



Annual Report

2017-2018



From the Executive Director

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There was always a tone of excitement in their voices when I met our alumni and heard their VIA stories during our 55th anniversary last year. This was not only a heartening experience for me, but I was also extremely excited to be reminded of the ripple effect of what our founder Dwight Clark started in 1963. As Dean of Freshmen Men at Stanford, Dwight engaged students in conversations about what kind of a person they want to become and led them to do service work in Hong Kong. This was the beginning of VIA that consequently provided thousands of people from the U.S. and Asia, including myself, the opportunity to go across the pacific and embark on a VIA journey that broadened our worldview and led to new career and life options.

Among the alumni I talked with last year is Phil Chritton who met his future wife when he was a VIA volunteer in China in the 80's and spent many years of his career in Asia. What is fascinating about Phil's journey with VIA is that his daughter Monica joined the VIA family as a Global Community Fellow in 2017 (introduced on p.4 of this report) and served at a vocational training center in Myanmar. Another alumna that has passed the VIA torch to a new generation is June Gordon who served in Taiwan in the 70's and is currently a professor at UC Santa Cruz. To help her students deepen their understanding of what they learn through her courses, June has encouraged many of them to spend time in Asia with VIA. You can read about one of her students, Daniel Romo's experience on p.3.

At a time with increasing conflicts around the world and countless social issues, I see great importance in continuing to encourage our participants to ask themselves the question "What kind of a person do I want to become?" and empowering them with the mindset and skills that will bring positive change to society. Furthermore, as I envision the next chapter for VIA, I see great potential in maximizing our impact by working closely with local partners in Asia including schools, nonprofits, and foundations as a coalition to address societal challenges they face in their communities. I would like to take this opportunity to express my deep gratitude to all our donors, funders, alumni, and friends who support VIA and enable us to continue our work. Your support ensures that the VIA experience remains accessible to future generations and that we continue to bring positive long-term impact to the people and communities we serve.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kazutoh Ishida". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Kazutoh Ishida, PhD
Executive Director

The Ripple Effects and Long-term Impact of VIA's Programs



Daniel Romo graduated from UC Santa Cruz in June 2018 and departed for a summer internship with VIA in Yogyakarta, Indonesia at a community library and reading program soon after. However, his journey to Asia and entry into the VIA community started many years prior. Daniel was a student of June Gordon (VIA Taiwan 1970 and former board member), a long-serving UC Santa Cruz professor. Daniel had enrolled in several of June's courses focused on education in Asia. June's continued engagement with VIA since her time as a volunteer in Taiwan, and as a college educator, has provided many opportunities for her former students to consider post-graduate plans that included time in Asia with VIA. Reflecting on the overlap of VIA and her

tenure at UC Santa Cruz, June shared, "it has been gratifying to have students make the connection between the content of my courses and the VIA experience. Over the years the most difficult impediment for students and parents in deciding to connect with VIA is a fear of going abroad, especially issues around safety and trust. VIA provides a collective network that enables students to feel secure and prepared to do service in Asia. I am proud of those students who have selected this path to greater intercultural understanding and self-discovery."

For Daniel, this network of support included another former student of June's, Chennal Breen. Chennal also joined VIA after graduation, as part of the year-long fellowship program and has remained in Indonesia since 2015, serving as a VIA fellow and embarking on a master's degree in religious and cross-cultural studies at Gadjah Mada University. Daniel's time in Indonesia passed more quickly. Despite program staff's suggestions that he try to stay longer, he stuck firmly to deeply-held commitment to becoming an educator and returning to his home community as soon as possible. Daniel followed his plan and teaches freshman students at Leadership Public Schools R&D in Oakland, where he graduated from in 2014.

Daniel, Chennal, and June's experiences are just a few examples of the long-term impact we seek at VIA. Beyond quality experiences during programs, we look towards the impact that our alumni have over decades in their careers, communities, and beyond.

"During the final months of my senior year at UC Santa Cruz I came to the realization that I had yet to accomplish something wildly out of the ordinary. It was only until I heard about VIA's programs that I felt the stars aligned for me to fly out of my comfort zone. With this opportunity knocking, I knew I had the chance to achieve both personal and professional growth beyond anything I had ever done before. By the end of my internship, I flew back home having immersed myself in a foreign culture with a new language while eating delicious foods alongside lifelong friends. Professionally, Indonesia presented me with a sole feeling of familiarity, taking me back to my passion of teaching new skills to youth of color."

—Daniel Romo

VIA AROUND THE WORLD



Global Community Fellowship Program

Monica Chritton

Inle Heritage Hospitality
Vocational Training Center
– Inle Lake, Myanmar



Living in a more remote post built personal resilience, reflection, maturity, but most of all created the right environment to really become close with my community, and develop a sense of humility and understanding.

