



60 YEARS OF **via**



Annual Report 2022-2023

From the Executive Director



As we celebrated our 60th anniversary this past year, I had the great honor and pleasure to connect with many alumni including some who were volunteers in Asia during our earlier years and also recent participants who joined our programs in the San Francisco Bay Area from Asia. Even though the programs which our alumni joined may be quite

different, I find it remarkable how VIA has impacted so many individuals in similar ways, that is, by giving people the opportunity to build cross-cultural empathy, reflect on what kind of person they want to become, and pursue new paths that have shaped their lives. This is also certainly true for myself, experiencing VIA as a participant from Japan as a college student, eventually pursuing a graduate degree in the US, and then joining VIA as a staff member. You can also read how other alumni were impacted by VIA through the stories shared on p. 5 of this report.

The strength of VIA has always been the ability to adapt to an ever-changing world and being innovative in our program development, while staying true to our values of humility, compassion, and collaboration. As shared last year, we developed a vision statement and a renewed mission statement which we introduce again in this report on the following page. Being guided by these statements, we strive to provide opportunities to individuals and our partners to embark on a journey of discovery and growth as social impact leaders who balance the hard skills needed to create actionable change in their communities while respecting and learning from the people around them. To reflect this aspiration, I proudly announce the launch of our new logo which you see on the cover of this Annual Report. The logo signifies the journey or path (“via” in latin) that we invite others to take with us towards deeper self-awareness, connection, and action as social impact leaders.

Being personally excited and energized by the people I connected with during this anniversary year, I remain committed to providing experiences of personal growth and cross-cultural connections, and ensuring our programs are meaningful to the people and communities we serve. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to all our staff, board, donors, funders, alumni, and friends who support VIA and welcome all to shape VIA’s future together.

June 2024

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kazutoh Ishida".

Kazutoh Ishida, PhD
Executive Director

VIA Board of Directors (July 2022-June 2023)

Lillian Forsyth

Program Committee

Co-Founder & CEO, Lead with Equity

Eugene Gregor

*HR/Governance Committee Chair,
Audit Committee Chair*

Senior Counsel

Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP

Steve Hope

Board Chair, Finance Committee

Associate Superintendent (ret.)

Mountain View-Los Altos Union

HS District

Danni Redding Lapuz

Board Vice Chair, Program Committee

Dean of Social Science & Creative Arts

Skyline College

Kirsten Pflieger

*Secretary, Finance Committee,
Audit Committee*

Sophie (Yoonhee) Roh

Finance Committee Chair

Financial Analyst (contractor), YouTube

Steve Ross

Program Committee Chair

Senior Advisor and Program Director

Richardson Center for

Global Engagement

Adam Rubin

HR/Governance Committee

Assistant Vice Provost

and Director of Education Abroad,
University at Buffalo (SUNY Buffalo)

William Su

Treasurer, HR/Governance Committee

Senior Manager

FibroGen, Inc.

VIA's Story



From a summer volunteer project to inspiring life-long journeys of connection, collaboration, and social change

In 1963, then Dean of Freshman Men at Stanford University, Dwight Clark, organized a summer volunteer project with Stanford students to provide support to refugees in Hong Kong. The program had a profound impact on the students and reshaped their personal and professional aspirations. The students were so inspired by the benefits of their cross-cultural experience that they encouraged others to participate in similar projects. In 1966, these programs were brought together under the name "Volunteers in Asia" (VIA).

VIA's mission and work has always reflected an innovative, human-centered approach. At a time when no other service learning organizations were sending individuals to remote areas of Asia such as Indonesia and Vietnam, VIA not only sent volunteers to these areas, but took a groundbreaking approach, facilitating cross-cultural exchange from a place of learning and humility rather than centering external values and mindsets. From the onset, VIA's culturally responsive programming has promoted respectful curiosity, appreciation, and collaboration with the cultures and communities in which volunteers were placed.

Since its founding, VIA has grown to offer short-term cultural and professional training programs, internships, and year-long fellowships throughout Asia and in

Silicon Valley to equip individuals with skillsets and mindsets to address today's social challenges. We continue to embrace our innovative roots, evolving to serve the needs of our participants and partners, while encouraging curiosity, humility, and compassion.

