



Project.VISION

ANNUAL REPORT

2020-2021

FISCAL YEAR SEPTEMBER 1, 2020 – AUGUST 31, 2021

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



DEAR PROJECT: VISION FRIENDS,

We are happy and excited to share our year-in-review, as we continue to feel much gratitude for all of you who walked alongside us to support our work during this challenging year. The needs of our youth and their families continued to increase and grow in complexity because of the pandemic, but with your support, we were able to remain committed and focused on delivering high quality and impactful programs. THANK YOU for your continued support!

Although the majority of the year was spent virtually, we still managed to engage 300+ youth with a full range of programming. Through online homework help, tutoring, and academic enrichment classes, PV was able to help 98% of youth promote to the next grade successfully, and 94% maintained C-average or better grades. Overall, 100% of our 8th graders graduated on time, while 100% of our seniors graduated high school and were accepted into at least one university.

Besides achieving academic goals, most youth also stayed highly engaged with extracurricular activities: 90% of our youth collectively spent over 2,300 hours completing community service and leadership training, while 30 high school youth each completed 180 hours of experiential learning through summer internships. As COVID-19 restrictions relaxed with the availability of vaccines, PV was able to transition back to hybrid programming over the summer. Our summer programs served over 100 youth through both in-person and online "camp" activities as well as academic enrichment to help close learning gaps.

While PV continued our core youth services, we also made sure to do our part in addressing the broader community's ongoing challenges, including pandemic-related hardships, mental health, and the troubling surge in anti-Asian hate and violence. For example, via the Parent Mentor Program, our parent volunteers stepped up to support teachers at our local schools by offering

online enrichment for K-3 students. We also continued educating families about COVID-19 safety and achieved an 80% vaccination rate of all eligible PV youth by the end of summer. Lastly, to help the community cope with AAPID, more than 200 youth and parents participated in bystander training, racial solidarity workshops, and focus groups.

As we move forward, we envision PV to fully work with youth in person again and continue to do so in a holistic way, ensuring the well-being of their social, emotional, and mental health in addition to academic success. We are also excited to work with our local school partners again, continue meaningful engagement with parents and families, and collaborate with fellow service organizations.

Your generosity and compassion empower this important work. We know we could not do this without you. Thank you again for believing in our mission, and we hope the stories in the following pages will make you proud to be a supporter!

Sincerely,



Steve Albright
Chair of the Board



Karen Chiu
Executive Director & Co-Founder



Trang Truong
Chair-Elect of the Board

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.

MESSAGE

from the Chair & ED

306

YOUTHS SERVED

90%

ENGAGED THEIR
COMMUNITY THROUGH
SERVICE & LEADERSHIP
PROJECTS

7,705
HOURS

SPENT WORKING ON SKILLS TO
BE THE TYPES OF LEADERS
YOUTH ASPIRE TO BE

OVER
34,000

HOURS OF
PROGRAMMING
PROVIDED

100%

HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS WERE
ACCEPTED AND COMMITTED
TO ATTENDING COLLEGE IN
FALL 2021

30

YOUTHS
COMPLETED
PAID SUMMER
INTERNSHIPS

SERVE

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

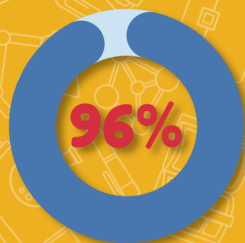
LEAD

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.

Project: VISION's STORY

OUR CHALLENGE

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



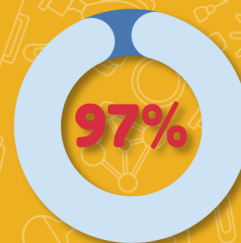
are from lower
income families



from first generation
immigrant families



would be the first in their
families to attend college



are enrolled in
Chicago Public Schools

rep
other

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 1,100 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 diverse resources and opportunities our youth need to succeed

OVER
1,100

YOUTHS SERVED
SINCE 2004

89%

port having no access to
out-of-school programs

pathways

TO

SUCCESS

Project: VISION supports youth as they navigate the often challenging middle 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. PV'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.

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.

Greater Chinatown students are assigned to two lower rated neighborhood schools. Thus, most students apply to other neighborhood schools, charter schools, or selective enrollment schools, which are the most competitive. In 2018, 16,500 students competed for only 3,400 selective enrollment seats.



PV programs continue to help support students' academic work while staff help them apply to 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.

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.

With help from staff, freshmen begin working on 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.

