



**Project:VISION**  
a nonprofit youth organization



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

FISCAL YEAR SEPTEMBER 1, 2019 – AUGUST 31, 2020

**ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020**

# DEAR PROJECT: VISION FRIENDS,

This year, we share our year-in-review of Project: VISION's accomplishments with much gratitude in our hearts. Just as in many other communities, the COVID-19 pandemic overwhelmed ours in many different ways. Since the spring, PV saw its role in the community expand, not just as a provider of our primary youth services but also as an additional resource to families and the greater community. But, we would not have risen to the challenge so easily if it were not for you - our generous supporters! So, first, we want to take a minute to say **THANK YOU** to all who stepped up to support us during these times of need!

Although the numbers that represent our youths' achievements are still important, we are even more proud of the persistence and resilience that our youth showed. Despite school closures and difficult transitions to e-learning, our students still came online with us to attend tutoring, enrichment, and college workshops. Many youths also continued their service and leadership projects, and some even completed virtual internships, totaling over **3,400** hours of activities. Over the summer, more than **40** middle schoolers joined us online for our virtual summer camp, and many high school students stayed focused on their college goals by attending online SAT review classes and getting a head start on college applications with the help of their PV Program Coordinators. Despite the challenges of the year, PV managed to serve **270** youth, our largest cohort yet. **We are also happy to report that we continued our track record of students achieving 100% on-time promotion to the next grade, while 100% of seniors graduated on time and were accepted to college this year.**

While PV continued providing our core programs online, we also responded to youths' new needs like technology access and supporting their social, emotional and mental health. Our staff stepped up to provide technical assistance, create safe spaces for youth to stay connected, and support conversations about racial justice, for example. Not surprisingly, the pandemic has cast new light on the longstanding inequities that exist in immigrant communities, and we knew we

needed to do our part for the broader community. We participated in neighborhood mutual aid efforts, hosted unemployment workshops, translating informational resources, and coordinating efforts to help families get the assistance they need. In addition, as part of the Chinatown Complete Streets Committee, we were proud to help ensure that our families were counted in Census 2020.

As we look forward to another year, we are hopeful to be fully returned to our core work supporting youth to reach their full potentials. We hope to resume initiatives like our school partnerships at Haines and Ward Schools and our pilot program at the Chinatown Library. In the meantime, as the pandemic continues to evolve, we anticipate the needs of our youth, their families, and the community will also continue to change. New needs will likely emerge. We remain committed to supporting our youth in ways that adapt to their needs and bolster their resilience. We also continue to stand ready to support the broader community alongside fellow service organizations.

We thank you again for your steadfast support and hope that the success stories in the following pages will illustrate the difference you have made in our community during this challenging year.

**SINCERELY,**



**STEVE ALBRIGHT**  
Chair of the Board



**KAREN CHIU**  
Executive Director & Co-Founder

**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.**

# LEARN

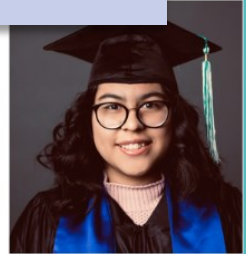
Support academic success by helping youth develop effective study skills, master knowledge of critical core subjects, and nurture a love of learning through tutoring, enrichment, and college readiness activities.

# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR & ED

OVER  
**270**  
YOUTHS SERVED

100%  
PROMOTED TO THE NEXT  
GRADE AND ARE ON  
TRACK TO GRADUATING  
HIGH SCHOOL ON TIME

100%  
HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS  
WERE ACCEPTED  
AND COMMITTED TO  
ATTENDING COLLEGE IN  
FALL 2020



OVER  
**37,000**  
HOURS  
OF PROGRAMMING  
PROVIDED



93%  
ENGAGED THEIR  
COMMUNITY  
THROUGH SERVICE  
& LEADERSHIP  
PROJECTS



CONGRATS!!  
*Class of*  
**2020**

# SERVE

# LEAD

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

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.