Continuing VIA's Vision & Mission

for the next 60 years, and beyond!

We envision a global community of leaders collaborating across boundaries to build a more compassionate society and to address critical social challenges.

Through Asia and US-based experiential learning opportunities that encompass self-reflection, creative problem-solving, and cross-cultural connection, **VIA equips emerging social impact leaders with skill sets and mindsets to address complex human challenges.**

60 Years of VIA



1963:

VIA's first volunteers spend a summer in Hong Kong, serving Chinese refugees



1970s:

VIA enters Taiwan, remains in Taiwan for nearly 24 years; also sends volunteers to Bangladesh and Sri Lanka for several years



1996:

VIA launches first Exploring Health Care program with Tokyo Medical and Tokyo Women's Medical Universities



2010s:

VIA launches spring Exploring Social Innovation program ('10); summer medical & social innovation programs in Silicon Valley ('12)

1960s

1970s

1980s

1990s

2000s

2010s

2020s



1966-68:

VIA incorporates as a 501(c)(3) non-profit; sends first volunteers to Vietnam ('66) and Indonesia ('68)



1977:

VIA launches American Language & Culture (ALC) at Stanford for students from Asia



1980s:

VIA starts sending volunteers to mainland China



2006:

VIA enters Myanmar and continues to grow its network of regional partners



2020s:

VIA launches online project accelerator ('20) and other virtual programs in response to the pandemic ('21); resumes in-person programs in 2023

Alumni Highlights: Everlasting Impact



Tab Bowers
1975 Japan Volunteer; former Board Member

One of the special things about VIA is that it attracts people who know themselves well enough to make a very conscious choice to invest time in a new experience targeting personal growth. For me that meant venturing outside of the US for the first time to live in a culture that was completely beyond my upbringing on a farm near Dayton, Ohio. It's not an exaggeration to say that six short months at a VIA

post in western Japan led to hundreds of choices over the subsequent 50 years that fundamentally shaped my life. I have lived in Japan a total of 20 of those years, my wife and kids are Japanese, my professional success at McKinsey was built around a dozen years leading a financial institution's practice that spanned Asia – while always living in Tokyo, and I honestly feel deep down that Tokyo is my second home. I don't know how, but I'd certainly be a very different person today without VIA.



Alissa Keny-Guyer
1980 Indonesia Volunteer; former Executive Director

The VIA family has grown immensely with alumni all over the world and many of whom have children and even grandchildren influenced by VIA values. For many, values and relationships are at the heart of VIA: contributing with humility, treading lightly, and integrating into community. We carried those values into careers and communities, overseas and at home. Many of my dearest friends come from VIA, from my

one-year post in Indonesia, and a decade later: my 4+ years as VIA's executive director. I'll never forget applying for the ED role and being asked, "How do you feel about traveling for this job?" To answer honestly, I dropped the bomb that I was pregnant. After a "pregnant pause" followed by several more questions, I left – assuming I had lost the position. Dwight followed me out moments later, beaming, saying how excited he was that the VIA family was growing, and how wonderful it would be to have a baby in the office!!



Takuya Kimura
1997 ALC Alumnus

The impact of VIA's American Language & Culture (ALC) program for me was a direct experience of diversity in the US. The discrimination that I had learned about as a "word" in a university lesson became more real to me when I actually experienced it through the VIA program. There was no better educational opportunity than ALC to see how religious, racial, and gender differences are central issues

in American society. The most impactful experience for me was reading a newspaper article in class about the 1996 desegregation of college admissions (SP-1) and discussing it with ALC members in 1997. Twenty-five years later, I became a university professor of Educational Sociology, translated a published book on affirmative action, and went to conduct research abroad at UC Berkeley. The roots of my career and research can be found in ALC3.



Chao Christina Wang
2015 MED Alumna; 2021 Virtual EHC & 2024 EHC Fellow

In the summer of 2015, I participated in VIA's health program. It was an experience that utterly reshaped my perspective and set me on a path of profound self-discovery and personal growth. The program was not only about acquiring knowledge or skills, attending lectures or events, visiting sightseeing, or simply adding a line to your CV. The keynote speakers, panelists, and other participants served as real role

models, inspiring me to this day. Through lectures, workshops, reflection, and discussion, the program provided fertile ground to advance personal and professional development. I feel connected and supported by people and dare to dream ambitiously and strive for excellence. I wouldn't have had the courage to pursue liver surgery as my specialty and conduct research later in the US again without this experience. Its impact continues to reverberate long after my last time in San Francisco, influencing numerous significant choices and aspirations.



