

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

Annual Report 2013-2014

FISCAL YEAR SEPTEMBER 1, 2013 – AUGUST 31, 2014



Project:VISION
a nonprofit youth organization

DEAR FRIENDS,

Project: VISION is proud to share the accomplishments of our students and our organization as we completed our tenth year of service! With the help of dedicated staff, volunteers, and supporters, we served more students than ever, strengthened our programs, and continued driving organizational growth.

This year, we served 115 students in grades 6 to 12, providing youth with core programs focused on helping them LEARN, SERVE, and LEAD. With added space to the Youth Center, for the first time this year, we also offered service 6 days per week so that we were able to engage all students at least once per week to deepen our program's impact.

After school tutoring and college readiness programs helped many graduating eighth graders reach selective high schools with college preparatory programs, and all of our graduating seniors enrolled in college this fall. While these educational supports continued to help our students strive toward their academic goals, service and leadership programs empowered youth to engage in their communities, be positive examples for their peers, and prepare for the workforce. Student participation in community service,

youth-led projects, and career readiness activities was higher than ever before and helped to enrich students' experiences at PV.

As an organization this year, we focused on capacity building through expanding community outreach and strengthening our staff. These efforts resulted in the creation of an Associate Board, which engages our community's young professionals. Also, new support from the United Way and Exelon Corporation's Stay in School Initiative allowed PV to significantly expand our program staff to ensure high quality programming.

The future is bright as we head into another school year, and we look forward to continuing to provide the guidance and support that each of our youth need to achieve their goals and dreams. We again thank you- our generous community of supporters, donors, and volunteers- for your continued support and encouragement!

Sincerely,



Krystle Goh Kim
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.

“

PV helped me meet my goal of getting straight A's in school. I feel confident about my path to college and future successes.

NELSON, GRADE 8

”



“

Project: VISION taught me how to prioritize my academics and plan for the future.

ANNIE, GRADE 8

”

serve lead

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 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 continued to be provided free to families and have reached over 400 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

70% would be the first in their families to attend college

85% from lower income families*
*receive free or reduced school lunch

*Project: VISION students surveyed in 2013-2014 school year

our purpose in this community

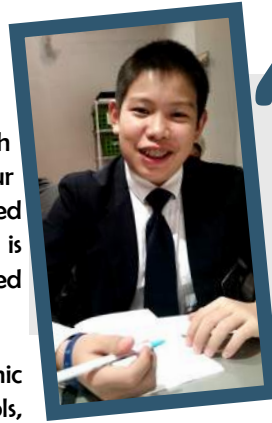
Asian American students are often associated with the “model minority” stereotype, and thus our community is often overlooked as one that is in need of social services, especially for our youth. The truth is that every community has an underserved population, and we are no exception.

In fact, community youth face many socio-economic barriers to academic success. At neighborhood schools, over 80% of students are from low-income households, and 30% are limited English learners. PV's goal is to provide these students with support, prevent them from falling behind, and to ensure that they reach high school and college successfully.

Furthermore, youth often do not have access to social and emotional supports and personal development opportunities they need to succeed. After school can be a vulnerable time according to the Illinois Youth Survey (IYS): 53% of 8th graders in Chinatown report having no adult supervision more than three days each week. One in three youths participates in no activities outside of school, and almost 70% believe their activities make little to no difference. IYS results also indicate that youth recognize problems such as crime, bullying, and substance abuse are prevalent in the community. Taken together, these factors all put youth at risk to engage in risky behaviors.

PV programs help keep youth safe while providing a place where youth can engage in positive activities and work with strong role models who can help keep them focused on a positive path. Ultimately, we hope to nurture a generation of well-rounded, socially responsible future leaders who can continue to build our community.

what difference has PV made in my life?



“

Project: VISION gave me opportunities to give back to the community and helped me fulfil my academic goals.

HONGJIA, GRADE 8

”

“

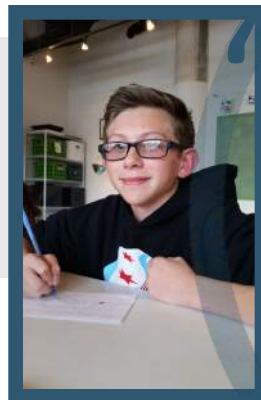
PV not only helped me improve my grades and get ready for college, but I have also had the chance to make new friends outside of my school. I want to use my knowledge to help students improve their education. I feel a duty to contribute because PV helped me succeed.

