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

As I reflect on the close of another year, I am struck by all that Project: VISION (PV) has achieved, and all the ways that it has grown since it started 8 years ago as an idea shared by a small group of friends. I am continually inspired by the incredible generosity and dedication of our amazing staff, volunteers and supporters, without whom we could not do what we do. This past year has not been without its challenges and growing pains, but I’m pleased to report there is much to celebrate!

The core of PV’s programs has always been our after-school tutoring. In 2011-2012, we served 43 students in the 6-12th grades, a 43% increase from the previous year. We take special pride in that growth, as we depend solely on word of mouth for student recruitment. An increased number of students signals to us that our students are benefitting from our programs, and their parents are spreading the word about what we do. In fact, our growth was bittersweet, as it became necessary for us to create a student waiting list for the first time in our history. As we look forward into the next year, we are continuing to evaluate options to increase the number of students we are able to serve.

We have also spent much time in the last year refining our programs and creating additional structures and supports to better serve our students. I want to give special thanks to our Program Coordinator, Michelle Lee, who spearheaded many of our new initiatives, which have greatly strengthened our programs. Building on the previous year’s initiatives to develop individual student profiles and daily progress logs, this year we required students to set three personal academic goals to work on during the year. At year’s end, 50% of our students met at least two of their stated goals. We fully expect for this number to increase in years to come as we continue to tailor our programs and better track the progress of our students.

This year, PV continued to strengthen our partnerships with local organizations. Most notably, our relationship with the Asian
Health Coalition (AHC) led to opportunities for our students to develop their leadership skills through service. In collaboration with AHC, PV students formed the Teen Advisory Panel to promote positive messages and build awareness to prevent youth substance abuse. These are the types of engaging programs that we hope to continue providing to our students in hopes of fostering community-minded leaders.

As an organization, we made significant progress in our efforts to cultivate relationships with new funding partners, allowing us to further diversify our sources of income. In particular, we were awarded a grant from the Springboard Foundation, which specifically seeks to fund the operational growth of small, grassroots organizations over a 3-to-5 year period. We are also learning to take better advantage of social media, winning an award through the Chicago Sun-Times Sunshine Project through online votes and nominations. The Board of Directors also continued to evolve as we restructured membership in order to create opportunities for individuals with varying constraints to stay engaged and involved. I am pleased with our first year trial of this new structure and believe that our current Board is the strongest that it has ever been. We are well positioned to support PV in its continued growth, and we are eager to begin a year-long process to create a more concrete strategic plan as we seek to be a sustainable and even more impactful organization.

It is thanks to people like you that we are able to do what we do. We are so grateful for your continued support and encouragement. We welcome you to the Center to visit with us if you’re ever in the area!

YOURS SINCERELY,

Krystle Goh
Board Chair

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 300 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
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

*receive free or reduced school lunch

Project: VISION students surveyed 2010-2011
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.

Our youths often lack support and guidance they need because of the barriers they face. At John C. Haines School in Chinatown, 90.4% of students are from low-income households, and 30.5% are limited English learners. In 2011, the percentage of 8th graders at two neighborhood schools (Haines and Ward Schools) that met or exceeded ISAT Reading standards was significantly lower compared to those of the state. PV's goal is to prevent these students from falling behind and to ensure that they reach high school and college successfully.

After-school can be a vulnerable time for youth. According to the 2012 Illinois Youth Survey, 45% of 8th graders in Chinatown reported having no adult supervision more than three days each week, for greater than three hours at a time. This puts youth at risk for encounters with substance abuse and violence. PV helps keep youth safe and provides a place where youth can engage in positive activities and work with positive role models.
In surveys, 89% of students believed the program helped them perform better in school. Greater than 80% of students felt the program helped them improve study skills, prepare for tests, and feel more confident at school.

Project: VISION is willing to help you no matter what you need help on.

PROJECT: VISION STUDENT, GRADE 12 during the 2011-2012 school year:

The After School Homework Tutoring Program assisted 43 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. Each semester, the program maintained a retention rate of over 70%.

- In surveys, 89% of students felt the program helped them perform better, greater than 80% of students felt the program helped them improve study skills, prepare for tests, and feel more confident at school.