Ayano Sasaki
2017 GLE & 2020 Accelerator Alumna; 2019 ESI Fellow

My VIA experience opened doors to the world for me. Not only was it my first experience in the US, but it also gave me the opportunity to meet leaders who are tackling social issues and to make like-minded friends. Seven years have passed since I participated in my first VIA program, but I still have vivid memories of the fun I had on the program, the

frustration I felt at the lack of my abilities, and the surprise I felt about American society. What I learned through VIA is the foundation of who I am today. Since returning to Japan, I have started to take action on social issues that I consider to be critical challenges. Educational disparity, environmental issues, discrimination in Japanese society are all issues that will not be easily solved, but I will never stop taking necessary actions to solve these issues.



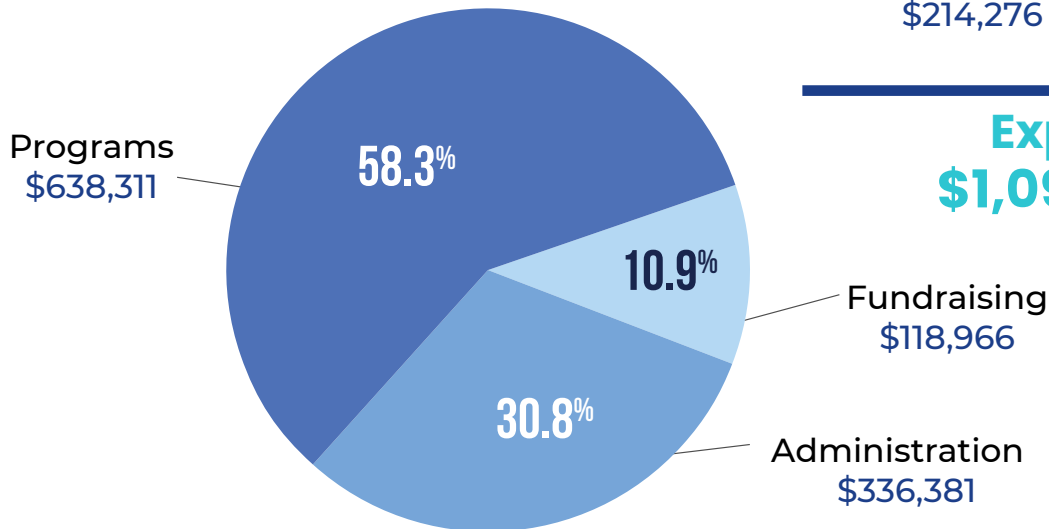
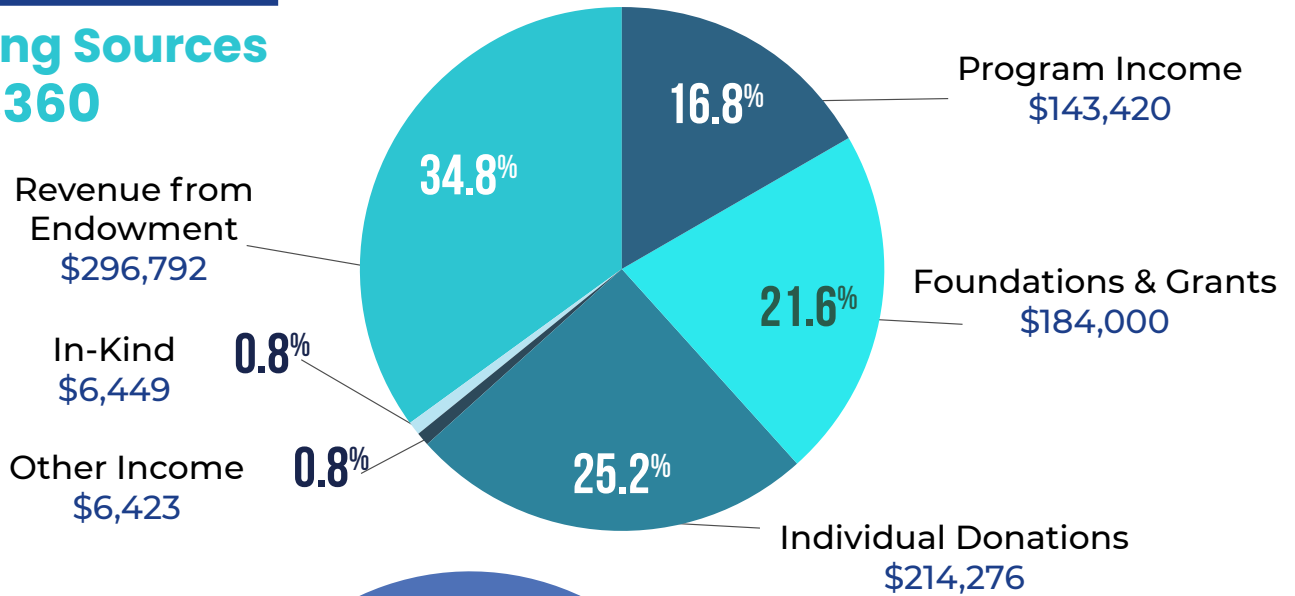
Hannah Sorenson
2019 Global Community Fellow (Indonesia);
2020-2024 Accelerator Fellow

