

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

Annual Report 2017-2018

FISCAL YEAR SEPTEMBER 1, 2017 – AUGUST 31, 2018



Project:VISION
a nonprofit youth organization

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

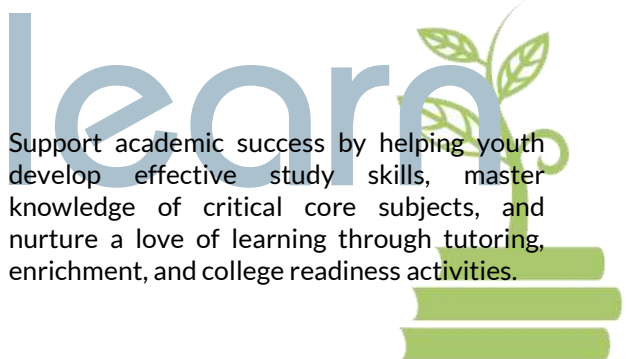


Karen Chiu
Executive Director &
Co-Founder



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.



eric's story



“

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.

”



ENGAGED THEIR
COMMUNITY THROUGH
SERVICE AND
LEADERSHIP PROJECTS



HOURS OF
PROGRAMMING
PROVIDED

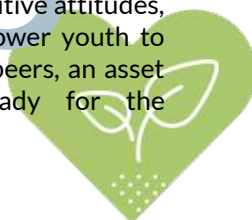
serve

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



lead

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 story

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

We know under-resourced youths are less likely to graduate for college and the workplace. Here is how PV aims to level the

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

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:



are from lower income families



from first generation immigrant families



would be the families to

ry

ing professionals, students, and
teens to have a safe place to
borrowed space at the local
tutoring program serving 20
over 700 youth and continue

the high school and to be ready
the playing field for all youth:

ccess to education

responsibility that
the future leaders

upport each other

youth need to succeed



the first in their
attend college



are enrolled in
Chicago Public Schools



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



192

YOUTHS
SERVED



80

HIGH SCHOOL
STUDENTS PREPARED
FOR THE COLLEGE
APPLICATION PROCESS



educational highlights

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.

”



ies of service

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.



YOUTH
VOLUNTEERS



COMMUNITY
PROJECTS
COMPLETED



1,600
HOURS OF
SERVICE PROVIDED

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.

”



KASSI, GRADE 11



Project: VISION leadership programs aim to help and develop positive attitudes. PV youth also learn to be positive citizens who are prepared for the future.

By helping youth develop strengths, interests, and skills, VISION helps youth to be positive examples for their peers, families, and workplace.

This year, Project: VISION students spent over 300 hours as leaders they aspire to be. More than 70 middle school students attended a leadership workshop, and 80 high school students completed a leadership mentoring program, and professional development.





highlights

... youth achieve personal growth, build character,
... n to make good life choices and become engaged

... d leadership skills, our programs aim to empower
... an asset to the community, and ready for the

... ,000 hours working toward being the type of
... school youth participated in the 'Young Leaders'
... ted year-long community engagement projects,
... nt and summer internships.



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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

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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*

	2018	2017
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assets

Cash and Cash Equivalents	38,242	55,590
Contributions Receivable	15,380	1,075
Refundable Lease Deposit	6,480	6,480
Prepaid Expenses	2,140	1,351
TOTAL ASSETS	62,242	64,496

liabilities

Accounts Payable	6,171	1,417
Line of Credit	30,000	30,000
Accrued Real Estate Taxes Payable	16,059	4,140
Deferred Rental Liability	993	974
Deferred Revenue	-	450
TOTAL LIABILITIES	53,223	36,981

net assets

Temporarily Restricted	37,500	43,800
Unrestricted	-28,481	-16,285
Total Net Assets	9,019	27,515
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	62,242	64,496

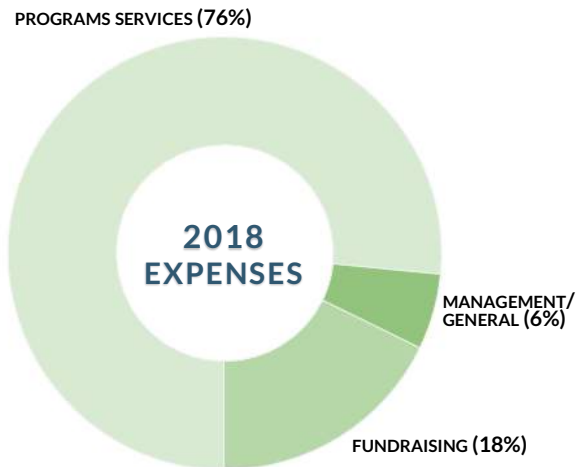
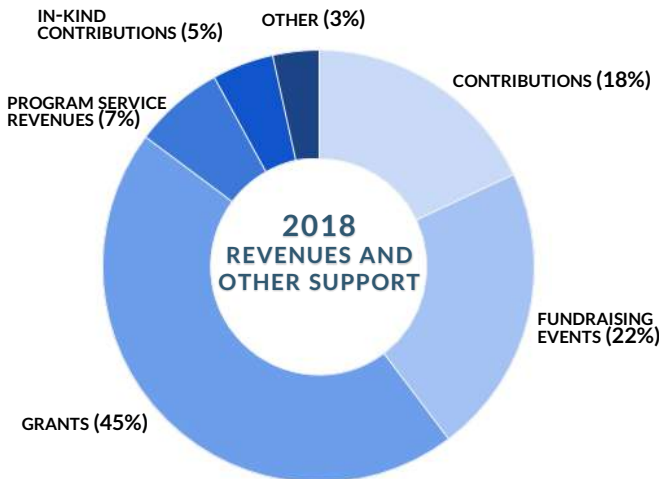
	2018	2017
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revenues & supports

Contributions*	57,974	49,658
*Corporate and individual donations		
Fundraising Events	70,039	57,181
Grants	146,613	122,278
Program Service Revenues	21,805	0
Contributed Services	0	1,600
In-kind Contributions	15,017	0
Other Income	10,967	852
TOTAL REVENUES & SUPPORT	322,415	231,569

expenses

Program Services	260,938	234,039
Support Services		
Management/General	19,131	11,756
Fundraising	60,841	50,735
TOTAL EXPENSES	340,910	296,530



* 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.



looking forward

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 on 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.

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 | SATUDAYS 10AM TO 1PM

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www.projectVISIONchicago.org