

2023 - 2024

ANNUAL REPORT



Project:VISION
a nonprofit youth organization

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

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.

serve

Foster a sense of community and social responsibility by encouraging civic 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.

thrive

Focus on mental and emotional well-being, self-care, and positive and healthy relationships with family and peers.



message

FROM THE CHAIR & ED

Dear Project: VISION friends

As we reflect on another year of progress and growth, we are honored to share with you the highlights of our work and collective impact we have made in the lives of our community's young people. Thanks to the support of our community, donors, volunteers, and dedicated staff, Project: VISION continues to empower youth with the tools, opportunities, and guidance they need to succeed both now and in the future.

This year, we continued to deepen our impact, serving a record **462** youth and expanding our programs. To strengthen academic support for some of our most vulnerable youth, including English learners and those working to close pandemic-related learning gaps, we piloted a program that provides tutoring to students during the school day at two partner schools. We also continued to expand youths' opportunities to engage in the community in meaningful ways through youth-led civic engagement projects to address the issues they care about. We also placed over **196** youth into paid internships and jobs, helping them gain essential workplace skills and valuable opportunities to explore diverse careers. These programs, along with our core services, underscore our commitment to nurturing well-rounded young people, ready to make a positive impact in their communities.



We are proud of the strides we have made together this year, but we know that there is more work to do. The challenges our youth face are ever-evolving, and we remain committed to learning and growing alongside them. Looking ahead, we are excited to expand our reach and build on our successes. We are especially encouraged by the passion and energy that youth are bringing to community service and the progress we have made with parent and family engagement and aim to continue building on these efforts to create an even stronger network of support for our youth.

As we step into a new year, we are determined to stay committed to reaching more youth, deepening our impact, and providing the opportunities that every young person needs to unlock their full potential. We are ever grateful for your continued support and belief in our mission. Together, we are creating a strong, brighter future for youth, families, and our community.

Thank you for being an essential part of our journey!

Sincerely,

Trang Truong-Hill
Board Chair

Karen Chiu
Executive Director
& Co-Founder

Project: VISION's STORY



YOUTH SERVED
SINCE 2004

OUR HISTORY

In 2003, a group of five young professionals, students, and community volunteers 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.

As Project: VISION celebrates over 20 years of service to the community, we reflect proudly on the journey we have been on and how far we have come to create a positive impact.

2003

FIRST SERVICES
AT CHINATOWN
LIBRARY

2005

FIRST SPACE

2009

FORMAL BOARD
OF DIRECTORS
ESTABLISHED

2013

HS SCHOLARS
PROGRAM
CREATED

2016

MOVED INTO
LARGER CENTER
ON 22ND PLACE

2017

SCHOOL
PARTNERSHIPS
ESTABLISHED

2022

2ND LOCATION
OPENED

2023

REACHED 20
YEARS SERVING
THE COMMUNITY

2024

HOURS OF PROGRAMMING
87,160
IN 2024

2023 - 2024



Project: VISION



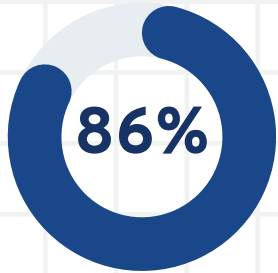
462

YOUTH SERVED IN 2023-2024

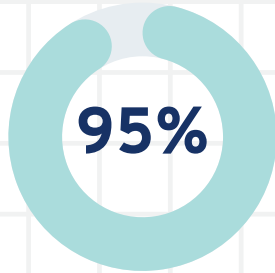
OUR CHALLENGE

All too often, our community is overlooked as among the most underserved neighborhoods in Chicago.