# 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.

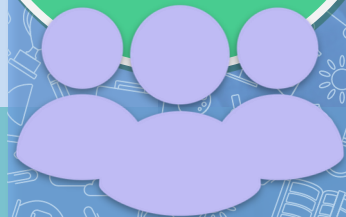
In the fall of 2004, PV's team of dedicated volunteers piloted a drop-in tutoring program serving about 20 students each week. Since then, our core programs have reached over 1,000 youth and continue to be provided free.

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  
1,000

YOUTHS SERVED  
SINCE 2004



95%

are from lower  
income families

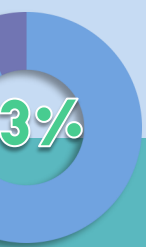
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from first  
immigr

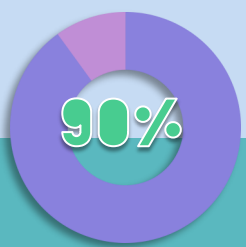


# OUR CHALLENGE

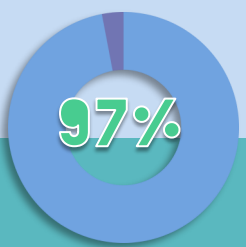
Often, our community is overlooked as among the most underserved neighborhoods in Chicago. In reality, many of our youth face significant obstacles to success:



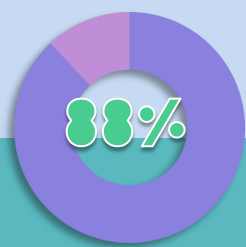
most generation  
ant families



would be the first in their  
families to attend college



are enrolled in  
Chicago Public Schools



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 or charter schools, while higher performing students compete for selective enrollment high school seats. In 2018, 16,500 students competed for only 3,400 selective enrollment seats.



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.

## 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.



## 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 literacy and self care, and helping them develop professional skills for the workplace.

# 100%

HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS  
WERE ACCEPTED  
AND COMMITTED TO  
ATTENDING COLLEGE IN  
FALL 2020

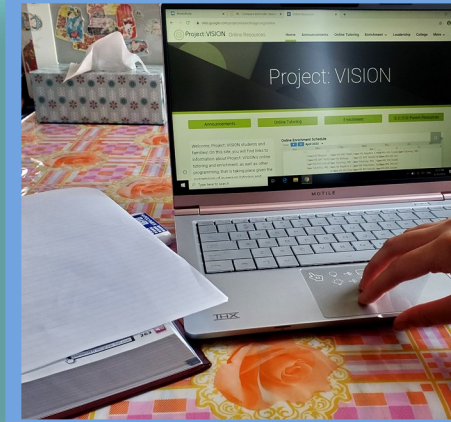
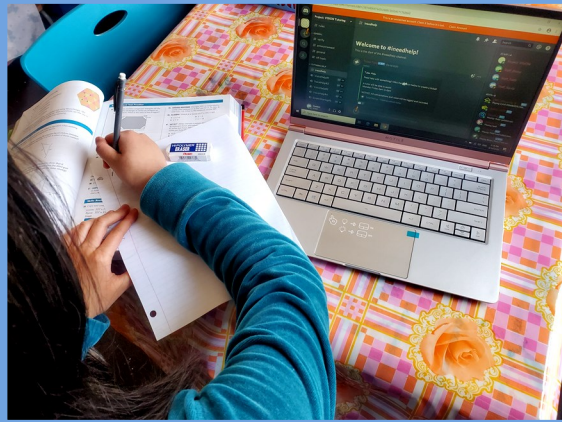
# 15

SENIORS  
GRADUATED AND  
ACCEPTED TO AT  
LEAST 2 FOUR-YEAR  
UNIVERSITIES



OVER  
**270**  
YOUTHS SERVED

OVER  
**37,000**  
HOURS OF PROGRAMMING PROVIDED



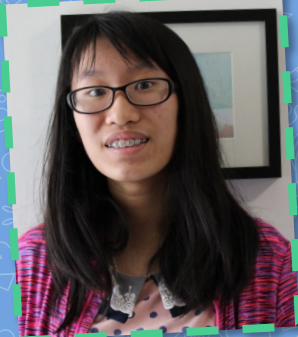
## DURING THE 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR

PV has helped me a lot, especially now during the pandemic, with online learning. Online tutoring is very different from in-person tutoring. We got to talk to the tutors in-person, but now, the tutors have to find different ways to help us like providing digital copies for enrichment. Even online, my tutors are nice and supportive, and they are still able to help me with homework by showing me lots of examples on the whiteboard or shared screen so that I understand my work.

