



New generations of independent, fulfilled individuals centered in their strengths and committed to social responsibility.

## Annual Report 2012-2013

FISCAL YEAR SEPTEMBER 1, 2012 – AUGUST 31, 2013



**Project:VISION**  
a nonprofit youth organization

## DEAR FRIENDS,

This has been another year of extraordinary achievements at Project: VISION. Thanks to our dedicated staff, volunteers, and supporters, our students have accomplished so much that we are proud and excited to share!

During the 2012-2013 school year, we served 85 students, reflecting a near 30% growth in the number of students served compared to the previous year. Our core programs, focused on helping our students LEARN, SERVE, and LEAD, are becoming stronger each year. We continued to build program elements such as academic goal-setting, enrichment activities, interactive tutoring, and college prep activities to motivate students to engage and take responsibility for their own education. We celebrated seeing many of our graduating eighth graders move on to selective enrollment high schools and graduating seniors enroll in college.

Service and leadership are also paramount to our programs at Project: VISION. Thanks to our partners at other local organizations, our youth continue to participate in many opportunities to learn about relevant community issues, from food insecurity to substance abuse to the environment. As we continue to build our programs, these are the opportunities that we hope to continue providing to our students. Community service not only empowers youth but also builds character that we need in our future leaders.

As an organization, we made significant progress in our efforts to ensure capacity building and sustainability that will allow us to continue serving more youth each year. With the help of consultants from the Executive Service Corp, our Board of Directors came together as a team to develop a formal strategic plan. For the first time, we were able to identify the organization's needs, set short and long-term goals for the organization, and

**Project: VISION is a nonprofit organization with a mission to provide youth of Chicago's Chinatown and Bridgeport communities with tools for educational, personal, and civic development.**

**learn**  
Educational development means fostering success at school, building effective learning skills, and encouraging appreciation for learning and knowledge. We offer after school homework tutoring, college workshops, and ACT prep classes.

develop plans to achieve these goals. These include developing sustainable funding, building and retaining talented staff, and expanding community outreach efforts. In the upcoming year, we are looking forward to continuing our work as a Board to implement the next steps in our strategic plan.

As we look ahead to kicking off our tenth school year this fall, we are excited by the many possibilities it brings, including new program initiatives, collaborations, Board expansion, and general organizational growth. Most importantly, we are most looking forward to seeing more students come through our doors. We are especially well-positioned to provide quality and impactful programs to more youth in the coming school year, as Project: VISION was selected as a partnering agency of both the United Way of Metropolitan Chicago and Exelon Corporation's Stay in School Initiative. These new resources have already allowed us to add space to the Youth

Center and hire new program staff in preparation to serve a goal of 115 students: 60 middle school and 55 high school students in the 2013-2014 school year.

Many thanks again to you- our wonderful community of supporters, donors, and volunteers! Your generous support and encouragement inspire us to continue our work to help shape the lives of our students for the better!

Sincerely,



**Krystle Goh Kim**  
Chair of the Board



**Karen Chiu**  
Executive Director & Co-Founder

**serve**

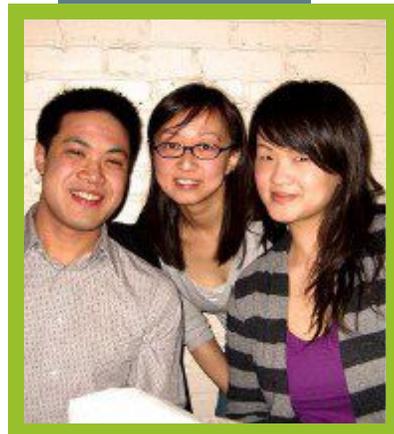
Community service is an integral part of positive youth development. Project: Youth Initiative aims to foster a sense of social responsibility in youth by building awareness, fostering positive attitudes, and providing meaningful service opportunities.

**lead**

Personal development means building each youth's strengths and interests, and fostering confidence and positive attitudes. Youth find mentors in our staff, while recreational activities and career development programs help build leadership skills.

