



Annual Report 2018-2019
FISCAL YEAR SEPTEMBER 1, 2018 – AUGUST 31, 2019

Dear Friends,

We are extremely excited and proud to share with you another year of Project: VISION's accomplishments! In our 15th school year, we served over 250 middle and high school students, providing them with over 36,000 hours of services that helped our youth feel supported to LEARN, motivated to SERVE, and empowered to LEAD. These programs continue to pave the way for youth to reach their full potentials, not only as students, but as good citizens and future leaders.

We spent this year continuing to strengthen our core programs so that our community's youth have the support, skills, and confidence they need to succeed. While many of our youth come from low income, first generation immigrant families, we are determined to not let these factors prevent kids from having the opportunities they deserve. This year, we continued our partnership with John C. Haines School, providing onsite tutoring for middle school English Language Learners. We also helped 7th and 8th graders strengthen basic math and reading skills to prepare for critical standardized tests that determine admissions to competitive high school programs. For our high schoolers, we provided one-on-one mentoring to help

them navigate the college application process. We are proud to say that, once again, 100% of our youth were admitted to a 4-year college and are enrolling in fall 2019! Our teens also prepared for the real world with a record number 6 getting paid summer internships.

We see the potential in every one of our youth, and your support makes it possible for us to help each of their talents and abilities, as they reach their dreams. We hope the success stories in the pages inspire you to continue helping us create a bright future for our youth. Thank you again for your generosity!

SINCERELY,



STEVE ALBRIGHT
Chair of the Board



KAREN CHIU
Executive Director &
Co-Founder

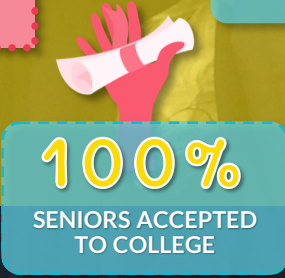
Project: VISION is a nonprofit organization with a mission to help youth of Chicago's Chinatown, Bridgeport, and surrounding communities achieve their full potentials by providing them with tools for educational, personal, and civic development.

Learn

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.

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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 HISTORY

Project: VISION was founded in 2003 by a group of five young professionals, students, and community volunteers who saw a need for neighborhood teens to have a safe place to call their own, where they could find positive role models and pave a path to a bright future.

In the fall of 2004, PV's team of dedicated volunteers piloted a drop-in tutoring program serving about 20 students each week. Since then, our core programs have reached over 750 youth and continue to be provided free.

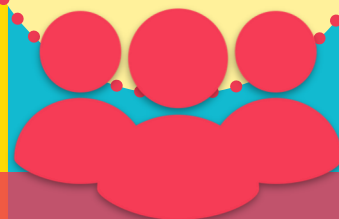
We know under-resourced youths are less likely to graduate high school and to be ready for college and the workplace. Here is how PV aims to level the playing field for all youth:

- 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

OVER

750

YOUTHS SERVED
SINCE 2004



All too often, our community
Chicago. In r

85%

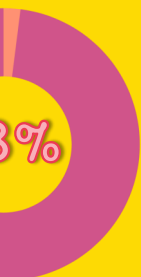
are from lower
income families

98%

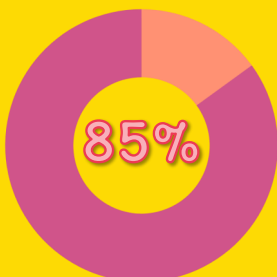
from first
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our CHALLENGE

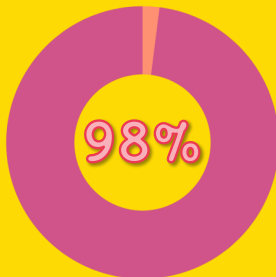
Community is overlooked as among the most underserved neighborhoods in reality, many of our youth face significant obstacles to success:



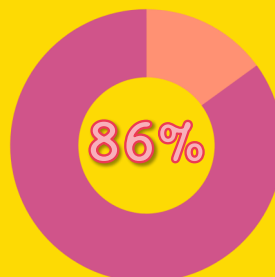
generation
at families



would be the first in their
families to attend college



are enrolled in
Chicago Public Schools



report having no access to
other out-of-school programs

PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS

Project: VISION supports youth as they navigate the often challenging middle school and high school years. Whether youth are building basic math skills, doing community service for the first time, or applying to college, they need the right support and guidance to grow and thrive. Project: VISION's programs provide interventions at all the critical milestones to ensure that every youth stays on a clear path to success.

