



Visionaries

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How Safe Are Our Community's Streets?

How often do you walk from home to school, to the bus stop, to the park, or to Project: VISION? Do you walk home from any of these places? Or do you usually get dropped off and picked up like most kids do these days?

Have you ever thought about what factors might motivate you to walk from place to place in the neighborhood more often? Perhaps safer streets and intersections would!

Thanks to the Asian Health Coalition, Project: VISION students were given the opportunity to participate in a service project called Healthy Places To Walk to help our community identify safety issues on our streets and sidewalks. By making our neighborhood walking routes safer, community residents would be more likely to walk from place to place, resulting in more opportunities for exercise and lower obesity rates in the community.

Using a Neighborhood Walkability Assessment Tool, students looked at six common walking routes within the Chinatown and Bridgeport commu-

nities. Students worked in teams to collect data on each route, including factors like the number of street lights and signs available, whether lights were working, the safety of pedestrian crosswalks, and what shape the sidewalks are in.

After two days of fieldwork, students managed to collect



quite a bit of data! During the third week, the team got together to discuss their findings. For each route that they explored, students helped identify three issues that they felt were most important to improve the safety of that route. Some examples of student suggestions included more lighting for viaduct crossings and clearer and

longer street lights at pedestrian crossings. One student volunteer said, "I believe I changed something in the community... It helped me become more proactive in the community!"



Our friends at the Asian Health Coalition will now be able to use this data to request that our community leaders help get the safety improvements we need. We hope to see new lights and more street signs in the near future!



Project: VISION

Project: VISION's mission 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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Tutor Spotlight

Project: VISION welcomed several new tutors to our team this Fall. Devin Olmack is one of them, and we're lucky to have her join us!



Here's a little bit about Devin:

Devin is currently a sophomore at Loyola University Chicago studying for a degree in communications and international studies with a minor in management. She has had experience tutoring middle school students in her hometown of Rochester Hills, Michigan. Devin loves to see students succeed and have a passion for learning. She also enjoys art, mainly photography and painting and loves incorporating art into education.

Devin tutors on Mondays 3-5p and Thursdays 3-7pm at the Center. Come by and meet her!

Upcoming Events

Teen Advisory Panel

Next meetings: 11/3, 11/10
Great American Smoke-Out 11/17

Gift Wrapping Fundraiser!

December 17-24th
Help Project: VISION raise funds by gift wrapping at Barnes & Nobles bookstores this holiday season! See Michelle for the shift schedule and to sign up!

The Youth Center will be closed on the following dates:

Thursday, November 24th- Thanksgiving
We will also be closed for Winter Break: December 21st-January 8th
The Center will reopen

Sign up for any program online at:
www.projectvisionchicago.org/signup.html

Thank you to everyone who voted for our Sunshine Project nominations!

We will be hearing from the Chicago Sun-Times Charity Trust in November whether we will be awarded a grant! Whether we win or not, we were encouraged by all the wonderful comments, especially those posted by our students! Here are some quotes!

“One of the most helpful and positive youth programs out there today....PV offers a positive and friendly environment for everyone and welcomes everyone.”

“After taking part in their programs and graduating from university, I highly recommend others to vote for Project: VISION. They are a great non-profit organization that encourages students to do their best and also help them practice new skills to help them in the future.”

“This program helped me so much when I was having trouble at school. The tutors...didn't just give me answers, they took the time to explain it clearly until I understood it well.”

SUN SHINE PROJECT