# our background

Project: VISION was an idea conceived by a group of young professionals, students, and volunteers who saw a need for community youth to have a place to call their own. In Fall 2004, with the help of a few volunteers and borrowed space from the Chicago Public Library and Valentine Boys and Girls Club in Bridgeport, Project: VISION piloted its first tutoring program. Since then, our programs have reached over 350 youths, while remaining primarily volunteer-run and continuing to provide all programs free to youth.



# our students

youth between the ages of 12 and 21 from Chinatown, Bridgeport, and surrounding neighborhoods

**85%** Chinese American  
reflects the demographics of the area

**90%** from first generation  
immigrant families

**95%** are enrolled in  
Chicago Public Schools

**65%** would be the first in their  
families to attend college

**80%** from lower income families\*  
\*receive free or reduced school lunch

\*Project: VISION students surveyed in 2012-2013

# our purpose in this community

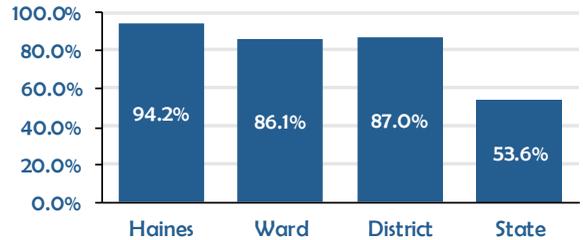
Asian American students are often associated with the “model minority” stereotype. However, the generalization actually disadvantages many students, especially those who struggle in school and are in need of support, and yet are overlooked. Every community has an underserved population, and we are no exception.

In fact, our youth face many socio-economic barriers to academic success. At John C. Haines School in Chinatown, 94.2% of students are from low-income households, and nearly 30% are limited English learners. In 2012, Haines 8th graders scored in the 29th percentile of the NWEA MAP reading test, which assesses student growth over the school year. The 50th percentile marks the national average of growth. PV’s goal is to prevent these students from falling behind and to ensure that they reach high school and college successfully.

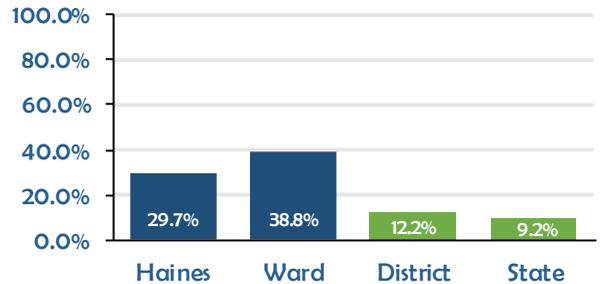
Furthermore, youth often do not have access to all social and emotional supports and personal development opportunities they need to succeed. After school can be a vulnerable time according to the 2012 Illinois Youth Survey: 53% of 8th graders in Chinatown report having no adult supervision more than three days each week. One in three youths participate in no activities outside of school, and 60% believe their activities make little to no difference, putting them at risk for engaging in negative behaviors. In fact, by 8th grade, 16% of youth admit to using at least one illegal substance within the past year, and 33% report being bullied in at least one way. Engaging in PV programs helps keep youth safe and provides a place where youth can engage in positive activities with positive role models.

## statistics from 2012-2013 academic year at local schools

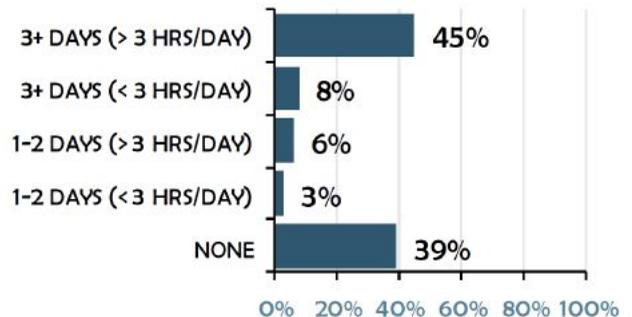
percentage of low income students



percentage of limited English Learners



amount of time spent home alone  
each week after school by 8th graders





“

Project: VISION is filled with tutors who are willing to help enrich our minds, help us develop social skills, and prepare us for the future.

PROJECT: VISION STUDENT

”

# education highlights

Education has always been at the foundation of Project: VISION's programs.