GRADES 6 & 7

As youth enter the middle school years, the pace of learning accelerates, concepts get harder, and it is during these grades that students develop the right study habits and attitudes toward school. The middle school years are sometimes known as the "make it or break it" school years, when students show early signs of disengaging from school, and low performance during this time increases the likelihood of high school dropout.



PV supports this critical transition by providing students with academic support through after school tutoring and helps students strengthen basic skills in reading, math, and writing, while reinforcing good study habits. 100% of middle school students were promoted to the next grade on time.

GRADE 8

In the last year of middle school, students are most concerned with high school admissions, which is a competitive process within the Chicago Public Schools system.

Students in the Greater Chinatown community are assigned to two neighborhood schools, which, unfortunately, are CPS level 2 (low rating) schools. Thus, most students apply to other neighborhood schools or charter schools, while the highest performing students compete for selective enrollment high school seats. In 2016, 13,400 students competed for only 3,600 selective enrollment seats.



PV programs continue to help support students' academic work while staff help them apply and prepare for high school. PV also introduces middle schoolers to service learning through volunteering in the community and participating in leadership training so that they build the social skills, study habits, and confidence they need to enter the 9th grade. Last year, 84% of our middle schoolers completed their service and leadership requirements.

GRADE 9

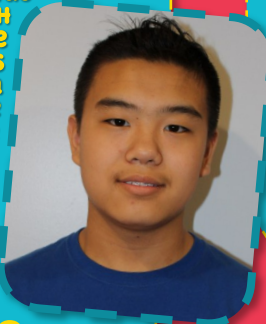
Youth often need support during this transition between middle and high school. Academics become more challenging, and there are also many social and emotional growth milestones.

PV freshmen are cohorted to staff who help them work through goal-setting and planning the next four years.

PV students are introduced to year-long project-based service and leadership experiences and start to explore their role in their surrounding communities.

I HAVE BEEN IN PV SINCE 6TH GRADE AND I HAVE LEARNED A LOT IN THE PROCESS. THIS YEAR I'M A FRESHMAN AND IT'S GOING TO BE MUCH HARDER THAN LAST YEAR, BECAUSE MIDDLE SCHOOL IS MUCH EASIER THAN HIGH SCHOOL. PV HAS SO FAR HELPED ME WITH HOMEWORK, HELPED ME IMPROVE MY STUDYING AND LIFE SKILLS THAT I KNOW WILL HELP ME IN THE FUTURE. THE TUTORS HERE ARE VERY EXPERIENCED AND SOME TUTORS EVEN WENT TO THE SAME HIGH SCHOOL THAT I CURRENTLY GO TO. I MADE FRIENDS HERE AND HAVE A SENSE OF WHAT MY FUTURE MAY LOOK LIKE BY TALKING WITH PV TUTORS AND MENTORS WHO WORK HERE.

KAIGE, GRADE 9



GRADES 10 & 11

Sophomore and junior years are arguably the most important years academically for high school students - they continue to build knowledge, practice study skills and habits, and start to think more seriously about their college prospects.

During this time, PV continues to support youth academically, while helping them get organized and prepared for the college application process through test preparation classes, college campus visits, and mentoring.



GRADE 12

In the final year of high school, seniors get one-on-one counseling and mentoring from PV staff, with a goal of submitting at least 3 college applications and completing all financial aid applications. PV programs also prepare youth for adulthood, providing them with life skills workshops to address things like financial literacy and self care, and helping them develop professional skills for the workplace.

In 2019, all 15 PV seniors were accepted into college! In fact, seniors were accepted to an average of 4 schools, and every senior committed to attending the following fall.



