



Project:VISION

A Nonprofit Youth Organization



education



leadership



service

2008–2009 Annual Report

how far we have come...

Project: VISION has come a long way since piloting its first tutoring program with the help of a few volunteers and borrowed space from the local library and Boys and Girls Club. With the ongoing mission to provide Chinatown and Bridgeport youth with essential tools for educational, professional, personal, interpersonal, and civic development, Project: VISION continues to expand its programs to reach even more teens and young adults. To date, our programs have helped over 200 youth—ages 12–21—while remaining volunteer-run and continuing to provide all programs free to youth. Currently, 30 youth participate in our after school programs. We plan to continue to grow and reach even more youth, and we believe we are well on our way as this year saw exciting progress for Project: VISION—from new programs to the formation of a formal Board of Directors and the success of our first annual Fall Soiree & Silent Auction fundraising event. The 2008–2009 year also brought Project: VISION to a new home at 2301 South Archer, a more accessible location and larger space to accommodate more youth.



who are our youth?



Project: VISION serves youth in Chicago's Chinatown and Bridgeport neighborhoods. Ninety-five percent of our youth are ethnic Chinese, reflecting the ethnic makeup of the surrounding area. About 10% of our students are Chinese immigrant youth, having been in the United States for less than 5 years; programs like tutoring are geared toward helping these youth overcome language barriers and social aspects of adjusting to life in a new country. Also, 85% of remaining youth are from first generation Chinese families. This group's needs are unique also, including issues faced by minorities in America and those involving generational and cultural gaps.

Most of our youth attend Chicago Public Schools (CPS), many of which, unfortunately, have consistently poor records of performance, lagging behind state and national averages on standardized tests, thus leaving students unprepared for college and beyond. Our programs provide the needed supplement to what is offered at their schools.

Consistent with rates at local elementary and high schools, 75% of Project: VISION's students are from lower-income families (based on students' qualification for free or reduced cost meals). By providing free services, we assist many students who otherwise would not have the resources to access programs that they need.

our programs...

Project: VISION values a holistic approach to youth development, with the ultimate goal of helping youth achieve confidence and success. We strive to provide positive role models and positive activities through our programs, which we have built around 5 areas.

The [Educational Development Program](#) fosters success at school as well as an appreciation for lifelong learning. We offer homework tutoring, English as a second language help, college entrance exam preparation classes, and college application workshops.



The [Professional Development Program](#) provides a 6-week workshop series to help students gain job skills such as resume writing and interviewing techniques to give them their first glimpse into the professional world and help them explore a variety of career paths.



The [Personal and Interpersonal Development Programs](#) enhance youths' strengths, interests, and sense of self identity through mentoring, recreation, and social activities. Students also gain leadership skills through the Student

Committee; participants help keep programs youth-driven and have the opportunity to get involved in many areas of the organization from fundraising to writing the quarterly newsletter.



Project: Youth Initiative is our [civic development program](#), which aims to foster a sense of social responsibility in youth by building awareness of issues and promoting a sustained spirit of volunteerism through group service learning projects.

....program highlights: service & leadership

While continuing to provide staple programs such as ACT prep classes and homework tutoring each week on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 4-7pm, Project: VISION also piloted a few new programs.

We believe the key to bettering a community is to first get its citizens, especially youth, involved. Chicago Public School high school students are required to complete 40 service learning hours to graduate. However, students are often unaware of how to get involved in their community in order to satisfy this requirement. Also, many existing service opportunities often do not actually enhance students' knowledge of social issues or encourage students to continue engaging in service, thus failing to fulfill the objectives of "service learning." Rather than merely focusing on fulfilling requirements, projects should spark interest in social issues and foster a sense of social responsibility that goes beyond obligation by encouraging students to learn, think, and finally take action to address issues.



During summer 2009, we piloted [Project: Youth Initiative](#), a program with a goal to help youth understand the importance of volunteerism and learn that they actually can make an impact with community service. Over 20 youth participated in 6 service projects. Prior to each project, students participated in a workshop to learn about the social issue; educating first is extremely important as it gives youth purpose and helps them to better understand the problem and its solutions. Youth explored issues including hunger, homelessness, water pollution, and resource conservation, bringing them to social organizations all over the city including the Greater Chicago Food Depository, Deborah's Place, and the GAIA Movement.