My time-to-date with VIA has been equally unexpected and enriching. I joined VIA as a Global Community Fellow at 20 years old, joining the team at the Centre for Human Rights, Migration, and Multiculturalism in Jember, Indonesia. As a fellow I was exposed to a community of small-town Indonesian changemakers and researchers democratizing power and truth in human rights work. With their encouragement, and

after a sudden departure due to COVID, I studied how parents and teachers of the changemakers that took me in navigated Cold War geopolitics, negotiated national identity, and shaped belonging. I simultaneously continued work with VIA, facilitating and developing curriculum for the Social Impact Leadership Accelerator, which continues to cultivate an international, intercultural changemaking community that has withstood a pandemic, coup, and much more. Personally and professionally, VIA instilled in me a strong commitment to connecting changemakers with the resources and networks required to realize their goals.

2022–2023 By The Numbers

Funding Sources \$851,360



Expenses \$1,093,658

Creating Your VIA Legacy

We would like to thank and honor all of those who have made a legacy gift promise to VIA.

Planned giving can be an advantageous way to provide a future gift to VIA. By including VIA for any amount in your estate plans, you ensure the continuation of rich, immersive cross-cultural learning experiences that transform lives and strengthen our global community.

There are several ways to create your legacy for VIA:

- *Bequest in Your Will or Trust*
- *Life insurance*
- *Individual Retirement Accounts*
- *Life Income Gifts*
- *Personal Property*

If you have included VIA in your will or trust, please inform us so that we can thank you for your special commitment. For more information, please contact **VIA Strategic Relationships Director Wallace Wong** at wallace@viaprograms.org.

Thank you

John Affeldt & Karen Hoy

Jeanne Blamey & Robert Fram

Dwight Clark

Tim & Mia Clark

Brooke Isham

Joan Karlin & Paul Resnick

Stephen McNeil

Michael Moradzadeh

Corbin Smith

Joel Stratte-McClure

Robert Textor

Contributors

Your contributions add miles to each participant's journey.
For that, we sincerely thank you.

July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

Foundations, Corporations & Organizations

The Alben F. Bates & Clara G. Bates Foundation

Amazon

BelleJAR Foundation

Enlight Foundation

FICO

Freeman Foundation

Google

Henry Luce Foundation

John & Nancy Cassidy Foundation of Silicon Valley Community Foundation

The North Ridge Foundation

Point72

United Way

UPS

Laura Coleman & Gerry Mack
Eugene Cooke
Pam Cowan & Steve Miller (in honor of Dwight Clark)
Mark & Mary Jane Edleson
Janice & Bill Forsyth
John Gittelsohn
Ron Herring
Alice Hill
Stephen Holve
Greg Hurlock
Tom Hutchins
Brooke Isham
Catherine Lane
Fowler Martin
Michael Milligan
Brian Murphy & Michelle Bates-Benetua
Mark Nelson & Margrit Benton
Kosuke Nohara
Douglas Ogden
Edmund Ow
Glen Price
Sam Schwartz
Shungo Shinohara
Leonard Smith
James Spears
Paul Strasburg & Terry Saracino
Joel Stratte-McClure (in honor of Dwight Clark)
Yuta Tonegawa
Steve & Tricia Trainer