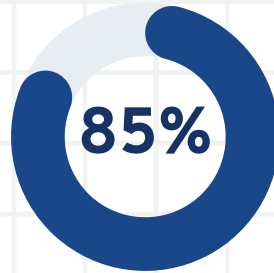
In reality, many of our youth face significant obstacles to success:



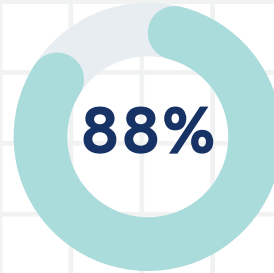
are from lower-income families



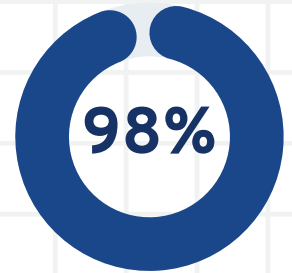
are from first-generation immigrant families



would be the first in their families to attend college

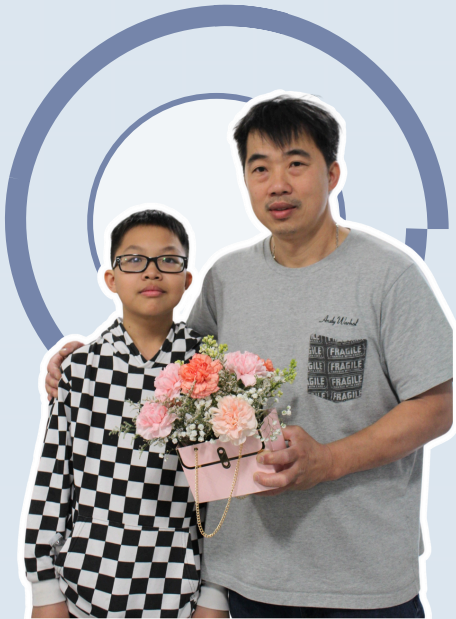


report having no access to other afterschool resources



are enrolled in Chicago Public Schools

We know that under-resourced youths are less likely to graduate high school and to be ready for college and the workplace. Here is how PV levels the playing field.



- Help youth overcome barriers to success and gain equal access to education and, ultimately, career opportunities
- Equip youth with skills, confidence, and a 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

PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS

Project: VISION supports youth as they navigate the challenging middle and high school years. Whether youth are building basic math skills, applying to college, or searching for their first job, they are supported by PV programs and our staff, who ensure youth stay on a clear path to success.



GRADE 8

In the final year of middle school, students are most concerned with high school admissions, which is a competitive process within the Chicago Public Schools system. PV programs continue to support students' academics while also introducing youth to community service and life skills. In addition, through Saturday camps, youth continue to explore their interests in arts, sports, culture, and STEM, as they develop leadership and 21st century skills such as communication, creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking.

GRADE 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 good study habits and positive attitudes toward school. PV supports this critical transition by providing students with academic support through tutoring and enrichment focused on foundational reading and math skills as well as social-emotional learning.



GRADE 9

The transition between middle school and high school can be challenging for youth as academics become more challenging and youths' social environment and emotional experiences evolve.



With staff guidance, freshmen work on goal-setting and planning for the next four years. They are also introduced to more in-depth service learning and leadership experiences as they find their roles within their communities.

GRADE 10 & 11

Sophomore and junior years are often considered the most important academic years for students - they continue to build knowledge and dive deeper into complex subjects while also beginning to think more seriously about college.

During this time, PV continues to support youth through tutoring, test prep, and college planning and readiness workshops.

GRADE 12

In the final year of high school, seniors get one-on-one college coaching from PV staff to navigate through the complex college application process.

PV also prepares youth for transition to adulthood through life skills workshops on financial literacy, self care and mental health, while offering opportunities to explore careers and develop professional skills through summer internships.

HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS WERE ACCEPTED
100%



and committed to attending college
in fall 2024

6

average number of
college acceptances each
senior received



educational HIGHLIGHTS

DURING THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR . . .

We supported **343** students academically through daily homework help, small group tutoring, and college readiness activities.

100%

promoted to the next grade and were on track to graduating high school on time



100%

high school seniors were accepted and committed to attending college in fall 2024



SCHOOL DAY PROGRAM

This year, PV piloted the **School Day Program** to support **45 middle school youth** with 1:1 or small group high dose tutoring during the school day throughout the school year to help them catch up in math and ELA achievement. PV tutors worked with teachers to plan sessions that mirror content and skill building that is concurrently happening in the classroom.

SCHOOL DAY TUTORING
45
STUDENTS

8

CLASSROOMS SUPPORTED

ACROSS 3 SCHOOLS

- JOHN HAINES
- JAMES WARD
- MARK SHERIDAN

The program allowed for students with the biggest needs to get more individualized attention and assistance.