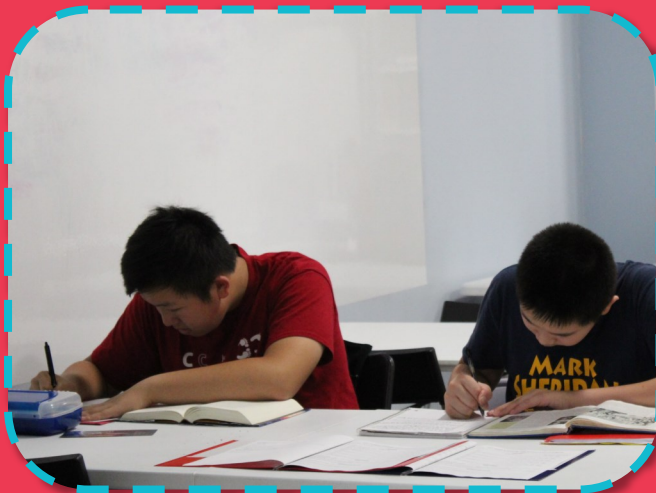
201

YOUTHS
SERVED



73

MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS
PREPARED FOR NWEA AND
SELECTIVE ENROLLMENT
HIGH SCHOOL EXAMS



DURING THE 2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR

Project: VISION programs provided academic support that youth needed to succeed in middle school and high school successfully to reach their college goals. In the 2018-2019, PV served **201** youths through our After School Home programs at the Center and our school-based program at John C. McKinstry. We also provide **73** middle school students with standardized test preparation for the NWEA and the selective enrollment high school exams for the first time.

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

82%

MADE AN IMPROVEMENT BY AT LEAST
ONE LETTER GRADE IN A CORE CLASS



85%

MAINTAINED B-AVERAGE OR ABOVE GRADES



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 2019



EDUCATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS



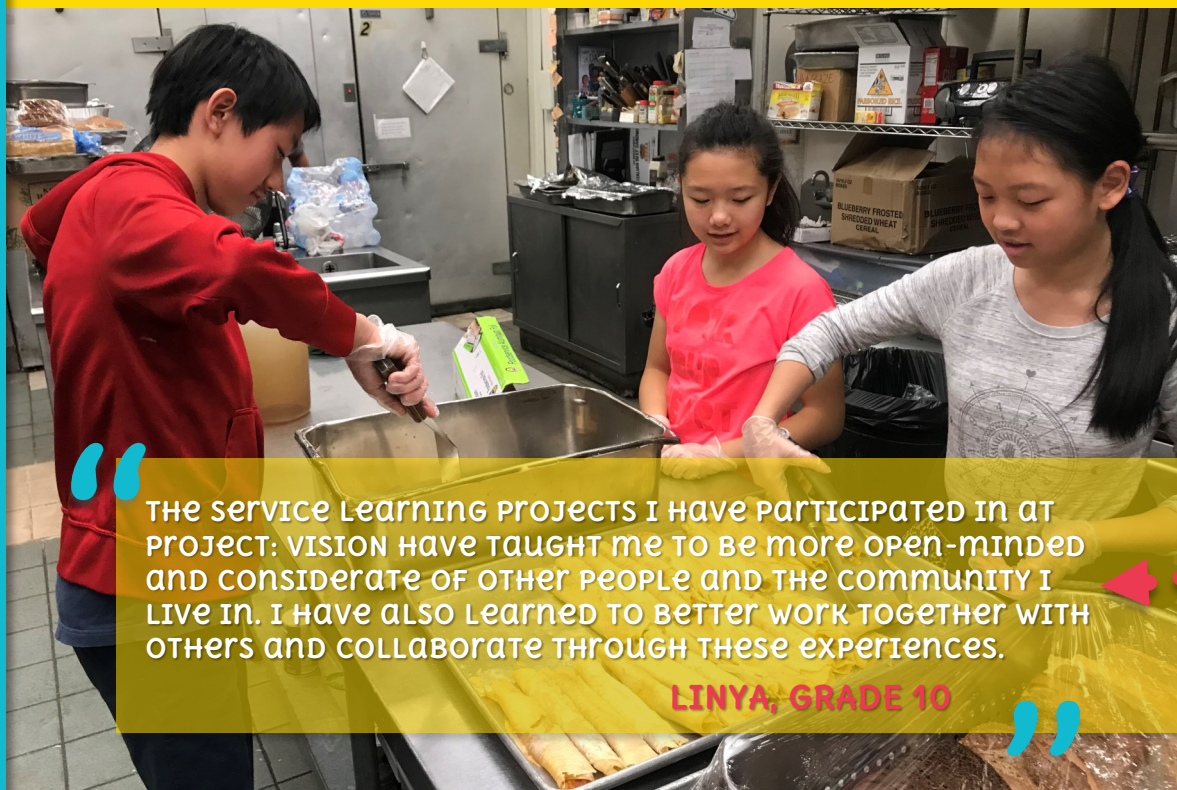
SCHOOL year...

ed to navigate
goals. During
work Tutoring
Haines School.
preparation for
st time.