Matt Schwartz & Karen Levesque (in memory of Sugeng Setyadi)
Gwendolyn Smith & Tom Musolf
Bill Stewart
John Strand
James & Bryn Stuebner
Alan Teo
Mai Tran
Jill Tucker
Clay Wertheimer
Peter Winslow & Cheryl Stewart (in honor of Kathie Underdal)

Wisteria (\$250–\$499)

Anonymous
Fumiko Arao & Ken Singleton
Susan Bailey
Daniel Bedford
Don Brenneis (in memory of Paul Goldman)
Bill Callison
John & Nancy Cassidy
William Craig
Ann de Peyster & Michael Kirk
Jon Eichelberger
Michael Eldredge
Doug Felt & Lillian Lee
Tim George
Gary Greenfield
Dianne Greenley (in memory of Paul Goldman)
Eugene & Barbara Gregor
Masataka Hagiwara
Peter Haines
Daichi Hirose
Andy & Pam Horowitz
Suzie Ivelich
John Kavanaugh
Kent Keller
Helena Kolenda
Grace Kong & Abdi Soltani
Bettina Kurkjian & Grischa Chandy
Eric Larson & Teresa Bigelow
Kim Linton & Daniel Rothberg
Sylvia Martinez & Tim Hickey
Amanda Meier
Pilar Ossorio
Brad & Liz Palmquist
Nettleton Payne
Rafael Reyes
Steven Ross
Neil & Sandra Rudo
Deborah Satten
Nick & Maya Selby
Scott Silverman
Yuri Sugawara
Scott Sugiura
Richard Topkins
Bing Tso & Janet Gwilym
Gay Urness & Deborah Achor
Elliot Waldman
Linda & Edus Warren
Sasha Welland
Barbara & Lance Williams

Magnolia (\$500–\$999)

Kern & Amy Beare
Michael Benefiel
Judy Birk Kridle
Scott Blois
Ruth Brousseau
H. Kirk Brown
Greyson Bryan
Phillip Chritton
Heather Danton
Ken Darrow & Mary Pat O'Connell
Michele Dreyfuss
Kate Dunham
David & Lynnae Evans
Robert Gellert
Cliff Halverson & Laurie Hedden
Stevan Harrell
Christopher Harte
Steve Hope
Nelson Hsu
Catherine Griffin
Alissa Keny-Guyer
Blair King
Andrew Lewandowski & Kim Yap
Patrice O'Neill
Carol Putnam Thomsen
Francesca Ruiz de Luzuriaga
Steve Saxenian
Mary Schlarb
Jackie Schmidt-Posner & Barry Posner
Bob Schoultz

Orchid (\$10,000+)

Thomas Bowers & Michie Kasahara
Grant Cox
Danilyn Rutherford

Peony (\$2,500–\$9,999)

Amanda Allbritton & Sean Brady
Anonymous
Anonymous (in memory of Paul Goldman)
Tara Brown
Dwight Clark
Susan Hartt
Jon Hecht & Lora Sabin
Sukie Jackson & Bob Tanabe
Joan Karlin
Carole Milligan
Kirsten & Karl Pflieger
Diane Sheng
John & Sheree Shoch
Timothy Thornton

Cherry Blossom (\$1,000–\$2,499)

Christine Bates Crum
Jeanne Blamey & Robert Fram
Jon Childs
Linda Chin
Tim & Mia Clark
Andrew & Holly Cohen

Contributors (continued)

Azaleas (\$100–\$249)