“The tutors' tireless devotion and dedication . . . are the core of the organization.”

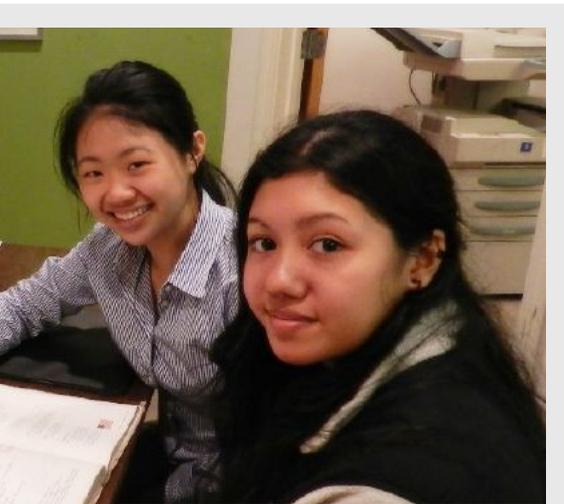
FORMER PROJECT: VISION STUDENT, COLLEGE GRADUATE

during the 2012-2013 school year...

The After School Homework Tutoring Program assisted 50 youths in grades 6 - 12.

The tutoring program encourages students to strive to reach their potentials and to take responsibility for their education. Students set goals for themselves each school year. In fact, 84% of this year's students met at least one of their academic goals.

- Each student received an average of 5.3 hours of tutoring each week, totaling more than 170 hours over the year and helping 90% of students maintain B-average or above grades.
- In surveys, over 90% of students believed the program helped them perform better in school, improve study skills, prepare for tests, and feel more confident at school.
- 20 high school students participated in our college prep programs. Of note, 15 students completed the ACT Prep Class with an average improvement in composite score of 2.1 points. In English and Math, students improved by averages of 2.5 points and 6.9 points, respectively.
- Many of our students reached major milestones: 7 students were accepted into selective enrollment public high schools, and 100% of our graduating high school students enrolled in 4-year universities!





PROJECT: VISION STUDENT

Project: VISION strives to help youth understand the importance of volunteerism and realize that they can make an impact with community service. According to the Illinois Youth Survey, 24% of community youth participate in service or volunteer activities. At Project: VISION, 75% of our students engaged in service this year. 65 youths participated in our projects, collectively earning over 660 service learning hours.

Some of our service projects included:

- Volunteering at Bridgeport's Benton House weekly food pantry
- Helping at the Hustle Up the Hancock event hosted by the Respiratory Health Association of Metropolitan Chicago to raise funds for lung disease prevention and research
- Helping the Asian Health Coalition campaign against teen tobacco and alcohol abuse in our community

“ Project: VISION helped me succeed . . . my teachers here inspired me to assist others. ”



# service highlights

We need programs to help youth understand how important it is . . . to give back

PARENT OF A PROJECT: VISION STUDENT



By providing meaningful and engaging service projects, our goal is to build positive attitudes that motivate youth to continue engaging in service for years to come. This will in turn help us build a stronger community.

In fact, 75% of students who participate in service learning at Project: VISION believe that because of these projects, they better understand why it is important to give their time to volunteer work. In addition, 80% of students feel they are contributing to their community in a meaningful way by participating in service activities





“ the program provided skills and tools

FORMER PROJECT: VISION

According to the 2012 Illinois Youth Survey, the majority of our community's youth do not feel they make an impact in their school environments: for example 65% feel they participate none or very little in deciding class activities and rules. Almost 70% believe they do no or very little activities at school that make a difference.

# leadership

At Project: VISION, we want to help youth develop strengths, interests and skills. Our programs aim to engage youth and help them to become peer advocates. We teach youths to take opportunities and make positive changes in their communities.





and me with the  
needed to succeed

IN STUDENT, COLLEGE GRADUATE



# highlights

o change this. By helping  
sts, and leadership skills,  
e youth and empower  
ates and educators. We  
unities and help make  
unity.