Research shows that engaging in service learning that addresses real-world issues helps youth improve academic performance. At PV, service is an integral part of our positive youth development model to develop successful students who are also active, caring citizens. By providing youth with opportunities for meaningful civic engagement, PV aims to nurture a strong sense of social responsibility in our youth and set them on a path of lifelong service to their communities.



“THE SERVICE LEARNING PROJECTS I HAVE PARTICIPATED IN AT PROJECT: VISION HAVE TAUGHT ME TO BE MORE OPEN-MINDED AND CONSIDERATE OF OTHER PEOPLE AND THE COMMUNITY I LIVE IN. I HAVE ALSO LEARNED TO BETTER WORK TOGETHER WITH OTHERS AND COLLABORATE THROUGH THESE EXPERIENCES.

LINYA, GRADE 10

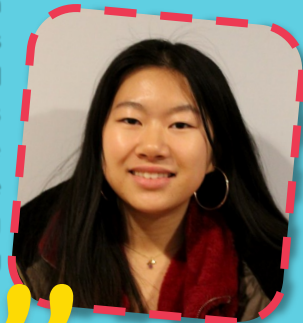


STORIES OF service

SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS



Community service has shaped who I am today because of the knowledge I gained from working in new environments and the community that surrounds me when I volunteer. Through PV, I had the opportunity to work with Feed My Starving Children to pack much-needed nutritious meals and food for people all over the world, especially to countries in Africa where poverty is a big problem. I learned what hunger looks like and that not everyone sleeps at night with a full stomach. When I saw videos of children and adults gratefully receiving the food bags full of rice, vegetables, and vitamins we packed, it was so heartwarming to know that I was able to make an impact, even though it was no where close to the luxurious food that other people eat. These experiences make me grateful because I know that not only am I serving my community, I am also surrounded by a positive and encouraging network of peers who work together to give back to those in need.



LINA, GRADE 11

Project: VISION leadership programs aim to help youth build character, confidence, and leadership skills. PV youth also maintain a positive attitude, learn to make good life choices, and become engaged citizens who are ready for the workplace.

PV's leadership programs are designed as project-based learning opportunities that help youth build essential 21st century skills including the Four C's:

COMMUNICATION

share ideas effectively with others through verbal, written, and other nonverbal means



CRITICAL THINKING

Find solutions to problems through a process of analyzing and interpreting information



COLLABORATION

work well with diverse teams, demonstrating responsibility, adaptability, and accountability, to achieve shared goals



