



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

Annual Report 2011-2012

FISCAL YEAR SEPTEMBER 1, 2011 — AUGUST 31, 2012



Project:VISION
a nonprofit youth organization

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 bitter-sweet, 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

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.

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

serve

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.

lead

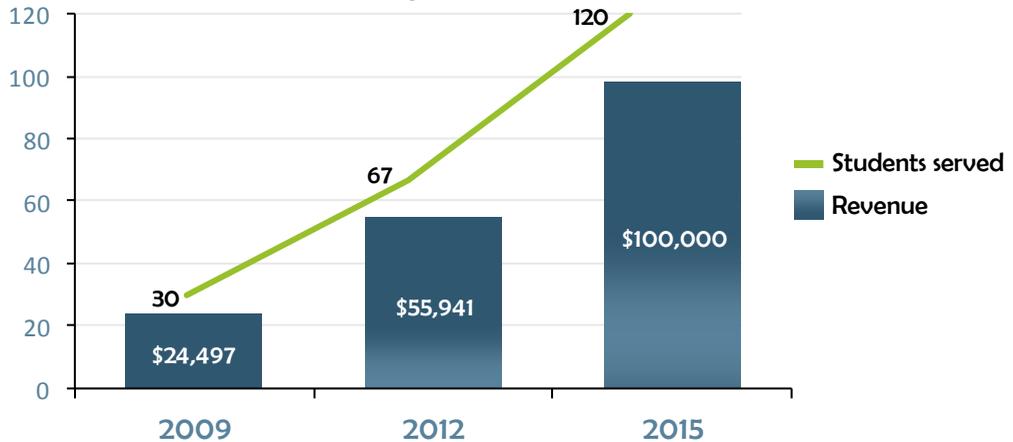
Personal development means building each youth's strengths and interests, and fostering confidence and positive attitudes. Youth find mentors in our staff, while recreational activities and career development programs help build leadership skills.

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.



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

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

Project: VISION students surveyed 2010-2011

our purpose in this community

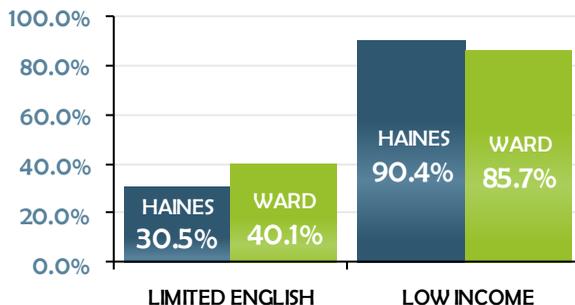
It's a common misconception that Asian American students already excel academically, and therefore, these communities have little need for tutoring and after school programs. The truth is, every community has an underserved population and we are no exception.

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.

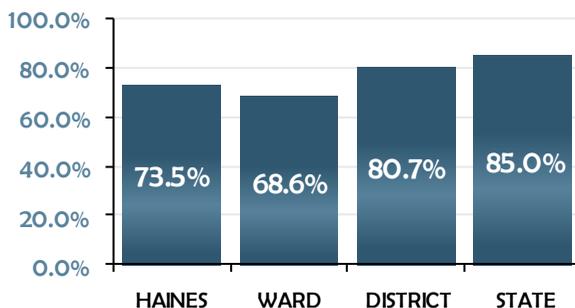
After-school can be a vulnerable time for youth. According to the 2012 Illinois Youth Survey, 45% of 8th graders in Chinatown reported having no adult supervision more than three days each week, for greater than three hours at a time. This puts youth at risk for encounters with substance abuse and violence. PV helps keep youth safe and provides a place where youth can engage in positive activities and work with positive role models.

statistics from 2010 - 2012
academic years at Haines & Ward

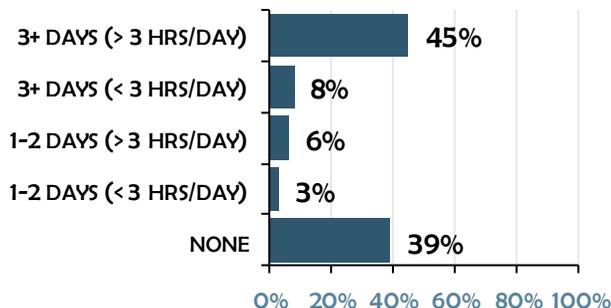
percentage of students at Haines & Ward facing barriers to learning



percentage of 8th graders meeting or exceeding Reading standards



amount of time spent home alone each week after school by 8th graders





Project: VISION is with
no matter what

PROJ



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%.