This year, 15 Project: VISION students participated in the Teen Advisory Panel (TAP), a collaborative initiative with our partner, the Asian Health Coalition. The team helped to build awareness and prevent youth substance abuse in the community, an issue that affects teens every day but is little discussed. Students created media pieces including a magazine writing project and recycled materials arts project which highlight the negative impact of substance abuse on physical, emotional, and public health.



# thank you!

Project: VISION's beginnings were made possible by the generosity of those who gave their time and resources. Today, our volunteers, donors and funders, and community partners continue to provide invaluable support for our work. We thank them all for their generous commitments and contributions to our organization and, more importantly, our youths' futures.



## board of directors

### Megan Bulfin

INVESTMENT MANAGER  
LIAISON GROUP  
Northern Trust

### Kirsten Chan

NATIONAL AD SALES  
ACCOUNT MANAGER  
Cars.com

### Karen Chiu, M.D.\*

Executive Director  
HOSPITALIST PHYSICIAN  
NorthShore University  
HealthSystems

### Krystle Goh Kim\*

Chair of the Board  
MBA CANDIDATE 2014  
Univ. of Chicago Booth  
School of Business

### Vincent Kwan

IMAGING OPERATIONS  
MANAGER  
Iron Mountain, Inc.

### Mee Wai Lam, M.S.N., M.P.H.

NURSE PRACTITIONER  
Allergy and Asthma  
Centers, P.C.

### Cynthia Poon, Ph.D.\*

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POST-DOCTORAL  
RESEARCH SCIENTIST  
Univ. of Illinois at Chicago  
Dept. of Kinesiology

### Alicia Samp\*

Treasurer  
CPA  
PCAOB

### Gabriel Wong

SENIOR RISK ANALYST  
Intercontinental  
Exchange

\*Executive Committee

## staff / volunteers

### Executive Director

Karen Chiu

### Program Coordinator

Michelle Lee

### Development Coordinator

Sandy Guan

### Staff & Tutors

Angela Blackwell

Vatsla Chhabra

Samone Hu

Liz John

Tsuyu Ko

Hongxi Mao

Shirley Nwangwa

Kim Truong

David Wu

## partners

Asian Health Coalition

Be the Change  
Charter School

The Black Star Project

Chicago Taiwanese  
American Professionals

Chinatown 5K

Communities in  
Schools of Chicago

Illinois Institute of  
Technology

## corporate/ foundation contributors

Asian Health Coalition

Best Buy

BP America

Cathay Bank Foundation

Chase Community Giving

Chinatown Parking Lot  
Corporation

CNA

Funding Factory

Iron Mountain

MINI of Chicago

Native Foods Café

OP4G

Salesforce.com

Springboard Foundation

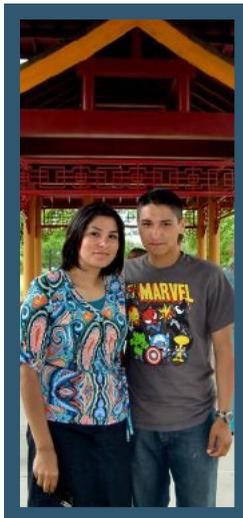
## in-kind donors

Adobo Grill  
Alicia Samp  
Akira  
Argo Tea  
Barnes & Noble  
Bookstores  
Bespoke Cuisine  
Best Buy  
Carbon Live &  
Mexican Grill  
Chocolate For Your  
Body  
Costco  
Crown Imports  
DMK Burger Bar  
Einstein Bros Bagels  
Eli's Cheesecake  
Erin Gallagher Jewelry  
Fifty/50  
Fitness Formula Club  
Gene Siskel Theater  
Huck Finn Restaurant  
Iliana Gavin Group  
Jess LC  
Johnny Mei  
Karen Chiu  
Karen Tam  
Kaya Day Spa  
Kirsten Chan  
Laura Tanner Jewelry  
Lin Chiu  
Lush Wine  
Megan Bulfin  
Michelle & Paul Gaura

Nightwood Restaurant  
Oceanique  
Origins  
Rich Medina, Jr.  
Rockit Ranch  
Salon Buzz  
Samantha Chan  
Sandpiper Imports  
Sprinkles Cupcakes  
Table Fifty-Two  
Tamarind  
The Adair Group  
The Second City  
Trader Joe's  
UP Comedy Club  
Urban Oasis  
Vanille Patisserie  
Vincent Kwan  
Wilton  
Zia 925