Project: VISION served 270 youth through our After School Homework Tutoring program at our After School Homework Center and our school-based programs at John C. Haines and James Ward Elementary Schools.

The pandemic necessitated school closures and transition to e-learning, but PV was able to help mitigate learning loss and widening of achievement gaps. By April, PV staff were back supporting students academically through daily online tutoring and enrichment.

Despite the challenges this school year has brought, our youth stepped up to the challenge.



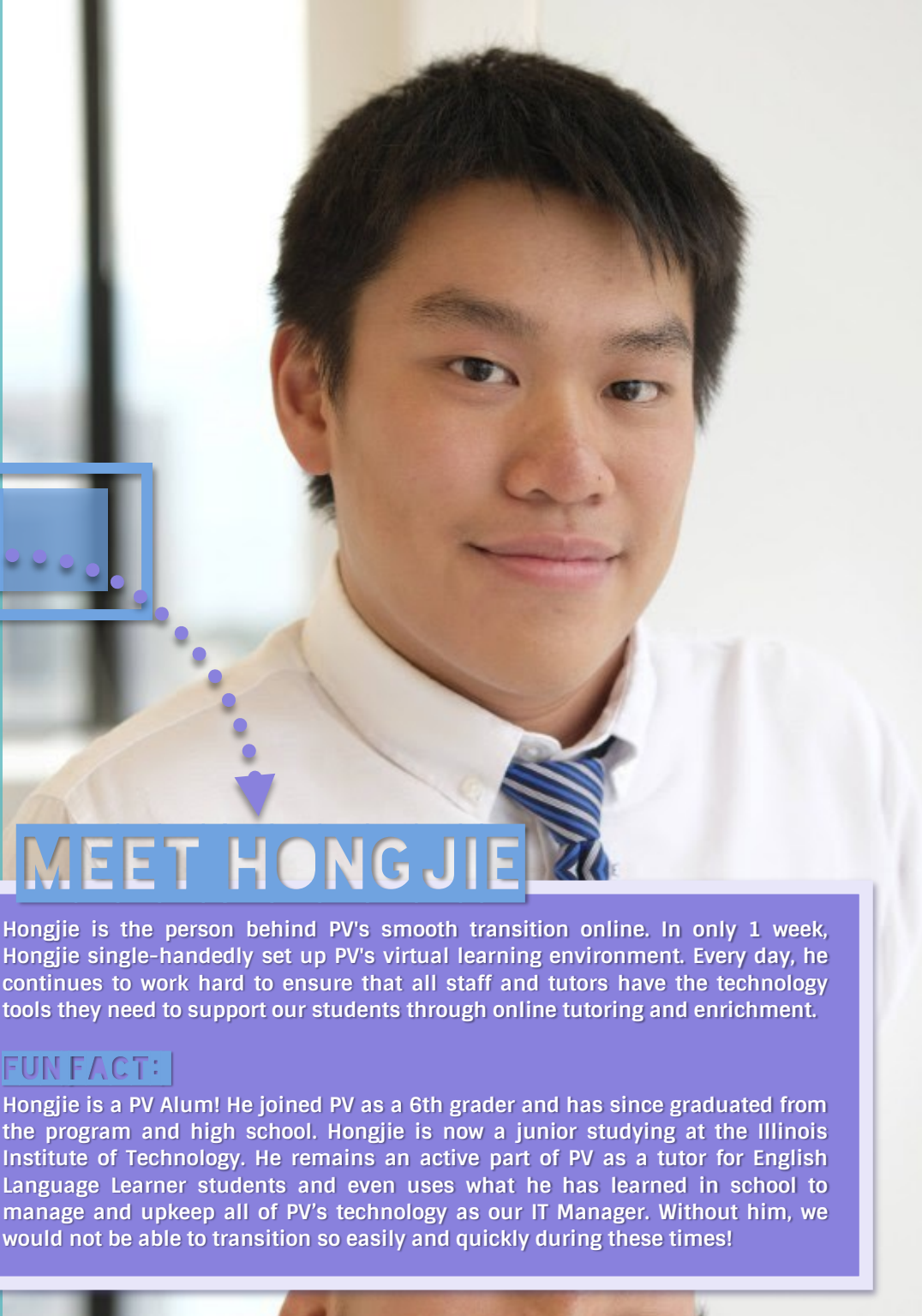
**ALICE. GRADE 9**

**100%**

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 2020



EAR...