JENA, PV GRADUATE

”



why is PV important for youth like me and for the community?



“

Project: VISION brings people together. . . a great program for helping students like me succeed.

JOEY, GRADE 7

”



“ 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



With the help of my tutors, I feel more prepared and confident.

PROJECT: VISION STUDENT, GRADE 9

during the 2013-2014 school year...

The After School Homework Tutoring Program assisted 115 youths in grades 6 - 12. We work to help students achieve their academic potentials by encouraging them to take an active role in their education and nurturing appreciation for learning.

Each student received an average of 4 hours of tutoring each week.

- 100% were promoted to the next grade on time.
- 95% maintained C-average or above grades.
- 81% made an improvement by at least one letter grade in a core class.
- 76% of students met at least one personal academic goal.

Project: College Bound helped prepare 42 of our students for the future. Each student participated in at least 2 college readiness activities including an ACT prep course, essay writing, financial aid, and resume workshops as well as college panels and visits. 100% of our high school seniors were accepted and plan to attend college in fall 2014.





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, 93 youth (77%) engaged in service this year, collectively earning over 1,280 service learning hours.

Some of our service projects included:

- Distributing groceries to the elderly at Bridgeport's Benton House food pantry
- Making lunch for women in transition at Deborah's Place
- Helping to clean animal shelter facilities at PAWS Chicago

“ Project: VISION provides opportunities for me to help the community and become a better citizen. ”



stories of service

My most memorable service experience was at Deborah's Place, where we packed and served lunches to women at the shelter while learning about hunger and homelessness. We learned that people become homeless for different reasons as the women shared their stories and experiences with us. It made us realize there are many things we often take for granted.

The women were so grateful for a simple sandwich and just our company. I learned that helping others is about spreading positivity and providing support. This project helped me realize why it's important to help those in need and that I can give back to the community in a meaningful way.

KASSI, GRADE 7





“

the program has helped me see
is for a successful and last

PROJECT: VISION STUDEN

At Project: VISION, being a leader means taking opportunities to learn and gain experiences that foster personal growth, build character, and nurture positive attitudes. PV youth also learn to make good life choices and become active citizens who are prepared for the future.

By helping youth develop strengths, interests, and leadership skills, our programs aim to engage youth and empower them to become positive examples for their peers and help make positive changes in their community.



leadership

This year, 47 high school students
leadership program:

- Teen Advisory Panel was partner Asian Health Coalition related to alcohol and tobacco prevent youth substance abuse
- Project: Healthy Minds engaged about mental health. Participa awareness about important iss mental illness among their peers
- Project: LEAD is a care development program provide Stay in School initiative. Four completed summer internships.



How important education is to your future career.

...NT, GRADE 12

highlights

... participated in at least one

... a collaborative initiative with ... Youth created digital stories ... use to build awareness and help ... in the community.

... ed youth in learning and writing ... nts created a blog to help build ... ues such as stress, bullying, and ...

... er readiness and professional ... d in collaboration with Exelon's ... PV students were selected and

“ Project: LEAD & the Exelon Stay in School Initiative

offered me a great opportunity to

work hard,

achieve my goals, and learn to be

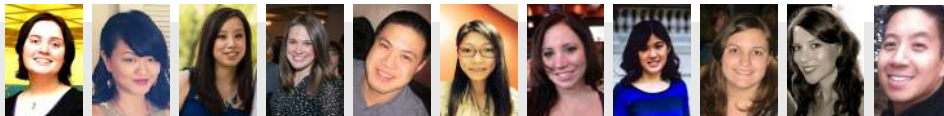
successful for the future with skills I learned in résumé building workshops and mock job interviews. Even though I was one of the youngest in the program, I was able to dig deep and achieve something I would never have thought I could: earning and working for my first paid internship at BUILD Chicago, where I worked with adult mentors to help plan and organize agency events.