TEACHER TESTIMONIAL



HOURS OF TUTORING
37,500+
IN 2024



service & recreational HIGHLIGHTS

Youth engage in monthly community service activities with partner organizations within the neighborhood as well as throughout the Chicago area. Activities such as neighborhood cleanups, community gardening, and soup kitchen service help youth learn about critical social issues and build a sense of social responsibility. These activities are also another way for youth to practice life skills and 21st-century skills like collaboration and communication in real-time.

middle school service learning

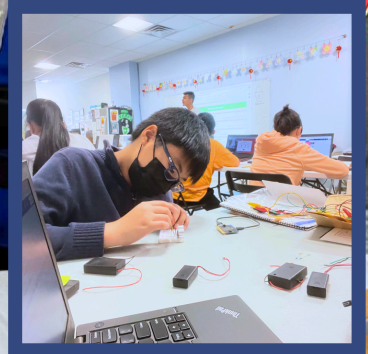
“ A SERVICE LEARNING PROJECT I ENJOYED WAS AT FARMWORKS URBAN GARDEN. I LIKED LEARNING ABOUT URBAN FARM WORKING AND DIFFERENT PLANTS AFTER I VOLUNTEERED THERE WITH PV. I WOULD GO TO MORE VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES AGAIN, BECAUSE I WANT TO LEARN MORE NEW THINGS.”

ERIC, GRADE 7



recreational camps

PV runs Saturday Camps during the school year and a 6-week Summer Camp to help youth explore their interests and also focus on life skills, social-emotional learning, and team building with peers in a fun and engaging way. We have run various camps, including computer coding, digital art, and fitness and nutrition Saturday camps this year.



& service leadership

H I G H L I G H T S

At PV, service and leadership are an integral part of our holistic 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 connectedness to community and social responsibility.

CYSC

Chicago Youth Service Corps is a program supported by the City's One Summer Chicago initiative. Over the last year, 60+ youth led year-long service projects they researched and designed to address important issues that impact the Chinatown community, from promoting green spaces to preserving cultural heritage to building awareness about mental health in AAPI youth.

youth-led civic engagement

“

Project: VISION completely shaped my understanding of community service, allowing me to see that community service is about making meaningful and lasting impacts, not just doing work in the moment. Project: VISION allowed me to see and contribute firsthand how important it is to create lasting, positive change.

My CYSC capstone group focused on teaching essential life skills to the youth in our community. For the first half of our project, I played a key role in teaching basic life skills such as sewing, laundry, and hygiene through social media and our in-person workshop, where we gave out life skills care packages to our participants. For the second half of our project, I helped create easy-to-make recipes and cooking videos for our social media and then planned in-person cooking classes. At first I was unsure if I was making a difference, but I realized that I was truly making an impact when participants expressed their joy and enthusiasm for our workshops, especially our cooking classes. Seeing their engagement and eagerness to learn and request a second cooking class after our first one showed me that the skills we were teaching were valuable and appreciated.

My involvement with CYSC at Project: VISION has greatly influenced my social awareness and responsibility. I learned the importance of addressing multiple community issues and not just focusing on the most obvious issues. Even though my group specifically focused on teaching essential life skills, being a part of CYSC allowed me to see other capstone groups tackling different community issues and challenges, big and small, such as mental health, civic engagement, and the environment. Seeing these groups in action every week broadened my perspective, showing me that our community has a wide range of needs and strengths. I realized that by working together and supporting one another, we can create a stronger, more resilient community that addresses everyone's needs.



YILIN, GRADE 11

”

workforce development

196 YOUTHS SERVED
THROUGH WORKFORCE:



HOURS WORKING ON
35,135
SKILLS TO BECOME LEADERS

PROJECT: WOW

Project: **Watch Out World (WOW)** completed its fourth year of programming, expanding to support **49 youth** as they explore diverse careers, learn essential employability skills and competencies, and gain real-world experience through summer internships.

CHICAGO BILITY

Chicagobility utilized the arts to help youth build positive self and cultural identity, especially important in response to the rise in anti-Asian hate and violence during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This year, Chicagobility students learned about food insecurity, food waste, and sustainability in the local Chinatown/Chicago community through collaborative project-based learning.

