



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.

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.

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.

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 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 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

96% are enrolled in
Chicago Public Schools

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

90% from first generation
immigrant families

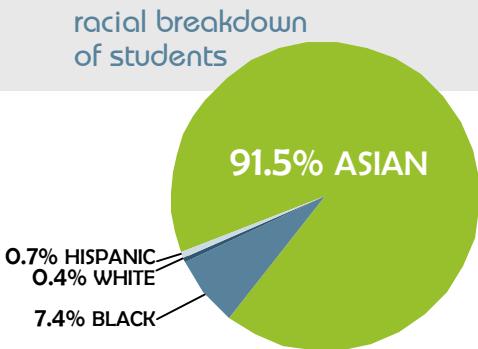
63% would be the first in their
families to attend college

our purpose in this community

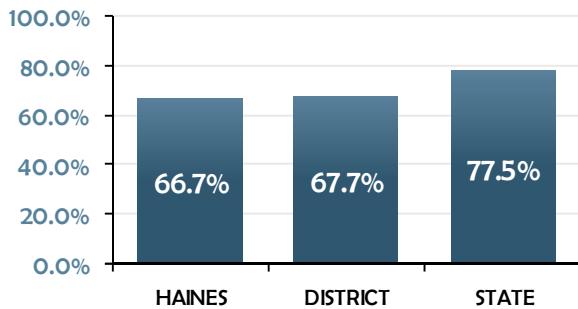
It's a common misconception that Asian American students already excel academically, and therefore, these communities have little need for tutoring and after school programs. The truth is, every community has an underserved population and we are no exception.

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.

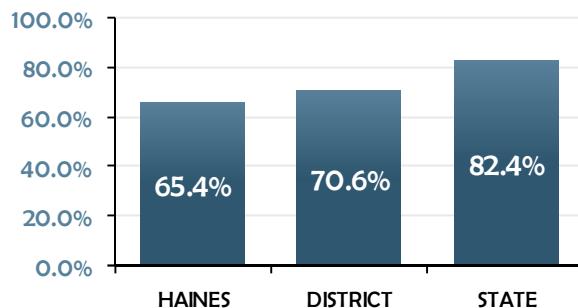
statistics from the John C. Haines School's 2009-2010 academic year



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

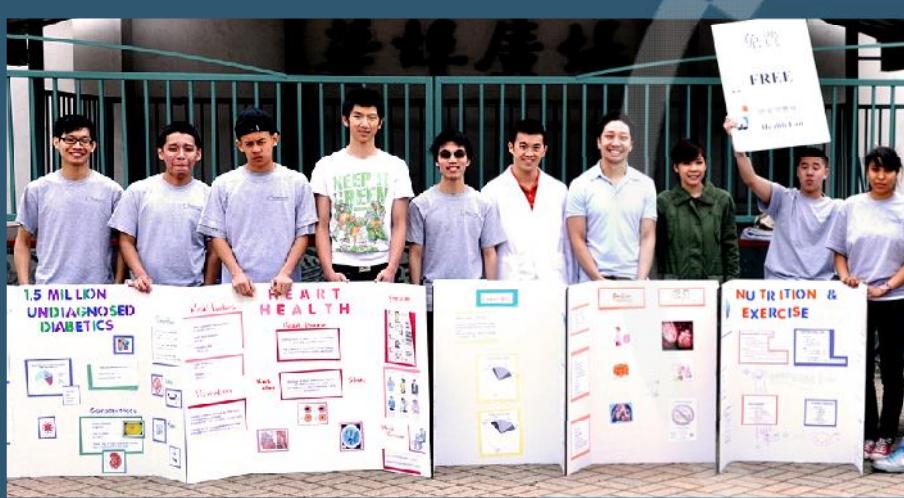
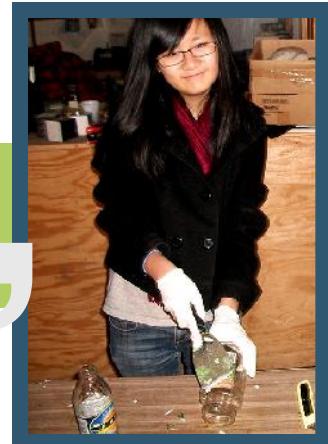
PARENT OF A PROJECT: VISION STUDENT

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

leadership

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.

Over the semester, students worked together to develop an approach and solution to the problem of smoking in Chinatown.

- Students first learned about smoking and its effects, participating in workshops on smoking cessation, tobacco statistics and health consequences.





and me with the
needed to succeed



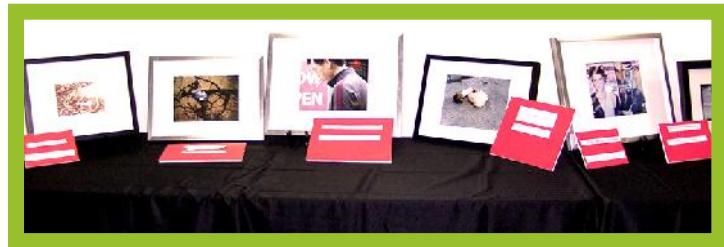
N STUDENT, COLLEGE GRADUATE

”

highlights

Worked as a team to develop
the smoking problem.