LAUREN, GRADE 10



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

Krystle Goh Kim*
Chair of the Board

Alicia Samp*
Treasurer

Cynthia Poon*
Secretary

Megan Calma

Kirsten Chan

Elizabeth Kusek

Vincent Kwan

Mee Wai Lam

Lauren Lawshe*

Vicki Rousis*

Gabriel Wong

*Executive Committee

associate board

Raymond Chen

King Leung

Carmen Mei

Victoria Ng

Ashish Shah

partners

Asian Health Coalition
Chicago Taiwanese
American Professionals
Chinatown 5K
Communities in
Schools of Chicago
DePaul University
Career Center
Illinois Institute
of Technology

corporate/ foundation contributors

Adobe
Ahjoomah's Apron
Asian Health Coalition
Asian Giving Circle
Best Buy
BMO Harris
BP America
Cathay Bank Foundation
Chinatown Parking Lot
Corporation
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Funding Factory
JCCC Foundation
Kirkland & Ellis
Kraft
Lisa's Herbal
OP4G
Ricobene's
Salesforce.com
Seabury Foundation
Springboard Foundation
United Way of
Metropolitan Chicago
Walmart Foundation

Lead staff

Executive Director
Karen Chiu

Program Coordinator
Sandy Moy Kaehler

Development Coordinator
Sandy Guan

Program Assistant
Victoria Ng



in-kind donors

A.Sweets Girl
ABT
Adair
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Alicia Samp
AMC Theaters
Apartments.com
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Grant Wu
Green Mountain Coffee
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Johnny Mei

Karen Tam
Koi Evantson
La Madia
Laugh Factory Chicago
Lin Chiu
Lou Malnati's
Maple Rowe
Mary Yu, Rodan & Fields Independent Consultant
Museum of Science and Industry
Music Box Theatre
Mr. Submarine
Outerwall
Pastoral Artisan
Pier 39
Pimprov
PRSPR Apparel
Ronald Leung
Rich Medina, Jr.
Reform Chicago
ReMarked Salon
Richard Blais
Rockit Ranch Productions
Second City
Shaved Ice Distributors
Shedd Aquarium
Sprinkles Cupcakes
Sweet Thyme Soaps
Sweetly Ever After
Table Fifty-Two
Vanille Patisserie
Vincent Kwan
Zero Degrees Karaoke Bar

individual contributors

Charlene Au
Scott Bae
Kirsten Chan
Leola Chan
Anthony Chang
Arlie Chang
Edwin Charoenpitaks
Raymond Cheang
Karen Chiu
Richard Frachey
Jerry Hanttula
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Sumi Koh
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Elizabeth Kusek

Alex Kwan
Vincent Kwan
Otto & Jamie Lee
Catherine Leung
King Leung
Michael & Man Ting Limjoco
Qilan Liu
Catherine Ng & Ken Moy
Osasumwen Osayimwen
Dennis Rand
Vicki Rousis
Alicia Samp
Sheri So
Jie Song
Peter Tong
Giau Truong
Liz Wieland
Gabriel Wong
Meng Wu
Sha Zhang
Lei Zhao



statement of financial position

	2014	2013
assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	58,367	42,131
Contributions Receivable	4,517	500
Refundable lease deposit	1,800	1,800
Prepaid Insurance	761	771
Prepaid Programming Expense	976	1,029
Prepaid Fundraising Expense	662	799
TOTAL ASSETS	67,083	47,030

liabilities

Accounts Payable	509	497
TOTAL LIABILITIES	509	497

net assets

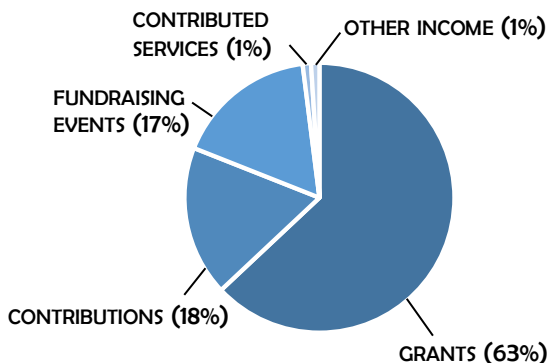
Temporarily Restricted	36,998	27,250
Unrestricted	29,576	19,283
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	67,083	47,030