Programs at the  
Primary Schools.

has determined  
staff and tutors  
enrichment.

the plate:



## MEET HONGJIE

Hongjie is the person behind PV's smooth transition online. In only 1 week, Hongjie single-handedly set up PV's virtual learning environment. Every day, he continues to work hard to ensure that all staff and tutors have the technology tools they need to support our students through online tutoring and enrichment.

### FUN FACT:

Hongjie is a PV Alum! He joined PV as a 6th grader and has since graduated from the program and high school. Hongjie is now a junior studying at the Illinois Institute of Technology. He remains an active part of PV as a tutor for English Language Learner students and even uses what he has learned in school to manage and upkeep all of PV's technology as our IT Manager. Without him, we would not be able to transition so easily and quickly during these times!

93%

ENGAGED THEIR  
COMMUNITY  
THROUGH SERVICE  
& LEADERSHIP  
PROJECTS

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.

3,416

HOURS WORKING  
ON SKILLS TO BE  
THE TYPES OF  
LEADERS THEY  
ASPIRE TO BE

ARED  
EMEN

分享協議

HAINES 興氏學

ECTFUL 尊重別人

ONSIBLE

AM



2020 CENSUS

## VIRTUAL INTERNSHIP

The Census Internship allowed me the freedom to use creativity to educate people about the Census. Whether it was through social media, events, flyers, or other means, there were always many ways to reach our outreach goal. Though the internship was remote this year, the premise was the same, and I still tried to do my job as best as I could. I learned way more about the Census than I ever knew before. I learned the reasons why it is so vital, the benefits it gives to our communities, and the different ways you can fill out the Census.

I experienced what it was like to organize an event for people to come to. I improved on my time management, organization, and creativity skills. Looking back at this internship as a whole, I really learned how to manage my time effectively thanks to this experience. I learned more about myself as a person, and was able to educate others about the Census in a way I never thought possible before.

DARWIN, GRADE 12

Project:VISION  
a nonprofit youth organization

7  
YOUTHS  
COMPLETED PAID  
VIRTUAL SUMMER  
INTERNSHIPS



# STORIES OF RE

The Project: VISION community demonstrated so much resilience during this pandemic. PV saw its role in the community expand, not just as a provider of our primary youth services but also as an additional resource to families and the greater community. We focused on meeting the immediate needs of our families. We hosted workshops on filing unemployment and coordinated with other agencies that could assist with the filing process. In addition, we created a weekly newsletter and translated materials informing families about various resources such as food distributions, rent and utilities assistance, and healthcare and COVID testing information. We also helped to coordinate efforts to assist families in need apply for aid and to distribute masks and PPE.

## COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE

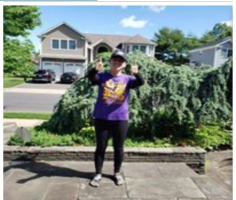
Thanks to the rent assistance provided to my family, we got relief that helped lessen the stress caused by the pandemic. We also worried less about essentials such as food and clothing. I feel like I have personally had more time to focus on school and be more productive.

**KENNETH, GRADE 9**



## RELIEF FUND

Our supporters really stepped up during our time of need. The contributions from the PV COVID-19 Relief Fund and Virtual 5-Mile Challenge allowed us to sustain our operations and continue serving our youth and their families, while taking care of our staff who have worked so hard to creatively engage youth virtually and adapt to the emerging needs of families.



