



# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2021-2022

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

**FISCAL YEAR SEPTEMBER 1, 2021 – AUGUST 31, 2022**

# 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

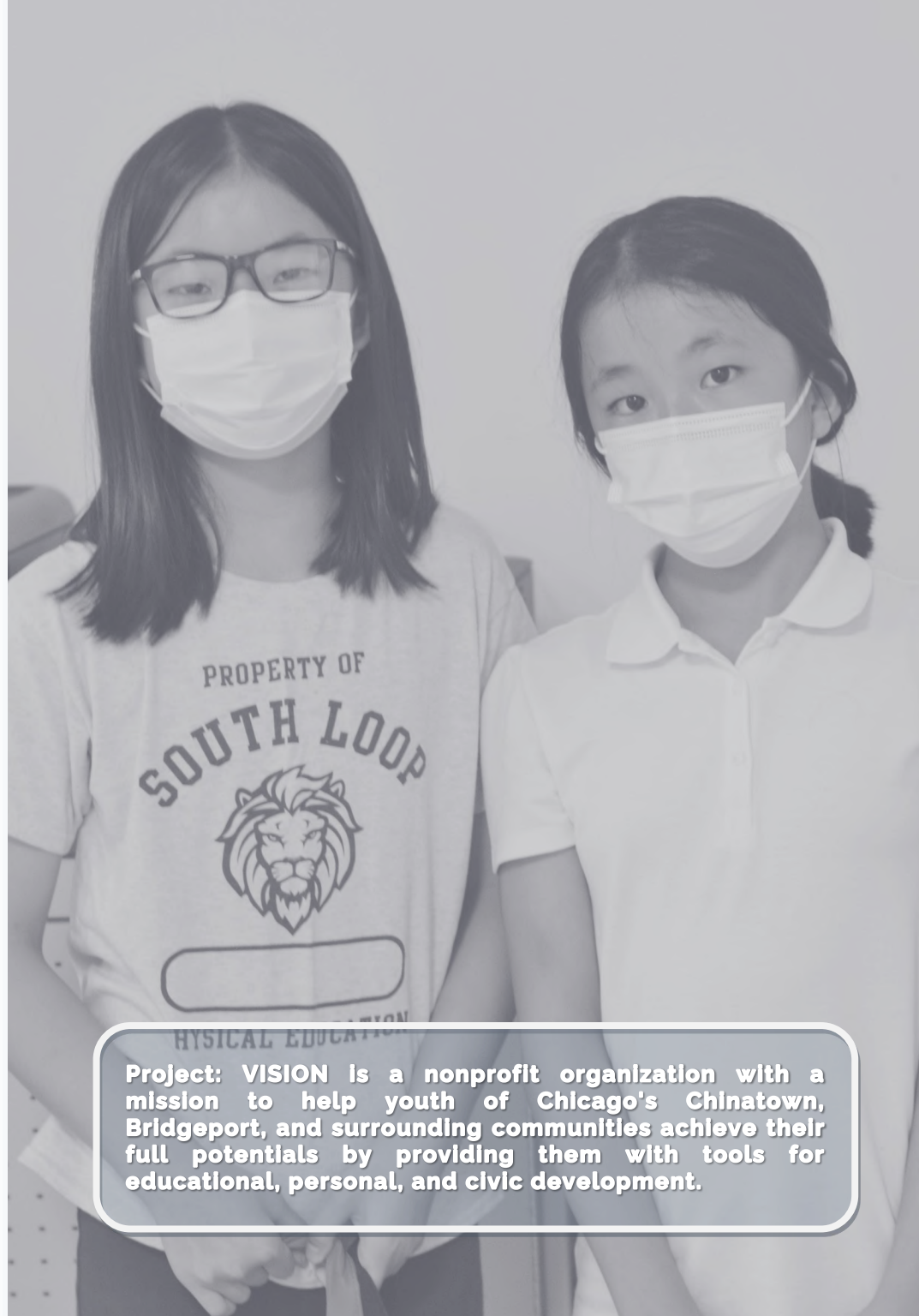
Foster a sense of community and social responsibility by encouraging community engagement and providing opportunities for meaningful service learning.

# 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.



**Project: VISION** is a nonprofit organization with a mission to help youth of Chicago's Chinatown, Bridgeport, and surrounding communities achieve their full potentials by providing them with tools for educational, personal, and civic development.

# MESSAGE

## from the Chair & ED

DEAR PROJECT: VISION FRIENDS,

This year has left us with much to celebrate and even more to look forward to! We are excited to share our year-in-review with you as a reflection of all the important and impactful work that we were able to do for our youth and families with your support!