“FEEDING OUR COMMUNITY”



I would like to be offered more opportunities in programs like Chicagobility because I learned so much from here. I'd like to be in programs where I do community work.



PARENT ENGAGEMENT

DURING THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR . . .

PV created meaningful and sustainable parent engagement as parents were supported to enhance relationships with their youth at home and become more involved in schools and the broader community. These programs aim to help youth and their parents create positive family experiences and strengthen relationships through better communication, a general sense of connectedness, and mutual understanding.

PARENT MENTOR PROGRAM

The Parent Mentor Program (PMP) is a statewide program led by the Parent Engagement Institute. The program is designed to empower parents to engage in their schools and build deep lasting relationships with teachers and school staff. In addition to volunteering to support classrooms, 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.

32 Parent Mentors and 4 Parent Coordinators supported our local schools as classroom assistants and tutors.

IMPACTED
750+
STUDENTS
ACROSS
4 LOCAL SCHOOLS

- JOHN HAINES
- JAMES WARD
- MARK SHERIDAN
- ROBERT HEALY



PARENT MENTORS PROVIDED SUPPORT TO TEACHERS AND STUDENTS IN THE CLASSROOM WHILE ALSO DEVELOPING PROFESSIONAL AND LEADERSHIP SKILLS



YAN'S STORY

YAN IS A PV PARENT AND PARENT MENTOR.

This is the second year my son Eric has participated in Project: VISION's after-school tutoring program, and it has made a world of difference for him. Before joining PV, Eric often struggled with completing and turning in his homework. Sometimes, he missed assignments simply because he didn't know how to approach them or how to write effectively. Since joining PV, the dedicated staff and tutors have been a tremendous source of encouragement and support, helping him improve academically and build his confidence.

Eric also enjoys PV's other activities, like summer camp, Saturday camps, and family days. Family days, in particular, are a highlight for us—we attend together as a family and create cherished memories. These experiences have helped Eric and our family learn and grow in so many ways, becoming more confident and connected.

Beyond Eric's involvement, I am also part of PV as a Parent Mentor. This program has been invaluable for me, helping me connect with our community, participate in its activities, and gain a deeper understanding of education in the U.S. Through the Parent Mentor Program, I've learned how to better support my children and navigate the school system.

As Eric prepares to enter 8th grade next year, we would love for the PV staff to guide us in understanding the high school application process and help ease his transition. We are so grateful for all that PV has done for Eric and our family, and we look forward to continuing this journey together!



PV has always believed in the power of parent and family engagement and its impact on positive youth development.



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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, 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.

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\$100 to \$499

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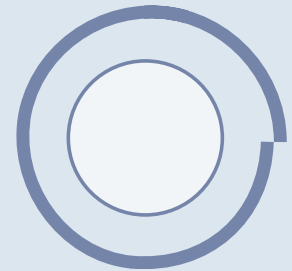
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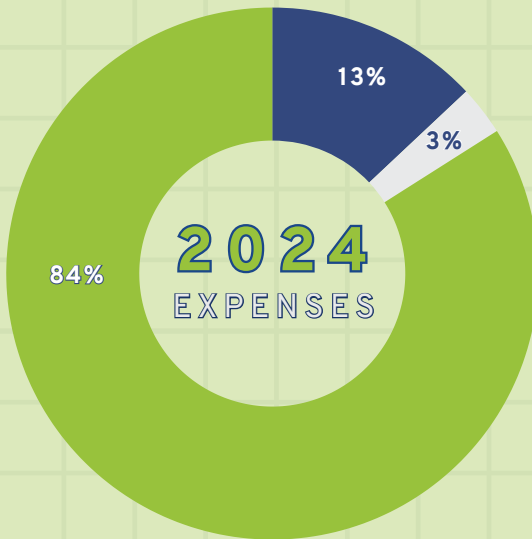
THANK YOU



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS 2024

*For fiscal year September 1, 2023 to August 31, 2024
(final audited financial statements available February 1st, 2025)