GRADES 10 & 11

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

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



100%

HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS WERE
ACCEPTED AND COMMITTED TO
ATTENDING COLLEGE IN

FALL 2021

4

AVERAGE NUMBER
OF COLLEGE
ACCEPTANCES EACH
SENIOR RECEIVED

EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS

OVER
34,000
HOURS OF
PROGRAMMING
PROVIDED

DURING THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR .

306

YOUTHS SERVED

Although PV spent most of the school year online, we supported more than **300** students academically through daily homework help, small group and one-on-one tutoring, as well as math and ELA enrichment classes.

Despite the challenges of a virtual school year, our youth persevered:

98%

PROMOTED TO THE NEXT GRADE AND ON TRACK TO GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL ON TIME

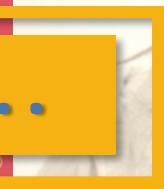


100%

HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS WERE ACCEPTED AND COMMITTED TO ATTENDING COLLEGE IN FALL 2021



IAL S



MEET XIUYI

“

Growing up as a first-generation student in America, there has always been a gap between what my parents can provide for me and the resources I need. My parents were not given the privilege of education beyond their third year of high school and came to America with no English in their vocabulary. From a young age, I've navigated the American school system on my own—doing homework and filling out applications. Despite this lifestyle going well for me, it stopped working when I transferred schools and entered high school. I started getting overwhelmed by school and the responsibilities that came with moving through the American education system.

I've always felt ashamed of the need to ask for help. However, when I finally brought myself to join Project: VISION, I realized this was the right choice. PV allowed me to be comfortable with asking questions and I was able to delve deeper into my courses than I've ever had. I got the help I needed in school and learned how to navigate life through the activities PV provided. I was able to land an internship with Exelon Corporation through PV, where I was able to learn the skills I needed for the workplace. Because of how much Project: VISION had offered me, I decided to search and apply to other programs like Chicago Scholars and QuestBridge.

I used the knowledge that was provided to me through my programs to propel me as I'm applying for colleges and finishing my senior year. Through the many opportunities that are at my hands, I've been able to educate myself in a variety of fields. I knew that I didn't need to let my parents' challenges hinder my ability to succeed and get a good education. Although my parents couldn't help me directly, Project: VISION helped and provided opportunities that enriched my education.

”



WOW

PROJECT: WATCH OUT WORLD

“I enjoyed my experience because I stayed productive and I learned something new during the summer.”

Project: Watch Out World (WOW) is a workforce development leadership program that supports 30 high school youth to become ready for the workplace through training in essential employability skills and competencies.

Throughout the school year, students improve and develop their professional skills through a series of workshops. Youths are placed in summer internships at worksite partners, where they gain authentic work experiences and continue to engage in mentoring and career exploration and planning.



“

This internship experience allowed me to discover new skills and tasks I am particularly good at and interested in, so I know how to narrow down what career path I want to take and set goals that align with my interests. I was able to experience the corporate world, and it gave me a new perspective on the type of environment I want to work in.





90%

ENGAGED THEIR
COMMUNITY THROUGH
SERVICE & LEADERSHIP
PROJECTS



7,705
HOURS

SPENT WORKING ON SKILLS TO
BE THE TYPES OF LEADERS
YOUTH ASPIRE TO BE



30

YOUTHS COMPLETED
PAID SUMMER
INTERNSHIPS

At PV, service and leadership are an integral part of our positive youth development model to train 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 and leadership within their communities. Despite this year's challenges, PV youth still managed to stay connected through our service and leadership activities.



SERVICE & LEADERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

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work in.

STORIES OF RES

PARENT MENTOR PROGRAM

The **P**arent **M**entor **P**rogram (**PMP**) is designed to empower parents to engage in their schools and build deep lasting relationships with teachers and school staff. Parent Mentors also attend regular leadership workshops and trainings at PV to build leadership skills, receive instructional practice, restorative practice, and community education so they may become long-term leaders in their schools and communities. As the only parent mentor group with predominantly Asian parents, primarily of Chinese descent, PV can support and empower even more Asian American families in other neighborhoods and schools in the Chicagoland area.

Despite being mostly virtual during the 2020-2021 school year, PMP allowed us to continue creating meaningful and sustainable parent engagement in our schools and classrooms for this historically underrepresented community. PMP has given PV the platform to further support parents and guardians in their caregiving roles while navigating the challenges of virtual learning and the ongoing pandemic.