education

Education has always been at the

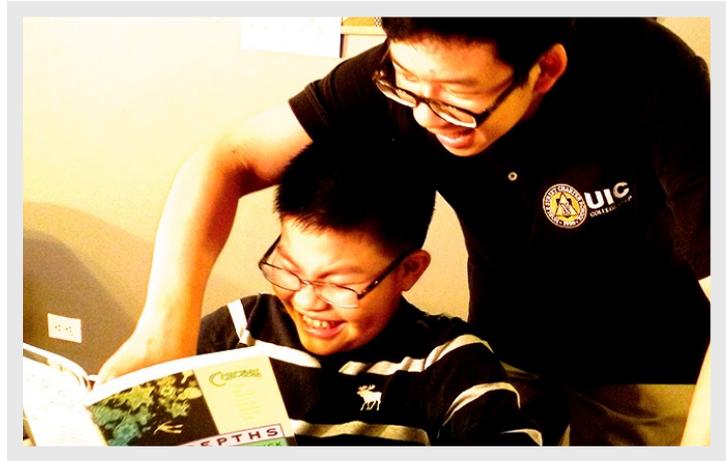
- In surveys, 89% of students felt that the program helped them perform better in school. More than 80% of students felt that the program helped them improve study skills, and 75% of students feel more confident at school.





...ing to help you
... you need help on

...ECT: VISION STUDENT, GRADE 12



highlights

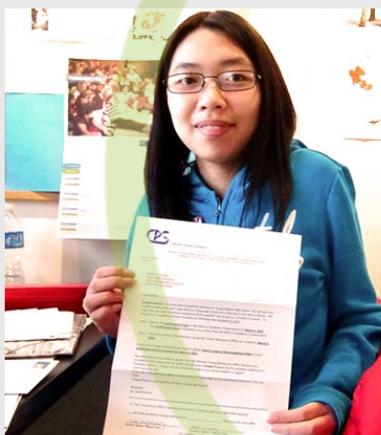
...e foundation of Project: VISION's programs.

...believed the program
...er in school. Greater
...e program helped
...prepare for tests, and
...ol.

- 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.



service highlights

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:

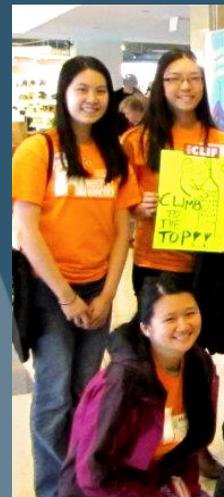
- Helping with cleanup of our neighborhood's Ping Tom Park
- Volunteering at the Hustle Up the Hancock event to raise funds for lung disease research
- Helping the Asian Health Coalition assess the safety of our neighborhood streets and sidewalks in an obesity prevention initiative

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 impact for one

The whole family lingered in the room on the day my grandpa passed away. I was supposed to rid him of the lung cancer that long years of smoking had instilled in him. Smoking took my grandpa away from me. My life was replaced with abhorrence.

In the years following, my disdain for smoking grew. Whenever I saw a person smoke, I would childishly make my presence known to the person, coughing obnoxiously. It was during my year of high school that I had the opportunity to take action. Project: VISION, a nonprofit organization in my neighborhood, was engaging youth about the harmful effects of smoking. I joined a group called Project: Smoke-Free Chinatown. The memory of my grandpa raised the stakes for me. I was informed of the project. I learned about the negative effects of smoking. I attended the workshops at Project: VISION for several weeks, my fellow volunteers and I went to the neighborhood to take pictures of people smoking to create an exhibit. My favorite part was to see a cigarette in a trash can with a note that says "I takes one."



PV student

...e hospital for countless hours
...away. The surgery that was
...cancer he acquired from
...ad led to a fatal infection.
...ay, but his presence in my
...nce for cigarettes.