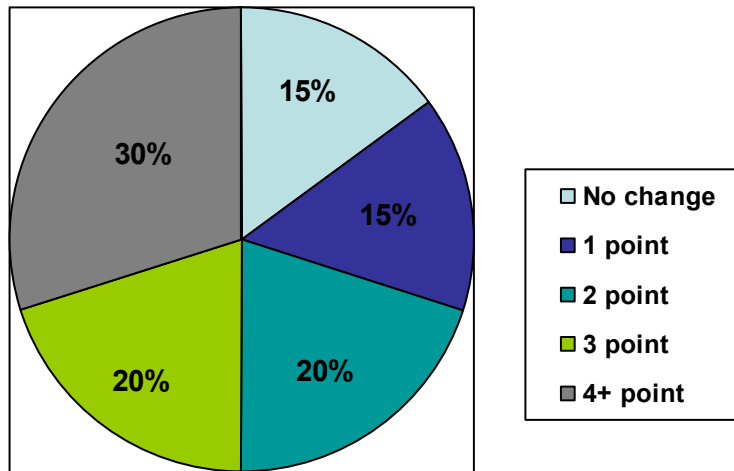


....program highlights: education

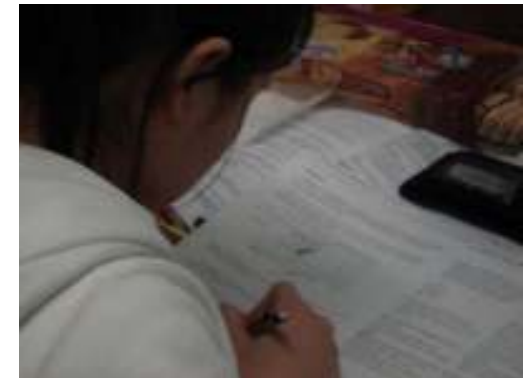
Literature is not often a subject that Project: VISION students name as a favorite, and many often struggle with it at school. This summer, two tutors, passionate about literature, bravely designed and led a weekly literature workshop with a goal to simply encourage youth to appreciate the written word. The group explored a wide range of genres from Medieval literature to Shakespeare to modern Asian American literature during interactive workshops. Despite initial reluctance, students soon developed more positive attitudes toward reading. Students discussed pieces freely, even tackling daunting pieces like Homer's *Iliad* and learning to appreciate each piece for its message and relevance to the human experience.



Student ACT Score Change



The ACT program prepared another 15 high school juniors for the college entrance exam. Consistent with previous years' success, over 70% of students made a 2-point or greater improvement in composite scores (considered statistically significant). The graph represents data that includes over 80 students who used the program between 2005–2009.



our volunteers...

Project: VISION's beginnings were made possible by volunteers, and today, we remain volunteer-run from the Executive Director to our homework tutors to holiday gift wrappers who help us raise funds! Although we have grown to be able to support a part-time Program Coordinator and two regular homework tutors, these individuals go above and beyond their "hours" and contribute over 10 additional volunteer hours per week. Thank you to all those who give their time and efforts to Project: VISION so generously!

Board of Directors

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VICE-CHAIR

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VICE-CHAIR

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Hospitalist Physician
NorthShore University HealthSystems



building strength...

During 2008, we worked to build a formal Board of Directors. We realized that a board would be key in helping Project: VISION grow as an organization by providing structure and strategy that would ensure that we reach our goals.

In March 2009, our Board of Directors assembled for the first time. The Board is composed of several motivated, enthusiastic individuals that each bring unique experience and perspectives that will help us better carry forward our mission.

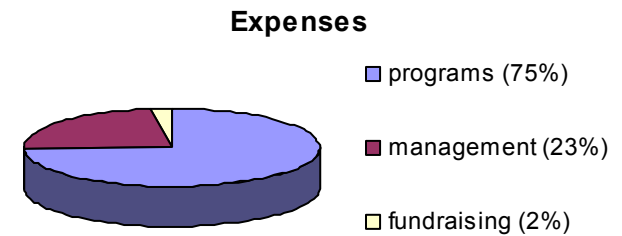
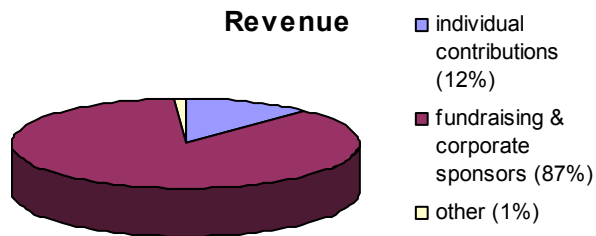
statement of financial position

