



# Visionaries

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## 1st Annual Fall Soiree & Silent Auction

Project: VISION held its first annual Fall Soiree and Silent Auction on Saturday, October 11th at 4Art Inc gallery located at 1932 S. Halsted. The event was a huge success! Over 70 guests attended to show their support as they enjoyed appetizers, drinks, and the gallery's eclectic collection of artwork. The night was filled with fun and excitement as guests bid on a variety of fun and unique items donated by many generous local businesses. The evening's proceeds, which topped \$4,000, will be used to continue our current youth programs, and even more importantly, we will be able to launch new programs such as ESL and Project: Youth Initiative to reach even more community youth!

Project: VISION staff, volunteers, and youth would like to sincerely thank the wonderful

guests and generous donors who made the night such a great success!



*Guests at the Fall Soiree & Silent Auction at 4Art, Inc.*



*Founder, Vince Kwan, addressing event guests.*

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*Guests bid for items.*

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## Meet Our Youth: Samantha Guan

*Samantha Guan was an enthusiastic participant in our youth programs, and now as a college student, has also given back avidly to Project: VISION. Here is her story...*



I was born and raised in the Chinatown/Bridgeport community and am the eldest of four children. My parents were wonderful but often had to be away at work. Though they often did not have enough time to actively support extracurricular activities, they always made sure that education was a priority for us. I took this to heart when schoolwork became progressively more challenging, and when I got to high school, realized that I needed extra help. A few of my friends had been receiving tutoring for chemistry and biology at Project: VISION, so I decided to check it out.

My first impression of Project: VISION was that the center was small, but it was very hands-on. The tutors at PV were very involved, and they truly took an interest in each student as an individual. I soon found myself getting tutored in AP Calculus and help preparing for the ACT. I also participated in job workshops to hone my interview and job searching skills as well as college application workshops. Outside of academics, I participated in several volunteer projects at other community organizations such as the Greater Chicago Food Depository and Deborah's Place. Later, I also started tutoring elementary school and bilingual students at the Center. I felt very accomplished and successful at Project: VISION as it provided me with the help I needed as well as the opportunity to give back to the community through service.

Later in my senior year of high school, I got involved with Project: VISION's Student Committee to reach out to the community and to help Project: VISION keep its programs stu-

dent-driven. As the President of the Student Committee, I conducted committee meetings, oversaw the quarterly student newsletter, and coordinated student fundraising efforts among other projects. I learned for the first time what it takes to be a good leader.

Currently, I am a junior studying economics at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. I am an active member of the Asian American Association and also have taken leadership roles in a newly found sorority on campus, Kappa Phi Lambda. I still remain active with Project: VISION; it was through PV that I had the opportunity to intern at the Chinatown Chamber of Commerce in the summer of 2007. This past summer, I returned to Project: VISION as an intern, helping to establish an ESL student base and assisting with fundraising projects. Through all of this, I feel that Project: VISION has been a very influential organization in my life, and I hope that being part of it will enable me to be influential in other youths' lives as well.

-S.G.

## Project: VISION's Annual Holiday Gift Wrapping Fundraiser

Every year, Project: VISION wraps gifts at Borders and Barnes & Noble bookstores all over the Chicago area. Last year we raised over \$10,000 thanks to our many volunteers who spent countless hours wrapping gifts for donations. Many of our volunteers were students of past and present.

This year, PV will once again be wrapping gifts at local bookstores. Funds will enable us to continue our efforts to provide after school programs to youth in the community.

If you are interested in gift wrapping with us this year, please email us to find out which shifts are still in need of volunteers!



*Students gift wrapping at Borders.*

## A Day In the Life of Project: VISION

Every Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday evening, Project: VISION anxiously awaits the arrival of students to breathe life and warmth into the center. Students trickle in between 4pm and 4:30pm. There are days that begin with the students' excitement to share their achievements at school. "I got an 'A' on my Math test!" "My Science project presentation went well today!" And there are other times when they want to vent about the problems in their lives. Be it at school or at home, they need an outlet to speak their minds, and Project: VISION is a place for them to do so freely and without judgment. Anytime they have something to share, volunteers are there to support them by lending an ear and giving insight to their situation.

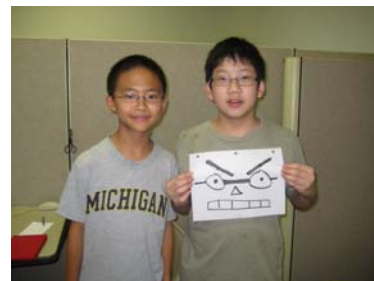
They always seem to carry with them heavy loads of books when they come in. Stu-

dents work on every subject imaginable at their age- math, chemistry, physics, language, history, English, reading, writing, etc. They often have projects that force them to research on the internet about politics and current events. They are even called on to expand their creativity through projects such as writing a children's book, a poem, and even a memoir. And although the amount of work can sometimes be a source of complaint, as it would be for anyone at their age, they understand the importance of completing their assignments and the depth of their work is impressive.

In between homework throughout their three hours at the center, volunteers challenge them with brainteasers and puzzles. Students are always excited to answer these and to even come up with some on

their own! Moreover, when students need a break, volunteers lead a variety of activities with them such as games, art projects, or icebreakers to encourage students to get to know one another and learn more about themselves.

Although every day is different, one thing that is constant is the level of support at the center. Every student's reasons for coming to Project: VISION are different, but they are always encouraged to grow and experience new things. Through it all, volunteers at Project: VISION are always available to support them through the journey of their young lives.



## Project: VISION

The mission of Project: VISION is to provide youth in the Bridgeport & Chinatown areas of Chicago with tools for educational, professional, personal, interpersonal, and civic development.

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## Upcoming Events

### Annual Gift-Wrapping Fund-raiser

December 13 - 24

Help PV fundraise by wrapping gifts for donations at local Borders and Barnes & Noble stores. For more information and to sign up, please email us at [projectvision2003@yahoo.com](mailto:projectvision2003@yahoo.com)

### Project: VISION Holidays

PV will be closed on the following dates:

November 27

December 15, 16, 18, 22, 23, 25

December 29, 30

January 1

### ACT Prep Class Pre-test

Monday Dec 29th, 9a-1p

Mandatory pre-test for ACT prep class participants.

### ACT Prep Classes

Jan 20– Apr 7, Tuesdays 5-7p

Join our free 12 week ACT prep classes for high school juniors. Sign up for class by Dec 19th by email.

### Project: VISION Holiday Party

Monday, Dec 29th, 5p-9p

Come join us for dinner and games to celebrate the holiday season! All are invited!

## Photo Gallery

