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

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

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.

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 first generation immigrant families
- 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.
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.

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.

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 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"
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.

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

PARENT OF A PROJECT: VISION STUDENT
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:

- Students first learned about the smoking problem by participating in workshops on tobacco use statistics and health consequences.

"the program provided me with the skills and tools needed to succeed"

FORMER PROJECT: VISION STUDENT, COLLEGE GRADUATE

leadership

FORMER PROJECT: VISION STUDENT, COLLEGE GRADUATE
Over the semester, students worked as a team to develop an approach and solution to the smoking problem. Students first learned about the problem by participating in workshops about tobacco use statistics and health 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
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

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Sean Liu
Liu Family
Megan Malone
Nancy McClellan
Anthony & Joanna Medina
Laura Medina
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Diana Ng
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Kenneth Onishe
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Martin Rosenfeld
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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

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### Revenues and Other Support

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### Expenses

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### 2011 Revenues and Other Support

- Contributions: 24%
- Grants: 41%
- Fundraising Events: 34%
- Other Income: 1%

### 2011 Expenses

- Programs: 75%
- Management: 16%
- Fundraising: 9%
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.