# SILIENCE

5

HOURS/DAY OF  
INTERACTIVE VIRTUAL  
PROGRAMMING

OVER  
90%  
AVERAGE DAILY  
ATTENDANCE

82%

PARTICIPANTS FELT  
THEY IMPROVED IN  
AT LEAST ONE SKILL:  
SOCIAL, COMMUNICATION,  
COLLABORATIVE, AND  
PROBLEM-SOLVING SKILLS



## VIRTUAL SUMMER CAMP

PV's Virtual Summer Camp helped youth stay connected to each other and to us so that they can stay emotionally and mentally healthy and positive. This 6-week program provided 40 middle school youth (grades 6-8) with academic enrichment and social/emotional learning through "connected learning" activities that incorporated youths' interests, social supports, and link to academic, civic engagement, and career goals. Youth engaged in games, virtual field trips, and group projects that facilitated team building, positive peer relationships, and bonding with adult mentors. The activities also helped youth develop soft skills as well as keep up with core academic skills including math, reading, and writing.



# STORIES OF RESILIENCE

# THANK YOU

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.

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Rachna Purohit

Treasurer

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Secretary

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Tertia Henderson

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Tina Morton

Elysia Root

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Trang Truong-Hill

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Lily Xu

Co-chair

Damian Hurtado

Treasurer

Akshiev Dhawan

Karin Zhu

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Zackary Chaudhry

Manasa Datla

Rui Zhong

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Sandy Ruan

Director of Development

Elvina Ng

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### up to \$999

Abbott

Arthur Gallagher

Century 21

Chinatown Special Events

Intercontinental Exchange

Nike

Salesforce

Societe Generale

### \$1,000 to \$4,999

11-10-02 Foundation

Asian Giving Circle

Brisk Engineering

Chinatown Chamber of Commerce

Dragon Boat Race for Literacy

McDonald's Corporation

Munich Re

The Nature Conservancy

Together Now

Wintrust

### \$5,000 to \$10,000

Albert Pick Jr. Foundation

Cathay Bank Foundation

Google

W. W. Grainger

Insurance Industry Charitable Foundation

Seabury Foundation

WP & HB White Foundation

### >\$10,000

Anonymous

Chinatown Parking Lot Corporation

City of Chicago Department of Family & Support Services

Exelon Corporation Foundation (Stay in School Initiative)

Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights

Illinois State Board of Education

Southwest Organizing Project

United Way of Metropolitan Chicago Impact Fund,

a McCormick Foundation Fund

## INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTORS

### \$100 to \$499

Anonymous (Various)  
Alan Cheung  
Alex Vizhalil  
Alex Willden  
Amy Duong  
Andrew Don  
Andy Kong  
Ankit Rawal  
Annie Chin-Louie  
Arun Kumar  
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Chinese American Civic Council of Chicago  
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Vicki Ann Rousis  
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Vince Kwan  
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Wei Guan  
William Don  
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### \$500 to \$999

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Steve Albright  
Stewart Moy  
Victor Kwong  
Yi Chao

### \$1,000+

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Brian Brown  
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Mark Yun  
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Rachna Purohit  
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Shu-Huei Henrickson  
Sophia Shih  
Steve White  
Dr. Tony Chow  
Wai & Han Moy

# OUR SUPPORTERS



A special thank you to our partners at Milliman for their generous support, sponsoring PV's first Virtual 5-Mile Challenge and bringing a team of charitable runners.

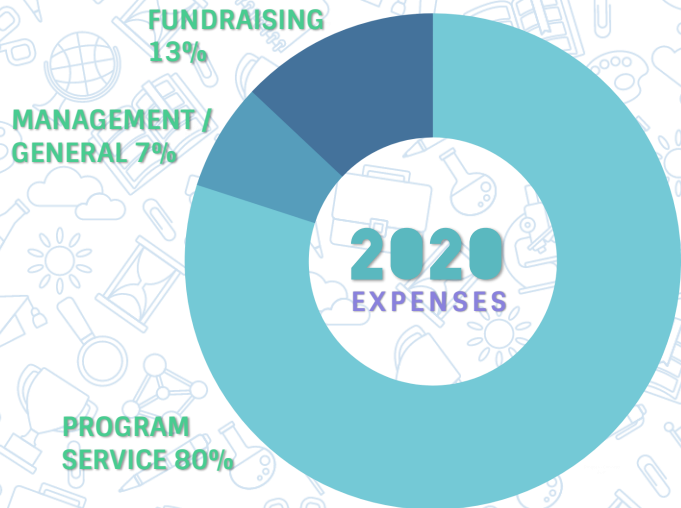
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**