Education has always been at the foundation of Project: VISION's programs.
In surveys, 89% of students believed the program helped them perform better in school. Greater than 80% of students felt the program helped them improve study skills, prepare for tests, and feel more confident at school.

Project: VISION is willing to help you no matter what you need help on.

Projects: VISION STUDENT, GRADE 12

highlights

Education has always been at the foundation of Project: VISION’s programs.

- Many of our students reach major milestones: 3 students were accepted into selective enrollment public high schools, and 100% of our graduating high school seniors enrolled in 4-year universities.

Eleven students completed the ACT Prep Class.

- Ten students made a 2-point or greater improvement in their composite score.
- In English and Science, students improved by 4.3 points and 3.4 points respectively.
Project: VISION strives to help youth understand the importance of volunteerism and realize that they can make an impact with community service. This year, 38 youths participated in our projects, collectively earning over 340 service learning hours.

Some of our service projects included:

- Helping with cleanup of our neighborhood’s Ping Tom Park
- Volunteering at the Hustle Up the Hancock event to raise funds for lung disease research
- Helping the Asian Health Coalition assess the safety of our neighborhood streets and sidewalks in an obesity prevention initiative

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.

The whole family lingered in the hospital for countless hours on the day my grandpa passed away. The surgery that was supposed to rid him of the lung cancer he acquired from long years of smoking had instead led to a fatal infection. Smoking took my grandpa away, but his presence in my life was replaced with abhorrence.

In the years following, my disdain for cigarettes only grew. Whenever I saw a person smoke, I would childishly make my presence known by running past the person, coughing obnoxiously.

I signed up. My knowledge of the negative effects of smoking only increased as I attended the workshops at Project: VISION. Over several weeks, my fellow volunteers and I went around the neighborhood to take pictures related to smoking to create an exhibit. My favorite was a photo of a single cigarette in a trash can with a caption that read: “It only takes one.”
A feeling of accomplishment filled my heart when I realized my grandpa would have been proud of my dedication to raising awareness about smoking’s negative effects. No one told my grandpa the consequences of taking his first cigarette, but I was able to tell the people in my neighborhood. When both old and young walked into the exhibit at the neighborhood library, the opportunity to educate them on how to live a healthier life brought me joy.

These experiences have led me to realize my interest in the medical field. Healthcare professionals not only have the knowledge and skills to heal, but to also educate their patients, enabling them to be able to take care of themselves. This is an opportunity not everyone has. Smoking took my grandpa away, but it has also led me to my dream of working in the medical field one day, educating patients one at a time.
Often, service learning goes hand in hand with developing youths’ strengths, interests, and leadership skills. Our programs engage youth and empower them to become peer advocates and educators. This year, Project: VISION students formed the Teen Advisory Panel (TAP), a collaborative initiative with our partner, the Asian Health Coalition. The team’s goal was to build awareness and help prevent youth substance abuse in the community, an issue that affects teens every day but is little discussed.

“

It is important to understand how many issues impact our community and how we can help address the problems.

Furthermore, I hope to help my community, especially my peers, understand why it is important to be involved in our community.

PROJECT: VISION STUDENT, GRADE 12
According to the 2010 Illinois Youth Survey,

- 40% of high school seniors in our neighborhood admitted to having smoked cigarettes in their lifetimes, and 82% reported easy access to cigarettes.

- 58% of high school seniors have consumed alcohol in the past year, and 17% report binge drinking in the past 2 weeks.

During the fall semester, TAP tackled tobacco abuse. The team worked together to develop a concept for a public service announcement. Over 6 weeks, students wrote, rehearsed, filmed, and edited a short video appealing to other youth to overcome peer pressure. The piece was posted on YouTube and disseminated to their peers.

In the spring, TAP reconvened to explore alcohol abuse. The team decided to convey a message about the dangers of teen alcohol use through painting a mural. TAP completed the mural in April, Alcohol Abuse Awareness Month, and unveiled it at a community event at the Chinatown Public Library. Since then, the mural has been presented at substance abuse prevention meetings and town hall gatherings.

highlights
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.*
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
NorthShore University HealthSystems

Krystle Cohl*
CHAIR OF THE BOARD
MBA CANDIDATE 2014
Univ. of Chicago Booth School of Business

Vincent Kwan
IMAGING OPERATIONS MANAGER
Iron Mountain, Inc.