## individual contributors

Charlene Au  
Bonnie Chan  
Jeff Chan  
Kirsten Chan  
Leola Chan  
Edwin Charoenpitaks  
Raymond Cheang  
Debra & Harry Chen  
Kathy Chin  
Karen Chiu & Boris Tse  
Susie & Will Chiu  
Kiu Chui



Tina Chui  
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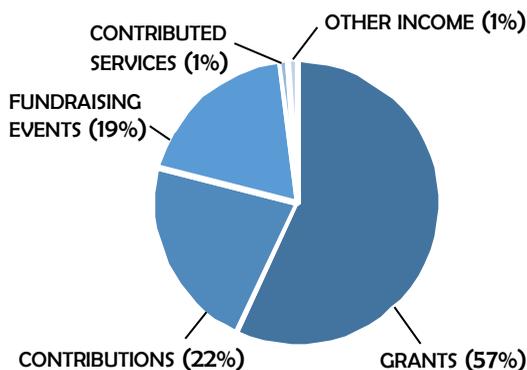


# statement of financial position

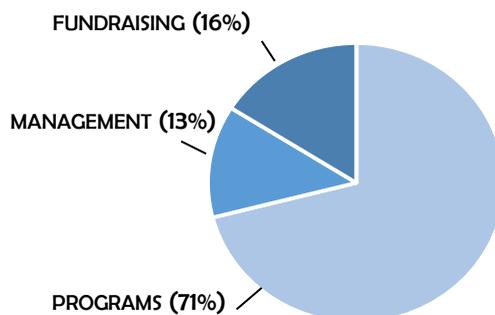
	2013	2012
<b>assets</b>		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	42,131	12,824
Contributions Receivable	500	N/A
Refundable lease deposit	1,800	N/A
Prepaid Insurance	771	609
Prepaid Programming Expense	1,029	N/A
Prepaid Fundraising Expense	799	500
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>47,030</b>	<b>13,933</b>
<b>liabilities</b>		
Accounts Payable	497	116
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>497</b>	<b>116</b>
<b>net assets</b>		
Temporarily Restricted	27,250	5,000
Unrestricted	19,283	8,817
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>47,030</b>	<b>13,933</b>

	2013	2012
<b>revenues and other support</b>		
Contributions* <small>*Corporate and individual donations</small>	19,211	17,250
Fundraising Events	16,760	11,020
Grants	51,250	23,289
Contributed services	1,000	1,000
Other Income	1,170	787
<b>TOTAL REVENUES AND SUPPORT</b>	<b>89,391</b>	<b>53,346</b>
<b>expenses</b>		
Program Services	40,209	40,509
Support Services		
Management/General	7,495	7,147
Fundraising	8,971	3,803
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>56,675</b>	<b>51,459</b>

## 2013 revenues and other support



## 2013 expenses



# we look forward to

## Expanding program capacity by...

- increasing service to 6 days per week to assist 60 middle school and 55 high school students.
- building our English Language Learner program to assist students with limited English skills.
- partnering with the Exelon Corporation's Stay in School Initiative to bring a leadership and career readiness program to students.
- increasing student engagement in service learning and leadership initiatives.
- implementing staff and volunteer training programs.

## Growing organizational capacity by...

- recruiting new board members who bring diverse skills and expertise to the organization.
- building board committees to actively implement capacity-building measures identified in the organization's strategic plan.
- increasing community outreach efforts and building relationships with other local organizations.
- continuing to develop a sustainable fundraising strategy that is based on diverse sources.





# Project: VISION, Inc.

MONDAYS THRU FRIDAYS 3PM TO 7PM | SATUDAYS 10AM TO 1PM



2301 S Archer Ave, Unit #1  
Chicago, IL 60616  
312.808.1898 | [staff@projectvisionchicago.org](mailto:staff@projectvisionchicago.org)  
[www.projectVISIONchicago.org](http://www.projectVISIONchicago.org)