Searched the problem by
researching about tobacco use
and its consequences.



- 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

P.H.D. CANDIDATE IN
CHEMICAL & BIOLOGICAL
ENGINEERING

Northwestern Univ.

Jessica Wang

ASSOCIATE

Adams Street Partners

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

chairs

Vincent Kwan

IMAGING OPERATIONS
MANAGER

Iron Mountain, Inc.

Anthony Medina

MANAGER OF ENROLLMENT
AND MATCHING

Big Brothers Big
Sisters of Metropolitan
Chicago

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

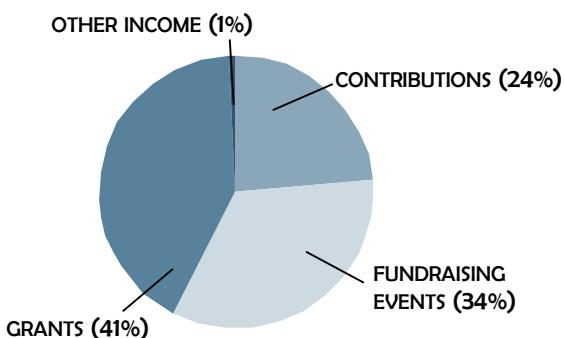
	Lush Wine	individual contributors
Chicago Blackhawks	Lynfred Winery	Charlene & Yat-Pui Au
Chicago International Movies & Music Festival	Megan Bulfin	Laura Medina
Comedy Sportz	Melinda Holtz	Stephen Merritt
Constellation Brands	Metropolis Performing Arts Center	Tyler Mork
Crown Imports, LLC	Mr. & Mrs. Digz	Catherine Ng & Ken Moy
De Cero	Museum of Contemporary Art	John Mui, DDS
Dominick's	Northlight Theater	Diana Ng
Edible Arrangements	Old Town School of Folk Music	Melissa Ocampo
Ellie Thompson & Co.	Panera Bread	Kenneth Onishe
Enbeadia	Paper Source	Nosayaba Osaigbovo
Entertainment Cruises	Paul Savigny	Snehal Patel
Erin Gallagher Jewelry	Peggy Notebaert Museum	Amy & Tim Prevo
Eva May	Ravinia	Lupe Sanchez
Faiz Zuberi	Redhead Piano Bar	Alicia Stien
Field Museum	Rich Medina, Jr.	Kevin Rabichow
Five ACCESSORIES	Ricobene's	Colleen Ramsey
Framing Mode & Gallery	RobotCity	David & Stephanie Roldan
Frank Lloyd Wright Preservation Trust	Rodan	Don Rosenfeld
Gourmet Gift Baskets	Sakura Karaoke Lounge	Martin Rosenfeld
Grand Palace Restaurant	Sea Safaris Sailing School	Aimee Shyn
Groupon	South Loop Acupuncture	Karen Tam
Hot Mama	Staples	Sandy Tsao
Hotel Felix	String-a-strand	Alvin Tse
Hunny Boutique	Studio L'Amour	Boris Tse
iO	Taco Flavored Eggrolls	Peter Tong
Jenny Chan	Target	Tso Family
Jess LC Jewelry	Truefitt & Hill	Kelly Walter
John G. Shedd Aquarium	Urban Oasis	Jessica Wang
John Hancock Center Observatory	Vienna Beef	Meme Wang
K&S European Boutique	Whole Foods	Marques Woodson
Karen Chiu	Wines for Humanity	Calvin Yang
Karen Tam		Mark Yun
Kathy Xiong		Hythem Zayed
Lettuce Entertain You		Anne Zhang
Lin Chiu		Angela Zirk
Living Social		
		Anthony & Joanna Medina

statement of financial position

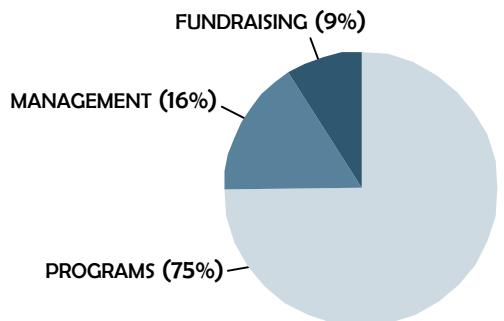
	2011	2010
assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	6,240	12,115
Grants Receivable	6,520	N/A
Prepaid Insurance	680	N/A
TOTAL ASSETS	13,440	12,115
liabilities		
Accounts Payable	1,510	1,000
TOTAL LIABILITIES	1,510	1,000
net assets		
Unrestricted	11,930	11,115
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	11,930	11,115

	2011	2010
revenues and other support		
Contributions*	10,454	12,264
*Corporate and individual donations		
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.

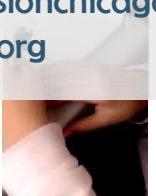
developing the board by...

- 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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