Chennal Breen

Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM)
– Yogyakarta, Indonesia



Catherine Hendren

Pre-Collegiate Program (PCP)
– Yangon, Myanmar

Paige Chisholm

Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM)
– Yogyakarta, Indonesia



William Hunter

Jember University
– Jember, Indonesia

Rebekka Flam

BEAM (Bridging Educational
Access to Migrants)
– Chiang Mai, Thailand



Kelly Schneider

Alma Ata University
– Yogyakarta, Indonesia

Erik Hammarlund

Sanata Dharma University
– Yogyakarta, Indonesia

My VIA experience has made me more confident, more creative, more able to manage time and roles as they come up.



Christina Bui

Pacific Links
– An Giang, Vietnam

Misja Ilcisin

Koe Koe Tech
– Yangon, Myanmar



Emily Stephenson

Pre-Collegiate Program (PCP)
– Yangon, Myanmar

The VIA experience has been absolutely pivotal in my career and personal development. Prior to joining VIA, I had been working in public health research and hadn't really considered education as something in which I was interested. During my 2 years with VIA, I have discovered my passion for education development, and hope to continue to work in access programs to higher education as I continue in my career.

Alumni Spotlight



Yuka Matsuzaki is a graduate of two VIA programs (the *Medical Exchange & Discovery (MED)* program in 2015 and *Design-Thinking for Social Innovation (DSI)* program in

2018), and is currently finishing up her medical degree at Tokyo Women's Medical University. She has helped organize VIA's 55th Anniversary event and Alumni Summit in Tokyo in the fall of 2018, and is in the process of organizing another reunion this spring.

"VIA is like home for me. VIA welcomes me so warmly, and they allow me to think in a safe environment. Japanese society is very rigid in its way of thinking, but VIA gave me questions that questioned my rigid, stereotypical Japanese way of thinking that I was brought up with. It's okay to think "crazy" ideas because VIA is a safe place to think, and the staff encouraged me to do anything. By being asked these questions, I was able to revisit why I wanted to be a doctor in the first place. Being with VIA is like being part of a big family – I have good feelings inside of me, and it makes so happy.

When I decided to become a doctor, I wanted to be a global doctor. There is a Japanese proverb "Ino naka no kawazu, taikai wo shirazu," which means the frog in the well knows nothing of the big ocean. I don't want to be the frog in the well. I want to keep in touch with VIA's participants, talk about issues such as the recent scandal of gender bias scoring at medical universities in Japan. We have to change the system for Japanese medical schools. This is the starting point for me and other people. I want to talk with VIA participants, I want to share my thoughts and opinions with my colleagues in the medical field in Japan. But many Japanese people don't want to talk about it out loud. So, it feels like a laughable story, if I bring it up.

In Japan, we have a good healthcare system, but it's not perfect. The tuition for medical school is very high, as well as we struggle with a declining birth rate. People in Japan tend to think that the government will do something, but I don't think so. When I helped with VIA's Exploring Health Care (EHC) program, I was able to research medical practices by Japanese professionals in the Bay Area, and I felt very strongly that the next generation of Japanese medical professionals need to go abroad, research or study what other countries are doing, so that we can be competitive in a global world. Japanese people are so shy, and it's easy for our country to live in its own bubble. We have to make sure Japanese medical professionals are

keeping up with other countries. It's tough for female doctors here. The elderly women doctors tell us how it is better now than how it was for them in the past. But I don't think now is good enough for women doctors working full time. Only 5% of female doctors are cardiovascular specialists. Many women choose dermatology, eye, or internal medicine. The systems set in place for full time employment is not good in general. People are expected to do overtime, fill quotas, but women have to balance what is expected of them as mothers and wives.

We need a new model to tackle these issues in Japan. For example, if I ran a hospital, I could make the new system different from what we currently have. If I can demonstrate that this system works, other doctors and hospitals can see that it works and they can change their minds, and even adopt this new system. I want to change people's minds completely. It's tough, but if we have the patience and take the time we need, we can develop a better system for female doctors. We can change.

My word of advice to VIA alumni is to keep in touch with your fellow participants and with VIA staff. Think about what you learned during the program, and put your thoughts forward. These are important steps that can help change people's minds and not be stuck in Japan's stereotypical, rigid thinking.

VIA Community Connects with President Obama in Jakarta

The Obama Foundation contacted VIA in search of young changemakers in Indonesia because of our previous U.S. Department of State-funded Youth Leadership Program, a summer exchange for students aged 15-17 from Indonesia and the U.S.

Out of the ten people selected country-wide from the Obama Foundation to join a private audience with President Barack Obama in Jakarta, three were VIA alumni from local partners. We were thrilled to see Tia Setiyani, Teguh Affandi, and Agnes "Galuh" Simamora selected.

