NEW GENERATIONS OF INDEPENDENT, FULFILLED INDIVIDUALS CENTERED IN THEIR STRENGTHS AND COMMITTED TO SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY.
message from the chair

dear friends,

Thank you for your support of Project: VISION throughout 2018. This year, we served more youth than ever before, providing 223 youth with over 32,000 hours of services that aim to help each and every youth reach his or her full potential.

Our core programs, including the Middle School Program and the High School Scholars Program, reached 192 youths and continued to help them LEARN, encourage them to SERVE, and finally empower them to LEAD. This year, we also piloted a program at our local elementary school, Haines, providing fifteen 7th and 8th grade English Language Learners with English instruction and homework tutoring onsite. In addition, for the first time, we launched a 6-week full-day summer camp for 40 middle school youth, providing them with a safe space while also helping them build social and emotional skills.

We are excited to kick off our 15th school year this fall and look forward to sharing more of our youths’ success stories with you next year. In closing, thank you all for your generosity and support of Project: VISION’s mission. We simply could not do what we do without the support of the community and each and every one of our donors, volunteers, and staff.

Sincerely,

Steve Albright
Chair of the Board

Karen Chiu
Executive Director & Co-Founder

Project: VISION is a nonprofit organization with a mission to help youth of Chicago’s Chinatown, Bridgeport, and surrounding communities achieve their full potentials by providing them with tools for educational, personal, and civic development.

Support academic success by helping youth develop effective study skills, master knowledge of critical core subjects, and nurture a love of learning through tutoring, enrichment, and college readiness activities.
I have been a part of Project: VISION youth programs since the 8th grade and joined initially for a safe place to go after school and for homework help, although I had always been a hard-working student and mainly just needed an extra push from time to time. However, high school became more challenging, and I relied on tutoring more heavily to keep my grades up. I also benefited from the college prep programs, especially the test prep classes, essay writing workshops for applications and help with filling out the FAFSA for financial aid.

Even more so than the academic support I received at PV, however, I would say that the service learning and leadership programming at PV have helped me grow the most. Service projects taught me the importance of community, and this is also a lesson that has been reinforced by my experience with the Stay In School Initiative Saturday program. I have been in the program for three years, and last summer, I received an internship at Corazon, a youth organization in Cicero, after working very hard to improve my job interviewing skills. At Corazon, I spent the summer assisting with their youth programs. I learned to improve my organization and project management skills by helping to plan some of their weekly peace movement community events aimed to prevent neighborhood violence.

It was such an eye-opening experience to see other communities in action, and I was inspired by the positive outlook that people there had despite being an under-resourced community. I would love to someday help create the same kind of community togetherness here in Chinatown and the Asian American community to help tackle its challenges.

Foster a sense of community and social responsibility by encouraging community engagement and providing opportunities for meaningful service learning.

Build character, confidence, positive attitudes, and leadership skills that empower youth to be positive examples for their peers, an asset to the community, and ready for the workplace.
our challenge

All too often, our community is overlooked as among the most underserved neighborhoods in Chicago, but in reality many of our youth face significant barriers to success:

- 85% are from lower income families
- 98% from first generation immigrant families
- 8% would be the first in their families to attend college

We know under-resourced youths are less likely to graduate high school and to be ready for college and the workplace. Here is how PV aims to level the playing field for all youth:

- Help youth overcome barriers to success and gain equal access to education and ultimately career opportunities
- Equip youth with skills, confidence, and sense of social responsibility that empowers them to give back to the community and become future leaders
- Provide a safe space where youth can come together to support each other and share in common identities and experiences
- Advocate for access to resources and opportunities our youth need to succeed

Project: VISION was founded in 2003 by a group of five young community volunteers who saw the need for neighborhood teens to have a safe place to call their own. In fall 2004, with the help of volunteers and Boys and Girls Club, PV piloted a drop-in tutoring program serving 20 students each week. Since then, our programs have reached over 700 youth and continue to be provided free.

our story
All too often, our community is overlooked as among the most underserved neighborhoods in Chicago, but in reality many of our youth face YOUTHS SERVED SINCE 2004 report having no access to other out-of-school programs. Chicago Public Schools would be the first in their families to attend college.