For the first time in almost two years, all of PV's programs returned to being in-person, and our staff welcomed back more than 325 youth to a full range of activities through our core Middle School Program and the High School Scholars Program. As youth excitedly filled the classrooms of the Youth Center and our school site partners again, we were also able to see the academic struggles and learning gaps created during the pandemic. Through our model of academic support using homework help, tutoring, and enrichment, PV was able to help 98% of youth promote to the next grade successfully, while 100% of our 8th and 12th graders graduated on time, and 100% of our seniors were accepted to college and committed to attending in the fall of 2022.

Aside from working toward their academic goals, youth also re-engaged through community service, leadership training, and workforce programs. PV youth collectively spent over 3,500 hours volunteering with local organizations and growing their 21st century skills while exploring their interests through arts, sports, and STEM activities. Also, through Project: WOW, 30 high school youth each completed 180 hours of real world learning through paid summer internships provided by 15+ employers across diverse industries such as tech, business, public service, media, and healthcare. In addition to these core programs, PV also piloted two additional workforce programs, Chicago Youth Service Corp and Chicagobility, which aim to increase civic engagement while providing youth with summer work experiences. These programs, which are part of the City's larger One Summer

Chicago initiative, along with WOW, provided more than 100 youth with paid internships, totaling almost 12,500 hours of real world work experience!

Another huge accomplishment for PV this year was our expansion into a second space, which was much needed as a result of our rapidly expanding programs. Our high school programs settled into a new 2500-square foot location on 23rd Street in Chinatown this summer, just a few blocks away from our original location which remains home for our Middle School Program. The additional space allows for more parent engagement activities such as the Parent Mentor Program, greater support for social, emotional, and mental health challenges through case management and counseling, and expansion of our workforce programs.

As our PV family heads into our 20th year of service, we are eager and excited to continue our current work while expanding our reach to even more youth and families across the Greater Chinatown community by deepening our work with schools, increasing parent engagement, and growing our workforce and job training programs. With our eye on these goals for 2023, we could not be more grateful to you, our supporters! Your generosity and enthusiasm for our work have fueled our growth and success so far, and we look forward to continuing this journey with you. Thank you again for believing in our mission, and we hope the success stories in the following pages will make you proud to be a supporter!

Sincerely,



**Trang Truong-Hill**  
Chair-Elect of the Board



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

# Project: VISION's STORY

OVER  
**1,500**

YOUTHS SERVED  
SINCE 2004

## OUR HISTORY

Project: VISION was founded in 2003 by a group of five young professionals, students, and community volunteers who 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.

In the fall of 2004, PV's team of dedicated volunteers piloted a drop-in tutoring program serving about 20 students each week. Since then, our core programs have reached over 1,500 youth and continue to be provided free.

We know under-resourced youths are less likely to graduate high school and to be ready for college and the workplace. Here is how PV aims to level the playing field for all youth:

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

OVER  
**32**

YOUTHS  
IN 2021

**36**

H

OF P  
PROV



# 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:

ER  
25  
SERVED  
-2022

OVER  
2,000  
HOURS

PROGRAMMING  
PROVIDED IN 2022

94%

ARE FROM LOWER INCOME  
FAMILIES

92%

FROM FIRST GENERATION  
IMMIGRANT FAMILIES

85%

WOULD BE THE FIRST IN THEIR  
FAMILIES TO ATTEND COLLEGE

96%

ARE ENROLLED IN  
CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

88%

REPORT HAVING NO ACCESS TO  
OTHER OUT-OF-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

# pathways to SUCCESS

Project: VISION supports youth as they navigate the often challenging middle and high school years. Whether youth are building basic math skills, doing community service for the first time, or applying to college, they need the right support and guidance to grow and thrive. PV's programs provide interventions at all the critical milestones to ensure that every youth stays on a clear path to success.

## GRADES 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 the right study habits and attitudes toward school. The middle school years are sometimes known as the “make it or break it” school years, when students show early signs of disengaging from school, and low performance during this time increases the likelihood of high school dropout.



PV supports this critical transition by providing students with academic support through after school tutoring and helps students strengthen basic skills in reading, math, and writing, while reinforcing good study habits.

## GRADE 8

In the last year of middle school, students are most concerned with high school admissions, which is a competitive process within the Chicago Public Schools system.

Greater Chinatown students are assigned to two lower rated neighborhood schools. Thus, most students apply to other neighborhood schools, charter schools, or selective enrollment schools, which are the most competitive.



PV programs continue to help support students' academic work while staff help them apply to and prepare for high school. PV also introduces middle schoolers to service learning through volunteering in the community and participating in leadership training so that they build the social skills, study habits, and confidence they need to enter the 9th grade. PV Saturday camps and summer camps help youth explore their interests in arts, sports, and STEM while helping them develop leadership and 21st century skills such as communication, creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking.

