

Christy Leung

### **South Cove Essay Contest**

At a young age, I realized that most hospital settings do not have diverse staff members and it was intimidating. Ever since I was a child, I would periodically go to work with my mother to spend more time with her. I would see my mother take a patient's vitals, height and weight, and medical background. I was extremely curious about my surroundings, so immediately, I became interested in South Cove and the tasks that are performed to help patients. As I accompanied my mother more and more, I began to form a genuine interest in the nursing field. By the age of twelve, I already knew that I wanted to pursue a career in the medical field because of the aspects portrayed by South Cove. Though I knew that I was interested in the medical field, I feared that I would face oppression and experience unnecessary obstacles as a result of my race.



By going to the health center, I realized that the most important thing when pursuing my career will be acquiring a supportive community. My mother's supportive community is South Cove. She has been surrounded with strong, independent women and men that persevere despite the limitations that accompany a typical hospital setting.

South Cove has impacted my family significantly because it recognizes how vital it is to acquire a diverse staff and how important it is to serve and support minorities.

The South Cove community empowers my mother and supports her as my sister, brother and I grow into independent adults. Despite the difficulty that comes with being a nurse assistant,

my mother is content and finds joy in interacting with patients and co-workers. Seeing my mother in a community where she felt comfortable and powerful as a result of her education and interest in nursing has encouraged me to work diligently. Additionally, by seeing my mother take on a pivotal role in a health center and prosper proves to me that I have the potential to take on a task that may seem impossible to me.

With the help of the lessons taught by South Cove, I have diligently studied and diminished my fear of being oppressed in a



hospital setting. I am now pursuing an internship at a local clinic and I have chosen to attend Boston College to pursue nursing. I would not have been able to achieve my goals without the support of my mother and my mother would not have been able to support me without South Cove. South Cove has pushed my family to work harder to achieve our goals and stay passionate about them. I will forever be grateful for South Cove and the genuine qualities of the staff members. South Cove has helped build a foundation for my parents, ultimately granting my family and I with an opportunity to live comfortably while my siblings and I strive for happiness and success to make our parents proud. I hope I will be able to carry on the lessons taught by the health center. I appreciate all that the center has done for me.