September 1, 2008–August 31, 2009

ASSETS Statement of Activities

Cash and cash equivalent	\$5,779
Property and equipment, net of depreciation	---
Total Assets	\$5,779
Liabilities	
Accounts payable	\$1,000
Total Liabilities	\$1,000
NET ASSETS	
Unrestricted	\$4,779
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$5,779

REVENUES AND OTHER SUPPORT	
Individual contributions	\$ 2,945
Fundraising & corporate sponsors	\$21,299
Other income	\$ 253
Total Revenues and Support	\$24,497
EXPENSES	
Program services	\$15,595
Support services:	
Management and general	\$ 4,844
Fundraising	\$ 483
Total Expenses	\$20,922
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$ 3,575
NET ASSETS	
Beginning of year	\$ 1,204
End of year	\$ 4,779



contributors...

Corporate Contributors

BP
Chinatown Parking Lot Corporation
McDonald's Corporation
URS Corporation

Individual Contributors

Morayo Adisa
Charlene and Yat Pui Au
Glen Barcinas
Ivy Barcinas
Grant Barton
Holly Bessert
Katherine Boniquit
Jeffrey Brasky
Luke Buhrmester
Megan Bulfin
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Suzanne Guan
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Ryan Hoshi

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Gale Jackson
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Smita Kamath
Nicole Kieffer
Ray Kinderay
Martin King
Ingchie Kwan
Vincent Kwan
Elizabeth Larocca
Jennifer Lau
Nicholas Lau
Sauwei Lau
Adam and Vivien Laud
Michelle Lee
Otto Lee
Yee Man Lee
Man Ting and Michael Limjoco
Liu Family
Audrey Mark
Bill Mason
Grady Mei
Leanne Hilgart Meyer
Greg Morgan
Alice Moy
Catherine Ng and Ken Moy
Kevin Nazal
Steven Nwe
Lisa Nonzee
Thad Ocampo
Justin Pagsisihan
Shadi Parsaei
Melissa Parungao
Ronald Parungao
Julie and Derek Paschal
Amir Patel
Jon-Myckle Price
Jeanette Rabichow
Kevin Rabichow

Project: VISION is grateful to all of our supporters for their generous monetary and in-kind donations. These contributions have made Project: VISION's programs possible.

Don Rosenfeld
Marty Rosenfeld
Janie Samson
Melissa Saterlee
Scott Santarromana
Joan and Raymond So
Sheri So
Sherwin Tam
Brandon Tefft
Josephine Tom
Peter Tong
Boris Tse
Kelly Tung
Robert Van Lith
Nancy Wang
Amanda Weldzius
Mui Kwan Wong
Charlene Yau
May Young
Yan Zhao

In-Kind Donations

Alvin Tse
Art + Science Salon
Bally Total Fitness
Bed Bath & Beyond
Between Café and Lounge
Chicago Cubs
Chicago White Sox
Cookies by Design
Crate & Barrel

Crown Imports
Daniel Hyman
Dick Blick
Fomato
Gibson's Steakhouse
Gordon Salon and Spas
Handmade Specialities
Jersey Boy
Jing Pang
Karen Tam
Karyn's
Lau Photo
Lucky Kat Tat
Marriott
Muvico Theaters
Nintendo
Orange Beautiful
Randolph Wine Cellars
Second City
Seltzer Goods
Trader Joe's
Treasure Island
Trek
Villa Olivia
Virtu
Whirly Ball
Wilton

...thank you!

Looking forward...

As we look ahead to the 2009–2010 year, we see many exciting possibilities for the growth of our organization! We hope to build upon our successes from this past year and continue to work toward being able to assist any youth who needs our programs.



Increase access to programs.

- Increase hours of operation
- Increase number of days of operation



Increase range of programs.

- Expand Project: Youth Initiative to encourage service learning
- Pilot structured English as a Second Language workshops



Increase staff.

- Support consistent Program Coordinator
- Bring Development Coordinator to team



A Nonprofit Youth Organization



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