



Visionaries

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Winter 2009

2nd Annual Fall Soiree & Silent Auction

October 17th marked Project: VISION's 2nd Annual Fall Soiree & Silent Auction fundraising event, and for the second year, it was a big success! Over forty supporters joined us for an evening of food, drinks, & art at Chicago's Mars Gallery. Guests had the opportunity to bid on a wide range of fun, exciting items, ranging from the Nintendo Wii to private yoga lessons to Mario Batali cookware.



Guests bid on items.

The event brought many of our past supporters as well as newcomers. All had the opportunity to learn about Project: VISION's work



Guests mingle at the event.

and enjoyed a slideshow, posters, and even a scrapbook showing off our most recent youth programs.

The night helped Project: VISION raise over \$3500 for the Youth Center! These funds will be crucial in helping us continue our program staples including homework tutoring and ACT classes as well as develop our newer programs such as Project: Youth Initiative, which encourages youth to engage in service learning.

The 2nd Annual Fall Soiree & Silent Auction was a success thank you to all our guests! We also want to send a special thank you to all our

sponsors who generously donated food, drinks, and auction items. Finally, a special thank you to all our staff and volunteers who worked so hard in the months leading up to the event to help us make it a success!



Project: VISION Board, staff, & volunteers at the 2nd Annual Fall Soiree & Silent Auction

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Project: VISION Welcomes New Program Coordinator

Alex Kwan was a junior at Whitney Young High School when he heard about Project: VISION through an old friend. Curious to see what Project: VISION had to offer, Alex stopped by and soon signed up for the ACT Prep Classes. With a little review and a ton of practice, Alex breezed through the test. The following year, as a senior getting ready for college, Alex participated in Project: VISION's College Application workshops as well, learning from the wisdom of recent college graduates and getting pointers on his college essays.

Alex served as President of Project: VISION's Student Committee in his senior year. As the group's leader, Alex planned social activities, helped put together the newsletter, and gathered other students to help Project: VISION raise funds for our programs. He was also an example for his peers, volunteering his time at Project: VISION to tutor younger students.

After high school, Alex was accepted into the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where he spent the last two years studying engineering, but later developed an interest in finance and accounting.



Alex volunteering as a tutor at Project: VISION.

This year, Alex decided to take a year off from school and return to Chicago to gain some work experience, and Project: VISION is lucky enough to have him join our staff as the Program Coordinator! As someone who has grown up in the community and participated in Project: VISION's programs as a student, Alex has the perfect perspective and experience to help Project: VISION grow!

Already, Alex has gotten off to a productive start, getting to know our current students, helping set up fundraisers, and coordinating volunteers.



Alex with Shuo Ming, one of Project: VISION's tutors.

In the coming year, Alex has many plans to help Project: VISION grow! With more space at our new Center, one of Alex's jobs will be to help Project: VISION reach more community youth by recruiting more students to participate in our programs. Alex will also be responsible for keeping our current programs going such as homework tutoring and ACT prep classes. In addition, he will be working hard to grow programs such as Project: Youth Initiative, which encourages students to participate in service learning projects in the community.



*Good luck, Alex!
We're glad to have you!*

Youth Use Creative Skills for Good

As a part of our Project: Youth Initiative program to help encourage youth to participate in meaningful service learning projects, students were introduced to Vitas Hospice, an organization that provides end of life care to terminally ill patients. (Learn more about Vitas at <http://www.vitas.com>.)

Although, the focus of many of Vitas' services is on the patient, Vitas also emphasizes the importance of caring for the patient's family. Thanks to Letty Pizarro, the Volunteer Manager for Vitas, students got the opportunity to participate in a project that helps patients' families cope with their ill loved one. Our students made teddy bears by hand, each unique, for the children of patients' families.



Students at work.

Although students were a little skeptical in the beginning, doubting their abilities to thread a needle, much less sew entire teddy bears, everyone soon got the hang of it and had fun doing it!



Over the summer, we sent a batch of about fifteen bears back to Letty and Vitas. Since the school year started, students continue to make teddy bears when they have free time after homework programs.



The finished products.



PV Snippets



PV Halloween Party 2009

What's more fun than a good old-fashioned Halloween party? Project: VISION students gathered this Halloween for candy, food, and games at the PV Center!



Board, staff, & volunteers at 6th Annual Bowl-a-thon



time as volunteers every week to help PV with other youth projects and fundraisers throughout the year. Thank you, Michelle & Shuo!



Shuo & Michelle fundraising at Borders bookstore this holiday

ANNUAL BOWL-A-THON FUNDRAISER



Project: VISION held its 6th Annual Bowl-a-thon Fundraiser this past summer at UIC Bowling Center. Over twenty bowlers participated, raising over \$3000 to help support our summer programs.

PV Thanks Our Tutors!

Project: VISION would like to take a minute to thank its staff tutors, Michelle Lee and Shuo Ming Fung who have both been with PV for one year! Michelle and Shuo not only run our after school homework tutoring program but also give their

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

Holiday Bookstore Fundraiser

December 12-24th

PV fundraises every year during the holidays at local Borders and Barnes & Noble bookstores by wrapping gifts for customers. Please email us for the schedule and to sign up!

ACT Prep Classes

Saturdays Jan 16-Apr 17th

Calling all sophomores and juniors! Need help studying for the ACT? PV will be holding an 8-week course to help you review all the essential subjects and give you plenty of practice tests to get you ready! To sign up, email us or see Alex or Michelle at the Center.

Aberdeen Bar Night Fundraiser

January 23rd

Aberdeen @ 1856 W. North Ave.

Project: VISION will be fundraising at Aberdeen Bar to help raise money for programs in the new year.

Project: Youth Initiative

Dates/Times TBA

Still need service learning hours? Come learn about social issues and participate in fun and meaningful service projects!

PV will be closed on the following dates:

Dec 14-Jan 1 (for Winter Break and reopen on Monday, Jan 4th)

Mar 29-Apr 1 (for Spring Break and reopen on Monday, Apr 5th)

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