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

Alicia Samp*
TREASURER
CPA
PCAOB

*Karen Chiu, M.D.*

Mee Wai Lam
REGISTERED NURSE
Samland Home Health, Inc.

staff / volunteers

Executive Director
Karen Chiu

Program Coordinator
Michelle Lee

Staf & Volunteers
Angela Blackwell
Pritika Chetty
Shuo Ming Fung
Melissa Kanhirun
Richard Lam
Carmen Mei

Lindsey O'Brien
Cynthia Poon
Kim Stemp
Liz Wieland
David Wu
Michelle Zhao
Anna Zheng

partners
Asian Health Coalition
Loyola University
Center for Experiential Learning
Be the Change Charter School

corporate / foundation contributors
Asian Health Coalition
Adams Street Partners
Best Buy
BP America
Cathay Bank Foundation
Chicago Sun Times Charity Trust
Chinatown Parking Lot Corporation
Invesco
Maxwell House
R.M. Chin & Associates
South Loop Hotel
Springboard Foundation
State Farm
in-kind donors

Ace Bakery
Akira
Amy Mui
Barnes & Noble
Best Buy
Bridgeport Coffeehouse
Brookfield Zoo
Buffalo Wings & Rings
Calabrizzi Café
Chicago White Sox
Connie’s Pizza
Crown Imports
CVS
Entertainment Cruises
Frame Factory
Groupon
Jessica Wang
Jess LC
Karen Tam
Lakeshore Catering
Latin Dance Rhythms
Lettuce Entertain You
Lin Chiu
Maria’s Packaged Goods & Community Bar
Mon Ami Gabi
Museum of Science and Industry
Ng Family
Kung Fu School
Paul Savigny
Pleasant House Bakery
Poison Cup
Rezina Lam
Richard Medina, Jr.
Ricobene’s
Roy’s Restaurant
Samantha Chan
Second City
Shedd Aquarium
Sherwood Community Music School
Sprinkles Cupcakes
The Silver Room
Toys Et Cetera
Urban Oasis
Vincent Kwan
Wilton
Vasang Wai
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Hauwei Lien
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Melissa Thibault
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Jessica Wang
Meme Wang
Sonia Wang
Renae Wintersteen
David Wu
Mark Yun
Anne Zhang
Perry Zhao
Susan Zhao
David Zacarias
Angela Zirk

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David Wu
Mark Yun
Anne Zhang
Perry Zhao
Susan Zhao
David Zacarias
Angela Zirk
statement of financial position

assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2012</th>
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liabilities

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net assets

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<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</strong></td>
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revenues and other support

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<td>Fundraising Events</td>
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<td>Grants</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL REVENUES AND SUPPORT</strong></td>
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expenses

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<td>Support Services</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td>54,054</td>
<td>43,365</td>
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2012 revenues and other support

- Contributions: 31%
- Grants: 42%
- Fundraising Events: 20%
- Contributed Services: 6%
- Other Income: 1%

2012 expenses

- Programs: 68%
- Management: 20%
- Fundraising: 12%
we look forward to

expanding program capacity by...

▪ strengthening collaborations with other community organizations.
▪ increasing program staff and volunteer retention.
▪ continuing to develop highly engaging service learning initiatives.
▪ developing an English Language Learner program to assist students with limited English skills.

growing leadership by...

▪ recruiting new board members who bring diverse skills and expertise to the group.
▪ kicking off a year-long process with board and staff members to develop a long-term strategic plan.
▪ seeking leadership training opportunities.

enhancing fundraising by...

▪ continuing to diversify funding sources.
▪ increasing visibility with improved marketing tools.
▪ building relationships with other local organizations with similar interests.
▪ keeping supporters engaged through an improved website and social media.
Project: VISION, Inc.

MONDAYS THRU THURSDAYS 3PM TO 7PM

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