3,100+ HOURS
OF PARENT MENTOR PROGRAMMING AT HAINES, WARD, AND WORKING WITH STUDENTS VIRTUALLY

- PARENT MENTORS PRO**
- **TUTORING & ENRICH**
 - **VIRTUAL FAMILY SES**
 - **COVID EDUCATION**

“After students attended the Parent Mentor Program, I noticed my students’ vocabularies increase a lot. Many of them get perfect scores on the Spelling Test each Friday. They can read level books and are able to recall details from stories to answer questions.

In the middle of the year Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills Assessments, students showed great improvement on identifying letter sounds, nonsense words fluency, reading fluency and comprehension skill.

I would strongly recommend the parent mentor program to other teachers and parents because students have more opportunities to learn after school. I think this program is beneficial for students and parents because it helps students review what they learned from school and provides extra support for students and parents when they need it. Thank you so much for all you do!”

Mrs. Lei, Haines 1st Grade Teacher

TRP- Martha Cruz kin ma



70+
INSTANCES OF COMMUNITY MUTUAL AID

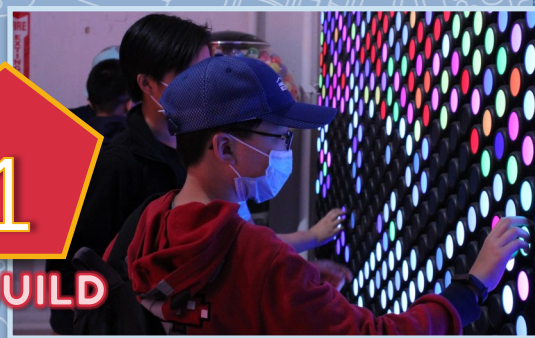
PARENTS LEARN TO NAVIGATE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES AND LEARN NEW TECHNOLOGIES



SCIENCE

1

REBUILD



2

RECONNECT



5

HOURS / DAY OF
INTERACTIVE
PROGRAMMING



3

RECREATE



SUMMER CAMP

Summer Camp was our first in-person and virtual hybrid program as we emerged from a year of virtual programming. Our main goals were to help our youth make up for lost time due to social isolation from the experiences they normally would have had through school, extracurricular activities, and life events. Camp helped youth re-engage and re-socialize with each other and with staff by providing opportunities to rebuild, reconnect, and recreate relationships and memories.

This year, Summer Camp provided **54** middle school youth with academic enrichment and social/emotional learning through hybrid "connected learning" activities that incorporated youths' interests, social supports, and link to academic, civic engagement, and career goals. Each week of summer camp focused on areas of recreational, cultural, and artistic areas of interest, such as STEM, sports, visual arts, nature, and community and civic engagement.

Youth engaged in games, field trips, and group projects that facilitated team building, positive peer relationships, and bonding with adult mentors. The activities also helped youth develop soft skills as well as keep up with core academic skills including math, reading, and writing.

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OUR SUPPORTERS

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 / GRANT CONTRIBUTORS

up to \$999

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Arthur Gallagher

AT&T

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Foundation

Pattabhi, Surya, and Anil
Dronamraju Memorial Fund
McDonald's Corporation

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

>\$10,000

11-10-02 Foundation

Anonymous

Cathay Bank Foundation

City of Chicago Department of
Family & Support Services

Exelon Corporation Foundation
(Stay in School Initiative)

Illinois Coalition for Immigrant
& Refugee Rights

Illinois Department of Human Services

Illinois State Board of Education

Julian Grace Foundation

Nike Foundation

Southwest Organizing Project

WP & HB White Foundation

INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTORS

\$100 to \$499

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\$500 to \$999

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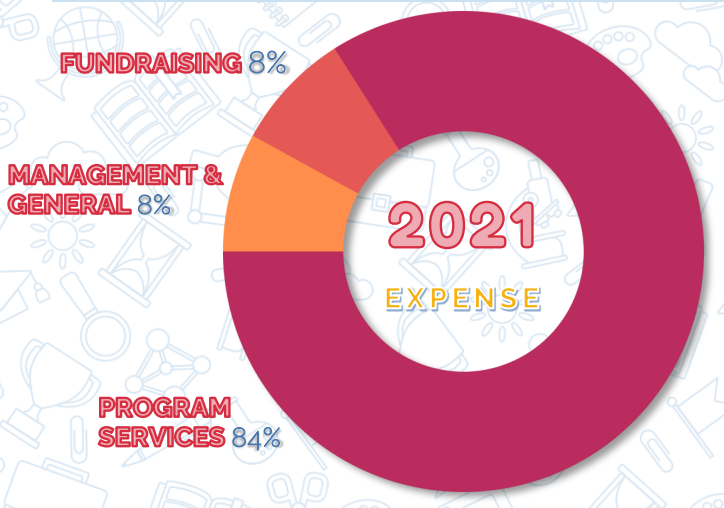
\$1,000+