...in for cigarettes only grew.
...e on the corner of a street,
...sence known by running past
...ly. It wasn't until my junior
...ne opportunity to take real
...profit tutoring center in my
...outh to raise awareness
...oking through a program
...atown using photographs.
...ced through my mind when
...signed up. My knowledge
...ng only increased as
...ject: VISION. Over
...teers and I went around
...res related to smoking
...e was a photo of a single
...caption that read: "It only

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.

“

No one told my grandpa the consequences of taking his first cigarette, but I was able to tell the people in my neighborhood

”

SAMUEL CHU, GRADE 12

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.



Leadership

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

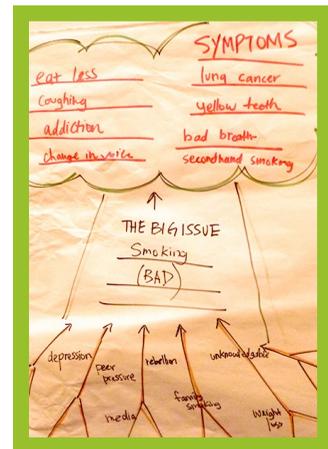


According to the 2010 Illinois Youth Survey,

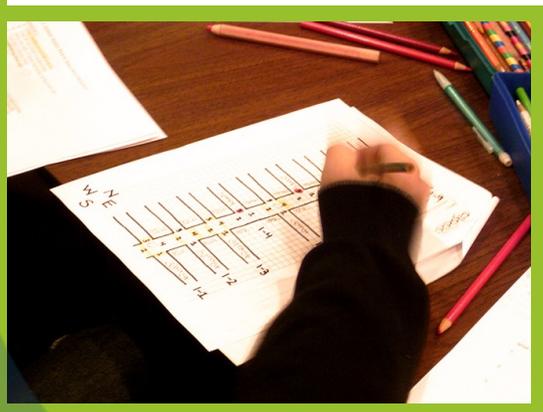
- 40% of high school seniors in our neighborhood admitted to having smoked cigarettes in their lifetimes, and 82% reported easy access to cigarettes.
- 58% of high school seniors have consumed alcohol in the past year, and 17% report binge drinking in the past 2 weeks.

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!



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statement of financial position

	2012	2011
assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	12,824	6,240
Grants Receivable	N/A	6,520
Prepaid Insurance	609	680
Prepaid Fundraising	500	N/A
TOTAL ASSETS	13,933	13,440

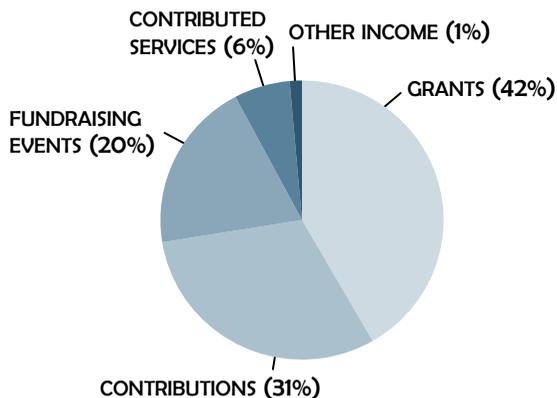
liabilities		
Accounts Payable	116	1,510
TOTAL LIABILITIES	116	1,510

net assets		
Unrestricted	13,817	11,930
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	13,817	11,930

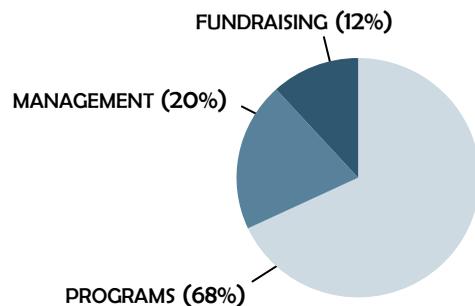
	2012	2011
revenues and other support		
Contributions* <small>*Corporate and individual donations</small>	17,250	10,454
Fundraising Events	11,020	14,995
Grants	23,289	18,317
Contributed Services	3,595	N/A
Other Income	787	413
TOTAL REVENUES AND SUPPORT	55,941	44,179

expenses		
Program Services	36,805	32,495
Support Services		
Management/General	10,851	7,018
Fundraising	6,398	3,852
TOTAL EXPENSES	54,054	43,365

2012 revenues and other support



2012 expenses



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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