ASSETS	
Cash & Cash equivalents	187,595
Contributions Receivable	34,800
Refundable Lease Deposit	6,480
Prepaid Expenses	3,332
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>232,207</b>

LIABILITIES	
Accounts Payable	918
Accrued Expenses	4,000
Line of Credit	19,000
Deferred Revenue	58,929
SBA Loan PPP Payable	47,601
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>130,448</b>

EQUITY	
Assets—Without Donor Restrictions	101,760
Assets—With Donor Restrictions	0
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>101,760</b>

**TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS 232,208**



**OUR 2020 FINANCIALS**

**STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES**

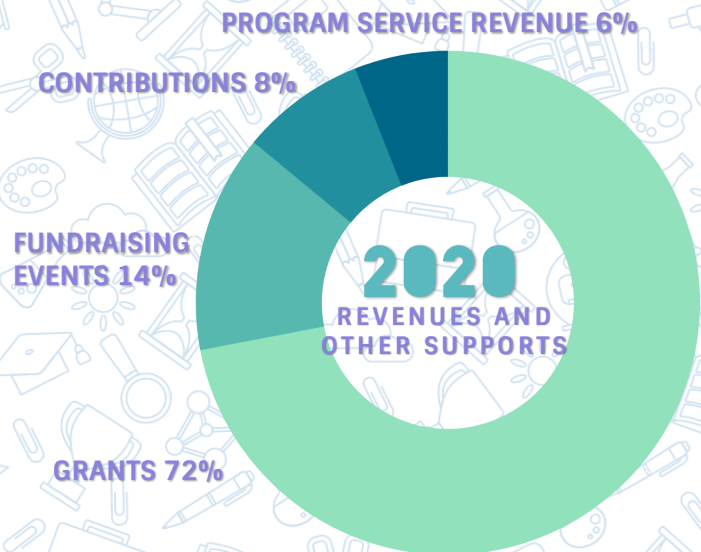
REVENUE & SUPPORTS	
Contributions	45,224
Fundraising Events	71,513
Grants	375,208
Program Service Revenues	30,053
Other Income	1,833

**TOTAL REVENUE & SUPPORT 523,831**

EXPENSES	
Program Services	406,650
Support Services	
Management/General	37,067
Fundraising	67,787

**TOTAL EXPENSES 511,504**

**NET INCREASE IN NET ASSETS 12,327**



# ALEXA'S STORY

## LOOKING FORWARD

My name is Alexa Yu, and I am an English Language Learner student at Thomas Kelly College Prep. I have been a part of Project: VISION for six years now. I immigrated to the U.S at age nine, and even as a little girl, I was very stressed because my family and I spoke very little English, and I had to count on myself to complete my school assignments. After joining Project: VISION, my English skills and grades have improved a lot. I grew from not being used to communicating with people in English to now using English confidently and fluently. PV has encouraged me to realize my potential to pursue the things that I want and need to do.

In addition to academic achievements, I also learned a lot of leadership skills through Project: VISION. It has been my honor to contribute to the community through service as well. One memorable service project I have done with PV was an event at the Chinese American Museum of Chicago. I helped set up and greet visitors at their exhibit about how the Chinese helped to build the first Transcontinental Railroad. I was happy and excited to see many Americans attend, wanting to learn more about the valuable contributions of Chinese people to American society.

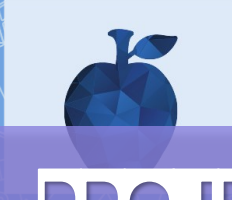
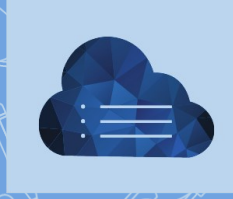
As I look to the future, I plan to study Business Administration or Management in college. I aspire to be a business leader and look forward to managing teams and working with people to achieve meaningful goals. With all the support I have received, I am grateful and now feel prepared to pursue my dreams.





# Project:VISION

a nonprofit youth organization



## PROJECT: VISION, INC.

Mondays thru Fridays 9am to 7pm | Saturdays 9am to 5pm

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