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Chris Kanich & Joyce Woo
The Diec Family
(in memory of George Diec)
Dr. Daniel Go
Dennis Cha
Elysia Root
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Tina Morton
Dr. Tony Chow

THANK YOU

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

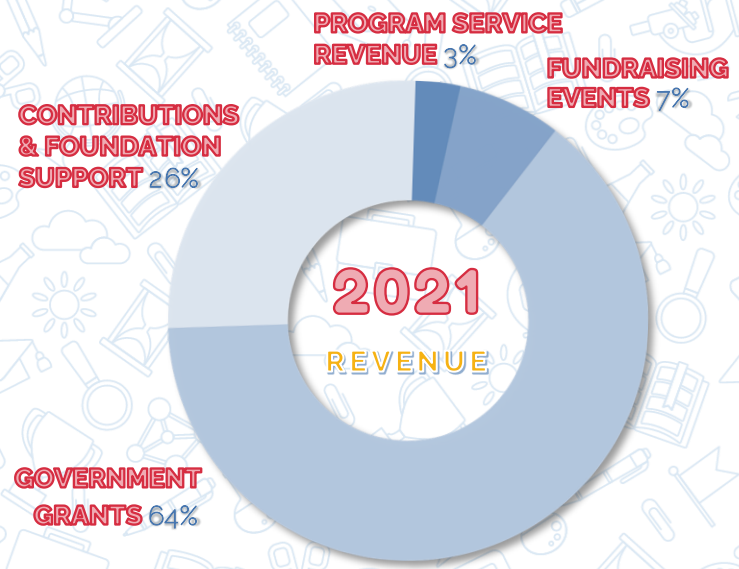
ASSETS	
Cash & Cash equivalents	203,984
Contributions Receivable	97,610
Refundable Lease Deposit	6,480
Prepaid Expenses	4,346
TOTAL ASSETS	312,420
LIABILITIES	
Accounts Payable	5,504
Accrued Expenses	4,000
Line of Credit	19,000
Deferred Revenue	66,500
SBA Loan PPP Payable	47,601
TOTAL LIABILITIES	142,605
EQUITY	
Assets—Without Donor Restrictions	13,384
Assets—With Donor Restrictions	156,431
TOTAL NET ASSETS	169,815
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	312,420



OUR 2021 FINANCIALS

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

REVENUE & SUPPORTS	
Contributions & Foundation Support	197,044
Government Grants	479,006
Fundraising Events	50,097
Program Service Revenues	21,330
Other Income	1,701
TOTAL REVENUE & SUPPORT	749,178
EXPENSES	
Program Services	617,733
Support Services	
Management/General	59,660
Fundraising	58,231
TOTAL EXPENSES	735,624
NET INCREASE IN NET ASSETS	13,554



JASMINE'S STORY

My name is Jasmine Cai, I am a senior at Lane Tech, and I have been a part of Project: VISION for eight years. I want to major in education because I realized that I have a passion for teaching and helping others. Combining these passions motivated me towards the field of education. Project: VISION's leadership program and staff have contributed to shaping me into the person I am today.

Through DREAM, PV's collaborative leadership development program with the Chicago Park District's afterschool program at Haines Elementary School, I worked with young students by tutoring and leading recreational activities. Teaching kids was an amazing experience because I connected with these young children and helped them grow a connection and love for education like PV's staff and tutors did for me. Through PV, I learned the value of communication, patience, and resilience. I learned to see through the tutors' lens, where they can connect with their students while teaching. They made me feel comfortable with the concepts I didn't understand in school. They showed me kindness and helped me grow and learn from my mistakes and not give up. I want to share and instill the same resilience in others that will enable them to conquer challenging experiences that may come their way.

Project: VISION inspired me to take these lessons with me to college and beyond to pass to my future students. I want to be a teacher who will leave a lasting impact on a student, so I aspire to continue my education to become an elementary school teacher who can.





Project: VISION

Project: VISION, Inc.

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

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