Project: VISION was founded in 2003 by a group of five young professionals, students, and community volunteers who saw the need for neighborhood teens to have a safe place to call their own. In fall 2004, with the help of volunteers and borrowed space at the local tutoring program serving 20 resourced youths are less likely to graduate high school and to be ready for college and the workplace. Here is how PV aims to level the playing field for all youth:

- Help youth overcome barriers to success and gain equal access to education
- Equip youth with skills, confidence, and sense of social responsibility that empowers them to give back to the community and become future leaders
- Provide a safe space where youth can come together to support each other
- Advocate for access to resources and opportunities our youth need to succeed

OVER 700 YOUTHS SERVED SINCE 2004

95% are enrolled in Chicago Public Schools

99%

93% report having no access to other out-of-school programs
during the 2017-2018 school year...

Project: VISION programs provided academic support that youth need to navigate middle school and high school successfully to reach their college goals, while also encouraging them to find an appreciation for knowledge and learning. We served 192 youths through our After School Homework Tutoring Program, and more than 80 high school students prepared for the college application process through test prep, essay writing, financial aid workshops, and college campus visits.

Our students took responsibility for their academics, and their hard work showed:

- 91% Maintained B-average or above grades
- 80% Made an improvement by at least one letter grade in a core class
- 100% Promoted to the next grade and on track to graduating high school on time
- 100% High school seniors were accepted and committed to attending college in fall 2018
In 2018, PV partnered with John C. Haines School to pilot an after school tutoring program with goals to help English Language Learners (ELL) navigate middle school, prevent dropout, and increase graduation rates and high school readiness. The program served 15 students, helping them learn English and catch up academically while also building youths’ confidence and connectedness to the community by working closely with tutors who serve as mentors and positive role models.
Service is important because it helps me think about creating a better tomorrow.
Service is an integral part of positive youth development. Project: VISION strives to foster a positive sense of community and social responsibility in youth by encouraging volunteerism and providing opportunities for meaningful community engagement. Service learning is built into PV’s program because youth get to use what they have learned in school and develop the service-oriented mindset that future leaders need.

One of the most important life lessons Project: VISION has taught me is the act of service, which I’ve learned is the voluntary commitment to make the community a better place. Before joining PV, I associated community service with “getting into a college” or “getting out of trouble.” After joining PV and volunteering for the first time, I realize the things I’ve taken for granted such as a clean environment and being able to eat food when hungry were made possible by people coming together to take action to address an important issue. Volunteering at Burnham Nature Sanctuary, I finally realized the importance of my work and the impact of giving back. While cleaning and weeding the garden, I learned about all the positive changes that happen because of what we were doing. Now, after 5 years of volunteering with PV for different projects, I now understand the importance of service because it helps me think about creating a better tomorrow. What I do during these opportunities helps the community, and I learn life lessons that will guide me to become a good responsible citizen.

CHARLIE, GRADE 10
Young Positive Agents of Change (YPAC) allowed for students like me to exercise my leadership skills and serve my community. My peers and I learned about the many socio-economic barriers and health disparities in our own community and the effects they have on mental and physical health. We had the creative liberty to design our own service project on an issue that is important to us and the community, so we focused on homelessness, a growing problem in our neighborhood. We decided to host a drive for feminine hygiene supplies. YPAC gave me the opportunity to help the homeless improve their health status and bring more awareness to women’s health issues. I developed skills necessary to plan and execute an idea and learned the importance of communicating with my peers to successfully execute it. Most importantly, I had the chance to give back. I was amazed that even a small assistance such as providing hygiene products can create a difference in someone’s life and change our community for the better.

Project: VISION leadership programs aim to help youth achieve personal growth, build character, and develop positive attitudes. PV youth also learn to make good life choices and become engaged citizens who are prepared for the future.

By helping youth develop strengths, interests, and leadership skills, our programs aim to empower youth to be positive examples for their peers, an asset to the community, and ready for the workplace.

This year, Project: VISION students spent over 3 leaders they aspire to be. More than 70 middle school youth participated in the Young Leaders’ workshop, and 80 high school students completed mentoring programs, and professional development...
leadership highlights

3,000 HOURS DEVELOPING LEADERSHIP SKILLS

150 YOUTHS PRACTICED LEADERSHIP

6 STUDENTS COMPLETED PAID SUMMER INTERNSHIPS

By helping youth develop strengths, interests, and leadership skills, our programs aim to empower youth to be positive examples for their peers, an asset to the community, and ready for the future. PV youth also learn to make good life choices and become engaged in their community.