CREATIVITY

Develop new and innovative ideas



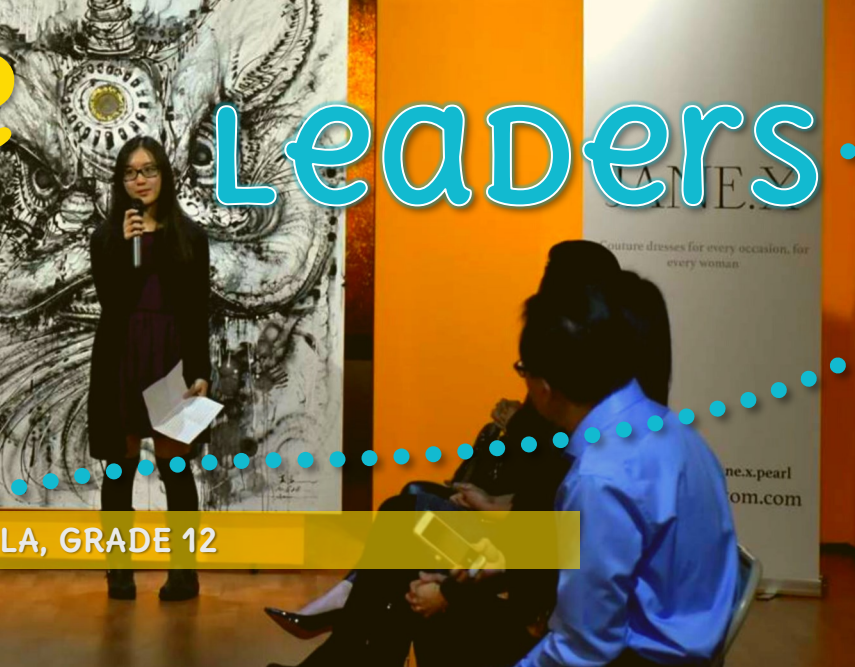
FUTURE



When I was in sixth grade, I was struggling to be a member of the Project: VISION program. But as I grew, I understood that there are many individuals cr

My tutors and mentors at Project: VISION helped me grow in the community, and as a result I developed a gratitude for granted. Hours spent weaving mats out of a limited number of groceries to families in need is fortunate I really am. Through service projects, interpersonal communication and problem-

Never did 12 year-old me think that Project: VISION would change my life and become one of the places I feel most at home. Lasting friendships with other students and mentors I am today, transforming from a shy and quiet person with a love of visual arts, to one that could be a motivational speaker to a room full of people. I became a leader and have used my voice to share with others about my life. Together we are a family striving to



LA, GRADE 12

In grade 12, my mom enrolled me into Project: VISION. In school, and they advertised themselves to Chinatown community as an afterschool tutoring center. I spent more of my afternoons at PV, the more I realized they were more than a place for homework help that I could credit it to be.

Project: VISION taught me the importance of giving back to the community. I had great appreciation for things I had previously taken for granted. Handing out a bag of plastic bags for the homeless and handing out a bag of food at a food pantry brought into perspective how much I could do. As a project, I became a better leader, improving my problem-solving skills.

Project: VISION would become such a prominent part of my life that I can be myself. Since joining, I have made many friends. They helped shape me into the person that I am today. I went from a shy girl to one that founded a club embracing her leadership instead of a follower, to one that can give back. I am a role model for my peers and younger students. It is how being apart of Project: VISION has changed my life towards a better future, one student at a time.

”

3,000+

HOURS WORKING ON
SKILLS TO BE THE
TYPES OF LEADERS
THEY ASPIRE TO BE



167

YOUTH
PARTICIPATED IN
A LEADERSHIP
PROJECT

6 STUDENTS

COMPLETED PAID
SUMMER INTERNSHIPS



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Elaine Tang

THANK YOU!

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

CORPORATE/FOUNDATION CONTRIBUTORS

UP TO \$999

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Allstate

American Metro Bank

Arthur Gallagher

Baxter

Bright Funds

Coalition for a Better Chinese
American Community

Century 21

Chinatown Chamber of Commerce
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Fortune Brands

Freedom Title

Lakeside Bank

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\$1,000 TO \$4,999

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Transamerica

Verde Energy Efficiency Experts

Verizon

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TJX Foundation

WP & HB White Foundation

>\$10,000

Cathay Bank Foundation

Chinatown Parking Lot Corporation

Exelon Corporation Foundation
(Stay in School Initiative)

Illinois State Board of Education
IL Charitable Trust

United Way of Metropolitan
Chicago Impact Fund,
a McCormick Foundation Fund

INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTORS

\$100 TO \$499

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\$500 TO \$999

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\$1,000+

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Sophia Shih
Dr. Tony Chow

OUR SUPPORTERS



A special thank you to our partners at McDonald's Corporation for their generous support, sponsoring PV's team in the 2019 Chinatown 5K, hosting a visit for high schoolers at their corporate office, and teaching PV Summer Campers the importance of teamwork and collaboration on Field Day.