## GRADE 9

Youth often need support during this transition between middle and high school. Academics become more challenging, and there are also many social and emotional growth milestones.

With help from staff, freshmen begin working on goal-setting and planning the next four years.

PV students are introduced to year-long project-based service and leadership experiences and start to explore their role in their surrounding communities.

## GRADES 10 & 11

Sophomore and junior years are arguably the most important years academically for students - they continue to build knowledge, practice study habits, and start to think more seriously about college.

During this time, PV continues to support youth academically, while helping them get organized and prepared for the college application process through test prep classes, college visits, and mentoring.

# 100%

### HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

ACCEPTED AND COMMITTED  
TO ATTENDING COLLEGE  
FALL 2022

# 4

AVERAGE NUMBER OF  
COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES  
EACH SENIOR RECEIVED

## GRADE 12



In the final year of high school, seniors get one-on-one counseling and mentoring from PV staff, with a goal of submitting at least 3 college applications and completing all financial aid applications. PV programs also prepare youth for adulthood, providing them with life skills workshops to address things like financial aid and self care, while also offering opportunities to explore careers and develop professional skills through summer internships.

# EDUCATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

**DURING THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR . . .**

OVER  
**325**  
YOUTHS SERVED

We supported more than 325 students academically through daily homework help, small group and one-on-one tutoring, as well as math and ELA enrichment classes.

For the first time in almost two years, youth returned to school in-person full-time. Despite challenges related to learning gaps that developed during the pandemic, our youth persevered:



**98%**

PROMOTED TO THE NEXT GRADE AND ON TRACK TO  
GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL ON TIME

**100%**

HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS WERE ACCEPTED AND  
COMMITTED TO ATTENDING COLLEGE IN FALL 2022



“With the help of tutors at Project: VISION, I received assistance on the homework problems I had previously struggled with and gained the confidence and problem-solving skills needed for my assessments. Tutors helped me with flash card quizzing and the learning of test taking strategies.

Thanks to the support from Project: VISION tutors, I have continuously improved my memorization and strategizing skills and thus have made me feel less stressed and more prepared for any upcoming assessments.”



**BENNY**



## PROJECT: WATCH-OUT-WORLD

Project: Watch Out World (WOW) is a workforce development leadership program that supports 30 high school youth to become ready for the workplace through training in essential employability skills and competencies.

Throughout the school year, students improve and develop their professional skills through a series of workshops. Youths are placed in summer internships at worksite partners, where they gain authentic work experiences and continue to engage in mentoring and career exploration and planning.

# SERVICE & LEADERSHIP HIGHLIGHT

At PV, service and leadership are an integral part of our 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 social responsibility in our youth and set them on a path of lifelong service and leadership within their communities. Despite this year's challenges, PV youth still managed to stay connected through our service and leadership activities.





**“ This was a great learning experience for me!**

I don't think I would've had the chance to get such an in-depth 'behind-the-scenes' look at how a non-profit organization works if it wasn't for this internship. I felt cared for and supported throughout the internship, and like what I was doing mattered.

**”**

**IP  
S**

Chicagobility engages 20 youth (ages 14-15) in a project-based service learning program that utilizes the arts to promote civic engagement, community beautification, and safety. The program introduced workforce readiness by incorporating opportunities for youth to explore careers and interests, build on social-emotional learning, and develop 21st-century employment skills. During the 6-week summer program, youth designed and created community murals around themes of Asian American experiences.

**CHICAGOBILITY**

**100**  
**YOUTHS**

**COMPLETED PAID  
SUMMER INTERNSHIPS**

**ALMOST**  
**12,500**  
**HOURS**

**SPENT WORKING ON  
SKILLS TO BECOME THE  
TYPES OF LEADERS  
YOUTH ASPIRE TO BE**



# STORIES OF RESILIENCE

## PARENT MENTOR PROGRAM

The Parent Mentor Program (PMP) is designed to empower parents to engage in their schools and build deep lasting relationships with teachers and school staff. 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.

This school year, parents had the opportunities to return to schools and provide in-person support. The impact was clear, as both teachers and parents of the participating classrooms recognized the support that parent mentors provide on a daily basis.



### PARENT MENTORS PROVIDED:

- TUTORING & ENRICHMENT
- COVID EDUCATION
- MUTUAL AID

4,700+  
HOURS

OF PARENT MENTOR  
PROGRAMMING AT HAINES,  
WARD, AND HEALY





In Summer 2022, our high school programs settled into a new 2,500-square foot location on 23rd Street in Chinatown, just a few blocks away from our original location which remains home for our Middle School Program. This expansion into a second space was much needed as a result of our rapidly expanding programs. Now, both programs will serve more youth overall, and can run multiple services and activities simultaneously. The new high school space has dedicated classroom and workshop space as well as private meeting space and areas where youth can relax with their peers.



