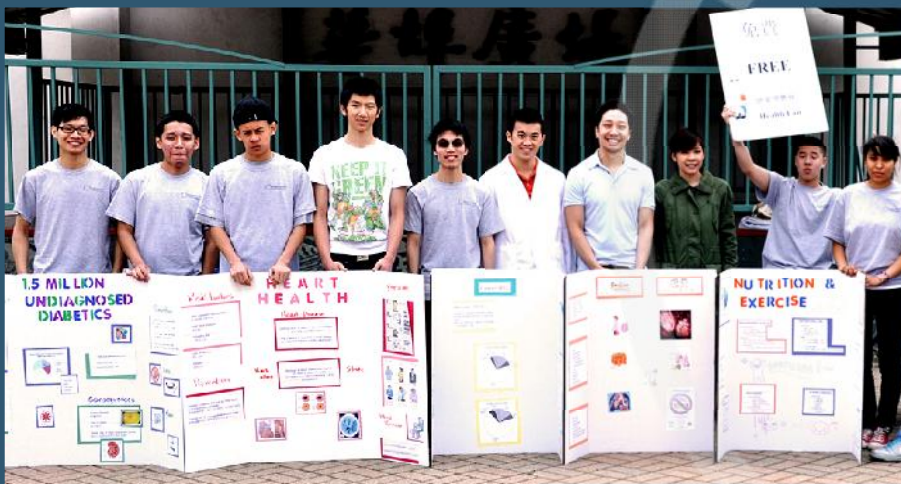
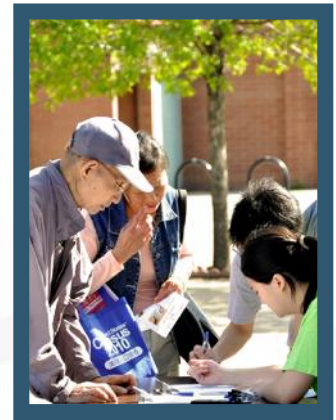
PARENT OF A PROJECT: VISION STUDENT

After they participated in an anti-tobacco service project last spring, 15 students were surveyed about the program.

- 14 out of 15 students agreed or strongly agreed that the program helped them learn something new.
- 13 out of 15 students agreed or strongly agreed that as a result of the program, they are encouraged to continue volunteering in the community.

When asked how often they volunteer, 4 students stated, "I ONLY volunteer when I have to (i.e. to fulfill school requirements)." Of these:

- 3 agreed or strongly agreed that as a result of the program, they want to continue volunteering.
- 3 agreed or strongly agreed that they are willing to participate again in a similar program.





“ the program provided skills and tools

FORMER PROJECT: VISION

Often, service learning goes hand in hand with developing youths' strengths, interests, and leadership skills. This past spring, 15 youths led Project: Smoke-Free Chinatown, a collaborative initiative with the Asian Health Coalition. They worked with a goal to build awareness and promote an anti-tobacco message in the Chinatown community by using Photovoice, a methodology that utilizes photography to educate and spark discussion about social issues.

leadership

Over the semester, students worked on an approach and solution to the

- Students first learned about participating in workshops, statistics and health consequences



and me with the
needed to succeed

IN STUDENT, COLLEGE GRADUATE



highlights

worked as a team to develop
the smoking problem.

at the problem by
about tobacco use
sequences.



- Students then took to the neighborhood to find out what the problem looks like in our community. Using the Operation Storefront curriculum designed by the Respiratory Health Association of Chicago, students found that tobacco marketing and advertising at local businesses indeed targets youth and allows easy access to tobacco products.
- Next, students formed teams to identify ways to educate and prevent youth tobacco use in the community.
- In the culminating project, youth decided to create a photo gallery to spark discussion and convey an anti-tobacco message. Teams planned and captured images of tobacco use in the community, edited and created captions, and set up a photo gallery showing at the Chinatown Library. Over fifty community members attended the event.



thank you!