OUR 2019 FINANCIALS

ASSETS

Cash & Cash equivalents	75,135
Contributions Receivable	46,307
Refundable Lease Deposit	6,480
Prepaid Expenses	1,564

TOTAL ASSETS 129,216

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	8,179
Line of Credit	24,000
Accrued Real Estate Taxes Payable	6,613
Deferred Rental Liability	992

TOTAL LIABILITIES 39,784

NET ASSETS

With Donor Restrictions	76,037
Without Donor Restrictions	13,395
Total Net Assets	89,432

TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS 129,216

Revenue & SUPPORTS

Contributions	97,555
Fundraising Events	70,485
Grants	226,303
Program Service Revenues	30,420
Contributed Services	0
In-kind Contributions	10,816
Other Income	2,275

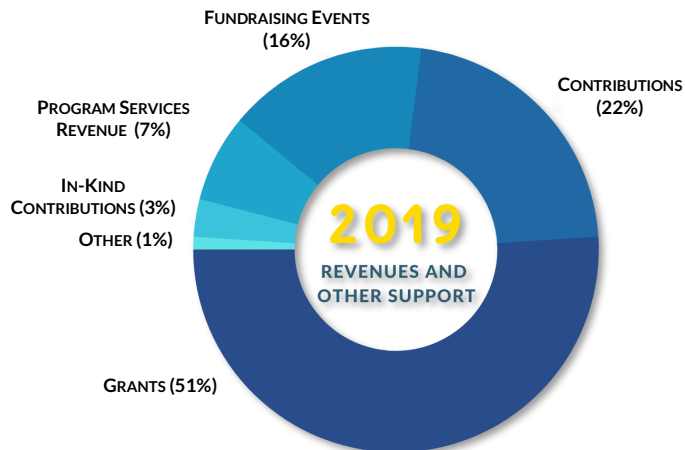
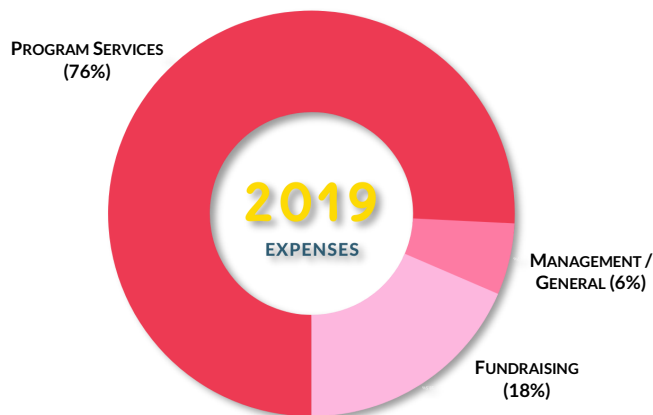
TOTAL Revenue & SUPPORT 437,854

EXPENSES

Program Services	269,472
Support Services	
Management/General	22,029
Fundraising	65,940

TOTAL EXPENSES 357,441

NET Increase in NET ASSETS 80,413





Throughout my early childhood, Cantonese was the only language that I knew. My parents were not fluent in English, so I struggled to learn it as well. As I got older, I continued to struggle with homework exercises that my peers thought were simple. Although I struggled with academics as a child, I had one support system that was there for me when my teachers were not, Project: VISION. For the past 6 years, Project: VISION helped me develop invaluable life skills, such as communication and leadership, that I would not have attained on my own. Throughout my time at Project: VISION, I have had many eye opening experiences. I led a mental health session for adolescents living in the Bridgeport community, I hosted a food drive with my peers, and I have done many other acts of service that helped me better understand the world from other perspectives. Being a student at Project: VISION has shaped me into the person I am today. Without the support from many tutors, I would not be within the top 5% of my class. Thanks to the support I have received from Project: VISION, I have been inspired to continue to help others. I want to become a teacher in the future and be able to help students like me succeed.

OUR BIG GOALS FOR 2020



students served



on time grade promotion



on time high school
graduation



seniors go on to college

WHAT WE WILL BE UP TO IN 2020:

- Expanding our after school program at John C. Haines School to include both general education and English Language Learners.
- Piloting a new after school program for both general education and English Language Learner middle schoolers at James Ward School.
- Working to engage parents better with teachers, schools, and the community through the nationally recognized Parent Mentor Program (and as the only primarily Asian American community within the Illinois program).



Project:VISION
a nonprofit youth organization



PROJECT: VISION, Inc.

MONDAYS THRU FRIDAYS 9AM TO 7PM | SATURDAYS 9AM TO 5PM

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