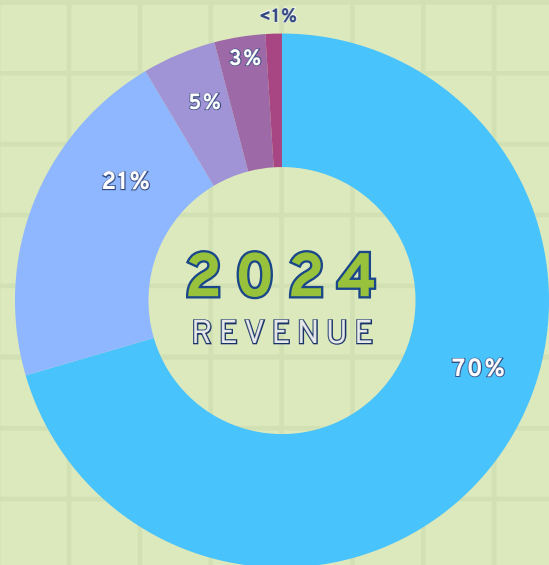
EXPENSES



84%	PROGRAM SERVICES	2,037,660
13%	MANAGEMENT / GENERAL	305,742
3%	FUNDRAISING	66,369

TOTAL EXPENSES \$2,409,771

REVENUE



70%	GOVERNMENT GRANTS	1,760,746
21%	CONTRIBUTIONS	524,251
5%	FUNDRAISING EVENTS	112,185
3%	PROGRAM SERVICE REVENUES	76,940
<1%	OTHER	9,467

TOTAL REVENUE \$2,483,590

LUNA'S STORY

Luna is an English Learner student at Project: VISION, who continues to work toward improving her English skills and building her confidence and self-esteem while cultivating a sense of community with her peers and adult mentors at PV.

I immigrated to the United States as a high school freshman and learned about PV through my cousin, who was already a participant. He recommended PV because it offers after-school tutoring and is a Chinese American organization with resources like an English Language program and bilingual staff. I joined to improve my English skills and gain academic support. The staff and tutors at PV were incredibly welcoming, and the Chinatown community helped me feel safe and supported as I adjusted to life in the United States. They were always patient and encouraging, never making me feel uncomfortable about my language skills. Their understanding and support made a significant difference in my transition.

PV has significantly improved my English skills and broadened my horizons. The teachers in the bilingual program not only taught me English but also introduced me to different cultures through engaging activities. These experiences allowed me to explore my interests while learning about culture and history. I particularly enjoy the extracurricular activities offered through the ELL program, such as field trips to the zoo, tufting workshops, and natural dyeing sessions. These activities have given me the opportunity to meet other ELL students from middle school, fostering a sense of belonging and community. Participating in these events with others has made me feel connected and strengthened my appreciation for Chicago and our community.

Joining PV has also expanded my social circle beyond the bilingual program. Interacting with students outside my classes has greatly improved my spoken English and boosted my confidence. In my first year of high school, I often felt hesitant and afraid to participate in activities. However, thanks to PV, I've grown more self-assured and now take the initiative to sign up for various activities, including volunteer opportunities and college visits.

I am deeply grateful to all the bilingual mentors at PV, including Annie, Ricky, Dandan, Sabrina, Dori, and Julia. Their encouragement and support have been instrumental in my personal and academic growth. The key themes in my story are growth, determination, and transformation. Growth is what took me from being a shy, quiet girl to someone who is generous and confident. Through the ELL program, I have developed a stronger determination to learn English and become more motivated in both my studies and my personal life. My transformation has been profound—shifting from being passive in conversations to actively engaging with others.



“ PV ELL WORKSHOPS ARE A TRULY VALUABLE, INCLUSIVE, AND SUPPORTIVE INITIATIVE. THE ENCOURAGEMENT AND PATIENCE OF THE BILINGUAL TEACHERS AT PV HAVE BEEN INVALUABLE TO ME, HELPING ME BUILD THE CONFIDENCE AND SKILLS I NEEDED TO THRIVE. PV'S SUPPORT ALSO GAVE ME THE PREPARATION I NEEDED TO SUCCEED ALONGSIDE OTHER STUDENTS. ”



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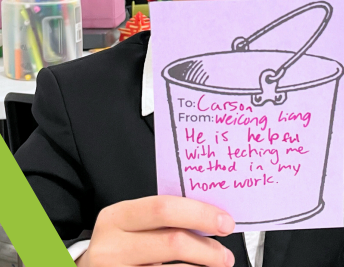


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