	2014	2013
revenues and other support		
Contributions* <small>*Corporate and individual donations</small>	28,582	19,211
Fundraising Events	26,501	16,760
Grants	101,370	51,250
Contributed services	1,000	1,000
Other Income	1,873	1,170
TOTAL REVENUES AND SUPPORT	159,325	89,391

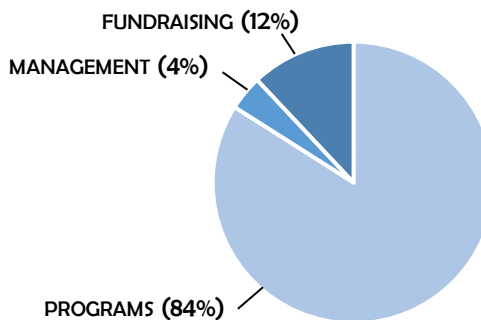
expenses

Program Services	116,269	40,209
Support Services		
Management/General	5,943	7,495
Fundraising	17,072	8,971
TOTAL EXPENSES	139,284	56,675

2014 revenues and other support



2014 expenses



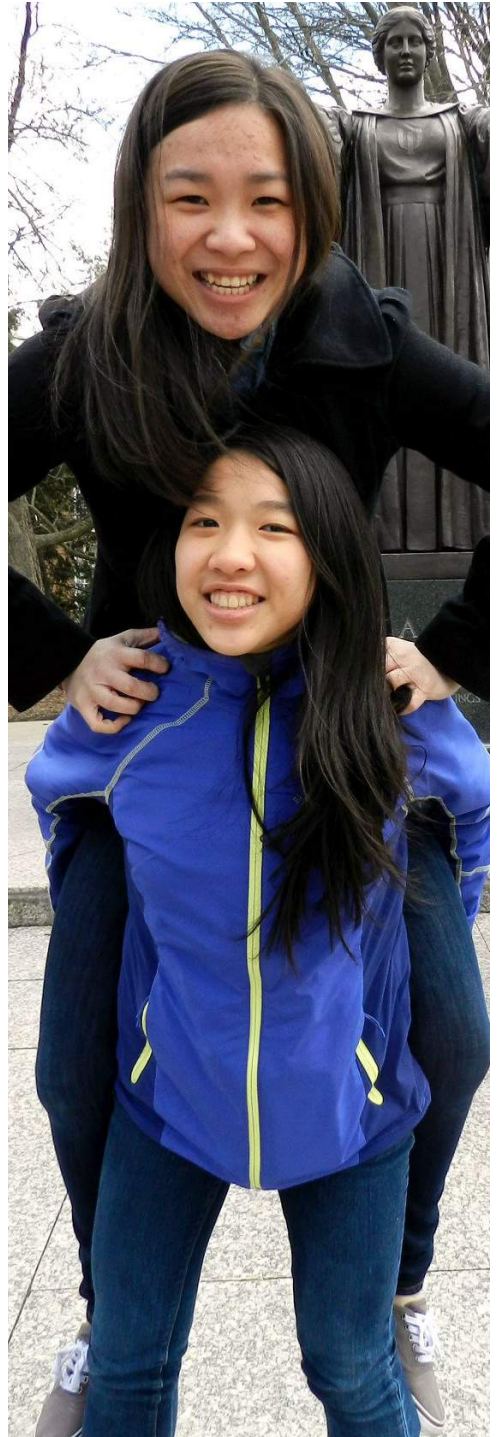
we look forward to

Strengthening our programs by...

- implementing a Scholars Program to ensure high school students engage in diverse experiences in academics, community service, and leadership opportunities.
- continuing partnerships such as Exelon Corporation's Stay in School Initiative to bring career readiness and internship opportunities to our students.
- growing, training, and retaining a qualified and dedicated program staff.

Growing organizational capacity by ...

- strengthening our Board of Directors with new members who bring diverse skills, expertise, and enthusiasm to the organization.
- growing our Associate Board of young professionals who can help spread awareness and expand PV's network of supporters.
- renewing board committees to actively implement capacity-building measures identified in the organization's strategic plan.
- continuing to develop and carry out a sustainable fundraising strategy that is based on diverse sources.





Project: VISION, Inc.

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



2301 S Archer Ave, Unit #1
Chicago, IL 60616

312.808.1898 | staff@projectvisionchicago.org
www.projectVISIONchicago.org