4,000 hours working toward being the type of youth who contributed year-long community engagement projects, mentorships, and summer internships.

High school youth participated in the Young Leaders’ Business Institute, which included professional development and summer internships.
thank you!

Project: VISION’s beginnings were made possible by the generosity of those who gave their time and resources. Today, we continue to thrive because our volunteers, donors and funders, and community partners continue to support our work in critical ways. We thank them all for their generous commitments and contributions to our organization and, more importantly, our youths’ futures.

corporate/foundation contributors

up to $999
- Abbott Laboratories
- Adello
- AIG
- American Metro Bank
- BDC Travel
- BMO Harris
- Chinatown Chamber of Commerce
- Dragon Boat Race for Literacy
- Disney YSA
- Empire Taste
- Federal Home Loan Banks
- Henry Crown & Company
- HMC Realty
- Janice Dantes, Attorney at Law
- Lisa’s Herbal
- Nike
- Pfizer
- Proven IT
- Redfin
- Reed Smith
- Sanofi
- Trippy
- University of Illinois at Chicago
- World Financial Group

$1,000 to $4,999
- Allstate Foundation
- Asian McDonald’s Operators Association
- Brisk Engineering
- Chicago Bears
- Grainger
- IAC
- IMC
- New Frontiers Foundation
- PwC
- Relativity
- Synchrony Financial
- Verde Energy Efficiency Experts
- Wintrust Bank

$5,000 to $10,000
- Albert Pick Jr. Foundation
- Blowitz-Ridgeway Foundation
- Northern Trust Centennial Fund
- TJX Foundation
- WP & HB White Foundation

>$10,000
- Cathay Bank Foundation
- Exelon Corporation Foundation
  (Stay in School Initiative)
- United Way of Metropolitan Chicago Impact Fund,
  a McCormick Foundation Fund
A special thanks to our partners at Impaktfel for their generous in-kind support, implementing Agile and helping us navigate our data, finance, fundraising, and organizational strategy needs.

impaktfel
http://impaktfel.com/
## Our Financials

### Revenues & Supports

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
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<tr>
<td>Contributions*</td>
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<td>Fundraising Events</td>
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<td>Grants</td>
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<td>Program Service Revenues</td>
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<td>Contributed Services</td>
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<td>In-kind Contributions</td>
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<td>Other Income</td>
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### Total Revenues & Support

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### Expenses

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<td>Support Services</td>
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<td>Management/General</td>
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### Total Expenses

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### Net Assets

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<td>Unrestricted</td>
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### Total Liabilities & Net Assets

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>62,242</td>
<td>64,496</td>
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*The financial data presented here have been summarized from the financial records of Project: VISION and are preliminary and unaudited. A complete copy of the audit and Form 990 for the year ended August 31, 2018 will be available upon request after Jan 1, 2019.*
I am currently a senior at Thomas Kelly High School. I was born in China and came here at the age of three. I struggled with learning English growing up, and I wasn’t a straight A student. When I started Project: VISION, I had horrible grades to the point where I was embarrassed to show them to people. In sixth grade, I enrolled in Project: VISION’s programs, and I have come a long way since then. Even though my parents originally bought me practice books to help me prepare for the transition from elementary school to middle school, to be honest, I learned so much more from the wonderful tutors I had at PV than the textbooks. Working with the tutors on Tuesdays and Thursdays at PV has helped my grades increase significantly and not only that, PV has also made me think about my future. They helped me realize the importance of getting a good education and going to college. PV has supported me for 6 years, and continue to support me along the way. I learned so much...building up my confidence, learning perseverance, and putting in the hard work and dedication to reach my dreams.

Looking forward

Our Big Goals for 2019

- 250 students served
- 100% on time grade promotion
- 100% on time high school graduation
- 100% seniors go on to college

What we will be up to in 2019:

- Strengthening our core programs to help youth LEARN, SERVE, and LEAD
- Expanding our English Language Learner tutoring program at John C. Haines School
- Building organizational capacity with focus on increasing fundraising
Project: VISION, Inc.
MONDAYS THRU FRIDAYS 3PM TO 7PM | SATURDAYS 10AM TO 1PM

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