Tia is a women's rights activist advocating for gender equality, an end to violence against women, sexual and reproductive health, and rights for Yogyakarta's LGBTQ community. Galuh was a participant on the U.S.-Indonesia Youth Leadership Program, a collaboration between VIA and George Mason University funded by the U.S. Department of State. She is now studying law at the Universitas Indonesia with an interest in land rights and hopes to become an advocate for the people. Teguh works for a civil

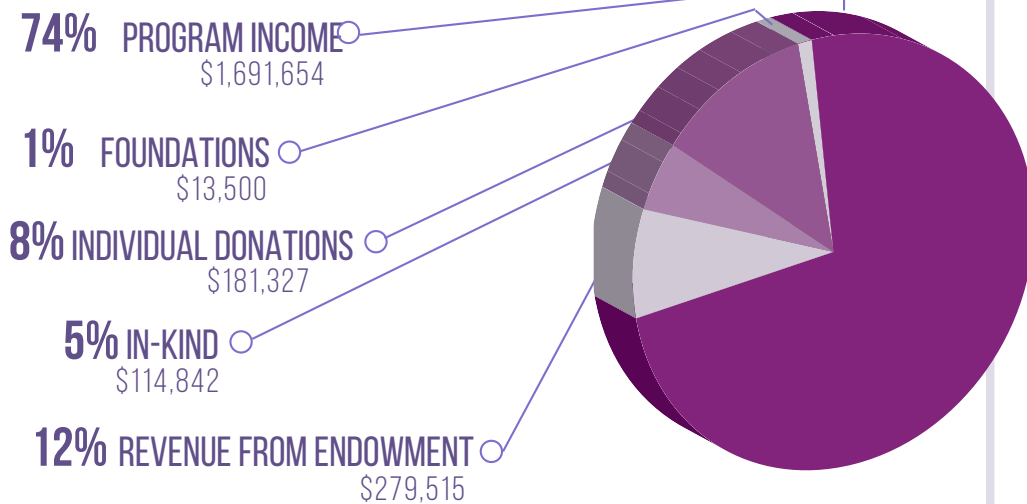
society organization based in Jakarta called Our Voice. He was a participant in our 10-week program held in Yogyakarta, in collaboration with Haverford College's Center for Peace and Global Citizenship in 2013 and also took part in the 2018 Gender and Conflict program in Jakarta as a guest speaker.



2017–2018 By The Numbers

FY 2018

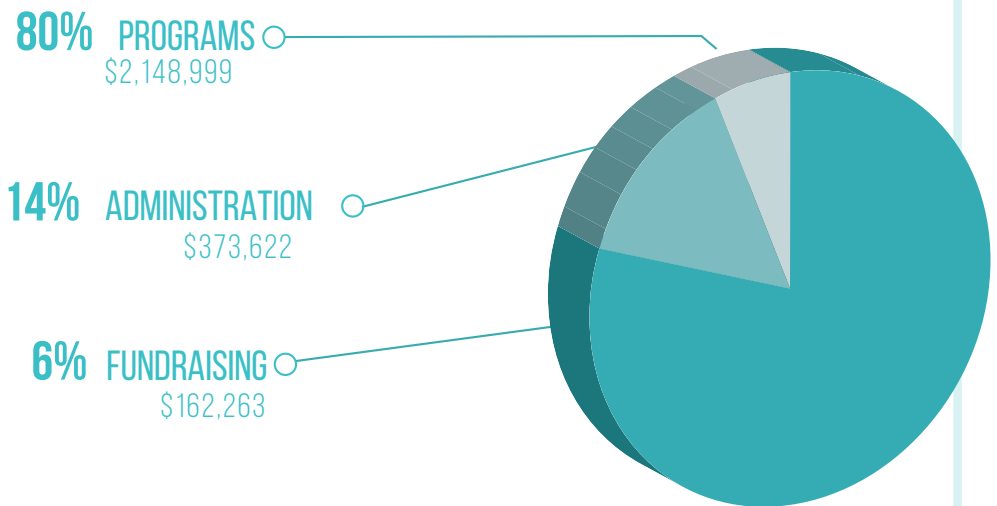
FUNDING SOURCES



\$2,280,838

FY 2018

EXPENSES



\$2,684,884

Leaving a Legacy for VIA

We would like to thank and honor all of those who have made a legacy gift promise to VIA. Their commitment will ensure the continuation of rich, immersive cross-cultural learning experiences that transform lives and strengthen our global community.

John Affeldt & Karen Hoy

Jeanne Blamey & Robert Fram

Dwight Clark

Tim & Mia Clark

Joan Karlin & Paul Resnick

Michael Moradzadeh

Corbin Smith

Joel Stratte-McClure

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If you have included VIA in your will or trust, please inform us so that we can thank you for your special commitment. For additional information about our planned giving program, please contact Brian Byrdsong at: brian@viaprograms.org or (415) 904-8033.

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July 1, 2017—June 30, 2018

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995 Market Street
San Francisco, CA 94103
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