Project: VISION's beginnings were made possible by volunteers, and today, volunteers continue to be our most valuable asset, from the Board of Directors to the Executive Director to homework tutors and holiday gift wrappers. We thank all those who give their time and efforts to us so generously!



board of directors

Megan Bulfin
OPERATIONS MANAGER
Best Buy

Karen Chiu, M.D.
HOSPITALIST PHYSICIAN
NorthShore University
HealthSystems

Kirsten Chan
NATIONAL AD SALES
ACCOUNT MANAGER
Cars.com

Krystle Goh
PROJECT MANAGER
TO THE CEO
LEARN Charter
School Network

Jennifer Lau
PH.D. CANDIDATE IN
CHEMICAL & BIOLOGICAL
ENGINEERING
Northwestern Univ.

Jessica Wang
ASSOCIATE
Adams Street Partners

chairs

Vincent Kwan
IMAGING OPERATIONS
MANAGER
Iron Mountain, Inc.

Anthony Medina
MANAGER OF ENROLLMENT
AND MATCHING
Big Brothers Big
Sisters of Metropolitan
Chicago

staff / volunteers

Executive Director
Karen Chiu

Program Coordinator
Michelle Lee

**Development
Coordinator**
Kimberly Stemp

Staff & Tutors
Shuo Ming Fung

Samone Hu
Michelle Lee

Sandy Nguyen
Holly Tan

Michelle Xichen Zhao

Development Interns & Volunteers

Lydiana Abbaloa

Lindsey O'Brien

Weijing Zhu

Carmen Mei

partners

Asian Health Coalition
Loyola University Center
for Experiential Learning

corporate, foundation, government contributors

Asian Health Coalition
Best Buy
BP America
Chinatown Parking Lot
Corporation
City of Chicago
Department of Family
Support Services
Springboard Foundation
State Farm Foundation
URS Corporation
Walmart Foundation

in-kind donors

Art Institute of Chicago
Arthur Murray
Dance Studio
Barnes & Noble
Bookstores
Bernie Dechant
Photography
Bespoke Cuisine
Catherine & Ken Moy
Cheesecake
Handmade Beauty
Chicago Architecture
Foundation

Chicago Blackhawks
Chicago International
Movies & Music Festival
Comedy Sportz
Constellation Brands
Crown Imports, LLC
De Cero
Dominick's
Edible Arrangements
Ellie Thompson & Co.
Enbeadia
Entertainment Cruises
Erin Gallagher Jewelry
Eva May
Faiz Zuberi
Field Museum
Five ACCESSORIES
Framing Mode & Gallery
Frank Lloyd Wright
Preservation Trust
Gourmet Gift Baskets
Grand Palace Restaurant
Groupon
Hot Mama
Hotel Felix
Hunny Boutique
iO
Jenny Chan
Jess LC Jewelry
John G. Shedd Aquarium
John Hancock Center
Observatory
K&S European Boutique
Karen Chiu
Karen Tam
Kathy Xiong
Lettuce Entertain You
Lin Chiu
Living Social

Lush Wine
Lynfred Winery
Megan Bulfin
Melinda Holtz
Metropolis Performing
Arts Center
Mr. & Mrs. Digz
Museum of
Contemporary Art
Northlight Theater
Old Town School
of Folk Music
Panera Bread
Paper Source
Paul Savigny
Peggy Notebaert
Museum
Ravinia
Redhead Piano Bar
Rich Medina, Jr.
Ricobene's
RobotCity
Rodan
Sakura Karaoke Lounge
Sea Safaris Sailing School
South Loop Acupuncture
Staples
String-a-strand
Studio L'Amour
Taco Flavored Eggrolls
Target
Truefitt & Hill
Urban Oasis
Vienna Beef
Whole Foods
Wines for Humanity