Anonymous
Doug Aden
Polly Attwood
Jack Bailey
Richard Baum
Dave Beard
Linda Bevis
Carol Blanpied Guesno
Eric Boysen
Brian Byrdsong
Andrew Byrnes
(in honor of Akihiro Adachi)
Brian Cheu
Connie Chu & Jackie Crespo
Jane Clayton & John Petro
Richard Cohn
Mike Connor
Jonas Crimm
Mika Endo
Guy Eustice
Prudence Ferraro
Don Flickinger
Colleen Fong
(in memory of Paul Goldman)
Cynthia Fong
Lillian Forsyth
Michael Frank
Yasunari Fujiki
Kevin Gaw
Paul Gellert
Nancy Golden
(in memory of Paul Goldman)
Malú González
(in memory of Paul Goldman)
Sara Goodman
(in memory of Paul Goldman)
Richard Gregory
Janet Heinonen
(in memory of Paul Goldman)
Paul Henning
Stephanie Hou
Phillip Hsu & Shih-Ying Hung
Anne Huckins
Steven Jackson
Greg James
Jim Keller
(in memory of Paul Goldman)
Valerie Kelley
Takuya Kimura
Sharon Kruse
(in memory of Paul Goldman)
James Lee
Tom Lo & Caitlin Ann Schneider
William & Joanne Lehman, Jr.
Linda Long
(in memory of Paul Goldman)
Gary & Pamela Maes
Lani Marsden
Philip McLeod
Betty Merchant
(in memory of Paul Goldman)
Shelley Metzenbaum
Jennie Mollica

Mary Mowday
(in memory of Paul Goldman)
Jessy Needham
Mary Jo Neitz
(in memory of Paul Goldman)
Carolyn Nomura
(in honor of Dwight Clark)
Judy Oberlander & Mark Wexler
(in memory of Paul Goldman)
Declan O'Connor
(in memory of Paul Goldman)
Dugald Owen
Tom & Barbara Petersmeyer
Erica Petrofsky
Dianne Polver
(in memory of Paul Goldman)
Kathleen Purcell
Danni Redding Lapuz & Ray Lapuz
Paul Richardson
Yoonhee Roh & Kevin Luu
Lara Rosenthal
Adam Rubin
Nancy Rubin
(in memory of Paul Goldman)
Raymond Russell & Judith Lehr
Kim Saunders
Mike & Helen Saxenian
Mia Shan
Jiannbin Shiao
(in memory of Paul Goldman)
David Sklar
Pamela Stacey
(in memory of Paul Goldman)
Lorene Strand
William Su
Patricia & Michael Sullivan
Mitsuyo Suzuki
Dan Thomas
Roger Thompson & Melissa Walt
Jennifer Ura Gavin
Belinda Walker
Margaret Walker
Linda Wang
Ying Wang
Patricia Wong
(in memory of Paul Goldman)
Amy Woo
Haruka Yamashita
Mary Zurbuchen

Lotus (\$1–\$99)

Anonymous
Anonymous
(in honor of Hy Huynh)
Eileen Barker
(in memory of Paul Goldman)
Nathan Bitting
Amy Louise Casey Azuma
Sarena Chan
Jennifer Choate Dickinson
Charan Devereaux
Earl Fong
Paris Geiken
Carol Glaser
Elizabeth Graham Freedman
WuJing & Kevin Harrison
Diane Hirshberg

(in memory of Paul Goldman)
Michael Jeffery
Calvin Jenn
Margaret Jensen
Yuki Kitayama
Takahiro Kubo
Maura Lillis
Maria Liu
Libo Ma
Kathleen Marin
Ron Maysenhalder
Takujii Murase
Masayoshi Nageishi
Chung Nim Ha
Masako Oba
Gary Patton & Marilyn Dilworth Patton
Robert Quinn
Katherine Rodela
(in memory of Paul Goldman)
Mami Shimokawa
Kevin Smith
Jim & Coca Stein
Kay Stern
(in memory of Paul Goldman)
Ting-Ju (Sophia) Tai
Bill Tiffany
David Tuffs
Matt Vidal
(in memory of Paul Goldman)
Nancy Webber
Vivian Yang Wuarchoz
(in honor of Didier Wuarchoz)
Shengnan (Cicy) Zhang

How to Support

We are deeply grateful for our alumni and friends who have supported VIA in so many ways, including assisting our programs as fellows/mentors, providing insight and expertise, collaborating on programs, building community connections, and donating to support VIA's mission.

If you would like to make a gift and add your support, please visit viaprograms.org/donate or contact Wallace Wong, VIA Strategic Relationships Director, at wallace@viaprograms.org.



**P.O. Box 1314
Palo Alto, CA 94302
415-904-8033
www.viaprograms.org**