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Sandy Ruan  
**DIRECTOR OF STRATEGIC INITIATIVES**

Elvina Ng  
**OPERATIONS MANAGER**

# 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 and 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.

## CORPORATE / GRANT CONTRIBUTORS

### up to \$999

American Family Insurance

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Pattabhi, Anil & Surya Dronamraju Memorial Fund

### >\$10,000

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City of Chicago Department of Family & Support Services

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Illinois State Board of Education

Insurance Industry Charitable Foundation

Julian Grace Foundation

McDonald's

New York Life Foundation & Afterschool Alliance

Southwest Organizing Project  
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# INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTORS

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Victoria Williams-Ononye  
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Dr. Janet Chin & Tim Amrein  
Dr. Karen Chiu  
Nancy Sun  
Peter Tong  
Dr. Tony Chow  
Victoria Ng

# THANK YOU



## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS	
Cash & Cash equivalents	55,025
Contributions Receivable	290,105
Refundable Lease Deposit	11,688
Prepaid Expenses	3,344
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>360,163</b>
LIABILITIES	
Accounts Payable	6,642
Credit Cards	20,150
Other Liabilities	155,995
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>182,787</b>
EQUITY	
Assets—Without Donor Restrictions	173,814
Assets—With Donor Restrictions	0
Net Income	3,561
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>177,375</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	<b>360,163</b>

FUNDRAISING 5%

MANAGEMENT &  
GENERAL 20%PROGRAM  
SERVICES 75%2022  
EXPENSES

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

## OUR 2022 FINANCIALS

*\*Final audited financial statements available February 1st, 2023*

REVENUE & SUPPORTS	
Contributions & Foundation Support	538,555
Government Grants	555,949
Fundraising Events	50,913
Program Service Revenues	71,689
Other / PPP Forgiveness	49,721
<b>TOTAL REVENUE &amp; SUPPORT</b>	<b>1,266,829</b>
EXPENSES	
Program Services	949,243
Support Services	
Management / General	255,308
Fundraising	58,717
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>1,263,268</b>
<b>NET INCREASE IN NET ASSETS</b>	<b>3,561</b>

CONTRIBUTIONS &  
FOUNDATION  
SUPPORT 42%FUNDRAISING  
EVENTS 4%PROGRAM  
SERVICE  
REVENUE 6%

OTHER 4%

GOVERNMENT  
GRANTS 44%2022  
REVENUES



# BOSCO'S STORY

“

I'm Bosco Wu. I am currently a sophomore at Walter Payton College Prep and I have been attending Project: VISION for 5 years now. I first heard about this program through my older brother, who also participated in the organization throughout his middle and high school years. When I first joined PV, I was shy and soft-spoken. I didn't know how to speak up or advocate for my academic needs.

Through PV, I have learned how to step out of my comfort zone and strengthen my interpersonal skills. The tutors and staff at PV create an atmosphere in which students are comfortable speaking up for themselves and are able to express their needs. Service learning opportunities are also provided by PV, and attending those helped me realize that I can make a difference and impact my community in a positive way. I feel like I could use my social skills to help others in the future by providing the resources that they need to succeed. Project: VISION provides programs that allow students to become student leaders by being able to host events that can benefit others, whether it's learning how to serve your own community or internally strengthening the student body of PV. The tutors and staff at PV, as well as the leadership programs provided by PV, helped mold me into the person I am today.

”

## WE ASKED BOSCO WHAT ADVICE HE'D GIVE TO THE NEXT GENERATION OF PV YOUTH.

### 1. Never be afraid to ask for help if you need it.

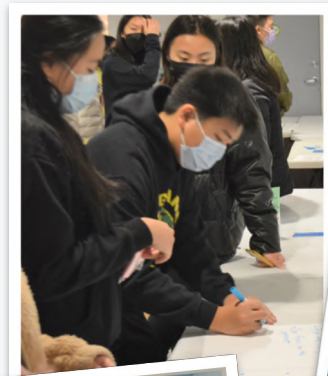
The people at PV are there to support you no matter what difficulties you may encounter in school and potentially in life.

### 2. Take every opportunity given to you no matter what challenges you face.

At Project: VISION, you can always sign up for certain service learning opportunities as well as networking opportunities to further your social skills and to meet new people in working environments.

### 3. Stay optimistic.

Always look on the positive side of things in every situation, focus on what you have currently and work on those things. Never let the bad side of things bring you down. Confidence can change your view of the world and how you overcome challenges.





# Project: VISION

## Project: VISION, Inc.

MONDAYS THRU FRIDAYS 9AM TO 7PM | SATURDAYS 9AM TO 5PM

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