individual contributors

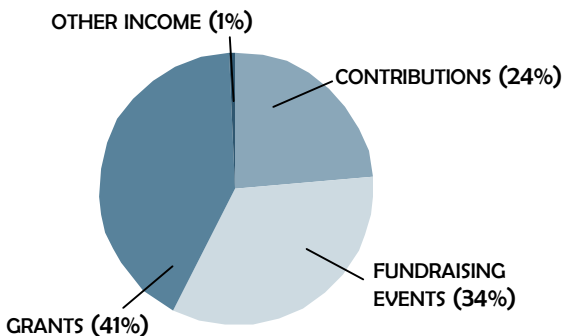
Charlene & Yat-Pui Au
Jenna Bode
Megan Bulfin
Gary Chan
Leola Chan
Edwin Charoenpitaks
Karen Chiu
David DeLeon
Linda Dobson
(Linda's Pharmacy)
Angelica Esposito
Edwin & Yuki Galisanao
Paul Gaura
David Gonzales
Krystle Goh
Erica & Matt Hong
Samone Hu
Michael Kato
Kristine Kim
Won Kim
Vincent Kwan
Samantha Kyme
Elizabeth LaRocca
Jennifer Lau
Sau Wei Lau
Vivien & Adam Laud
Nghe Le
Otto Lee
Apinya Lertratanakul
Man Ting &
Michael Limjoco
Angela Liu
Sean Liu
Liu Family
Megan Malone
Nancy McClellan
Anthony &
Joanna Medina
Laura Medina
Stephen Merritt
Tyler Mork
Catherine Ng & Ken Moy
John Mui, DDS
Diana Ng
Melissa Ocampo
Kenneth Onishe
Nosayaba Osaigbovo
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Colleen Ramsey
David &
Stephanie Roldan
Don Rosenfeld
Martin Rosenfeld
Aimee Shyn
Karen Tam
Sandy Tsao
Alvin Tse
Boris Tse
Peter Tong
Tso Family
Kelly Walter
Jessica Wang
Meme Wang
Marques Woodson
Calvin Yang
Mark Yun
Hythem Zayed
Anne Zhang
Angela Zirk

statement of financial position

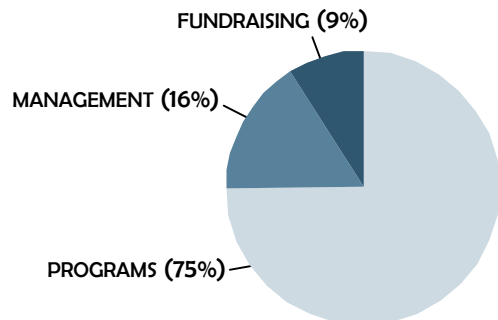
	2011	2010
assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	6,240	12,115
Grants Receivable	6,520	N/A
Prepaid Insurance	680	N/A
TOTAL ASSETS	13,440	12,115
liabilities		
Accounts Payable	1,510	1,000
TOTAL LIABILITIES	1,510	1,000
net assets		
Unrestricted	11,930	11,115
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	11,930	11,115

	2011	2010
revenues and other support		
Contributions* <small>*Corporate and individual donations</small>	10,454	12,264
Fundraising Events	14,995	16,132
Grants	18,317	2,745
Other Income	413	318
TOTAL REVENUES AND SUPPORT	44,179	31,459
expenses		
Program Services	32,495	18,595
Support Services		
Management/General	7,018	5,198
Fundraising	3,852	2,670
TOTAL EXPENSES	43,365	26,463

2011 revenues and other support



2011 expenses



we look forward to

improving programs by...

- developing more program metrics as a means for program evaluation, so that we can continue to improve our programs.
- strengthening collaborative efforts with partnering organizations.
- continuing to grow service learning initiatives and bring this to the forefront of our programming.

developing the board by...

- forming an executive committee to keep all members engaged.
- recruiting new members to bring diverse skills and expertise to the group.
- engaging the board in developing a strategic plan.
- seeking out leadership training opportunities for our members.

enhancing our fundraising strategy by...

- continuing to diversify funding sources.
- building a donor base.
- increasing visibility in the community.





Project: VISION, Inc.
MONDAYS THRU THURSDAYS 2PM TO 7PM



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