

South Cove Scholarship Essay

Every year or so, I check in to the South Cove Community Health Center on South Street for a round of teeth cleaning from my dentist. It's never something I look forward to, but know that I must do to maintain my health. Every time I lie down in a chair with a bright light hovering over my mouth, I feel anxiety and discomfort. However, despite all of my complaints, I cannot deny that South Cove has made an incredibly positive impact on me and on my family situation as a whole.

First off, the health center provided employment for my mother after she lost her job during the recession nearly a decade ago. For a low income family with two children to care for, that opportunity provided the financial stability we needed while my brother and I were attending school. Also, at home, my brother and I were able to spend our free time playing instead of searching for work to support the family. For that especially, I am grateful South Cove became a part of my life.

Second, South Cove served as an area of safety and comfort for me. Whenever I came for an appointment and stopped by my mother's desk to greet her, I always felt a sense of community among all the employees and patients. Surrounded by people of all ages and with many sharing the same Chinese background, I could feel that everyone supported and looked out for each other. So, despite the anxiety I felt each time I sat in the lobby waiting for a dentist to

call me up for an appointment, I knew I was sitting in a safe and friendly place with those surrounding me. For these reasons, I enjoyed every day I spent at South Cove.

Finally, on the medical side of things, the dentists at South Cove always worked to make me feel as comfortable as possible whenever I had an appointment. Even though I was one of the more difficult patients in the past as I rarely practiced proper dental hygiene when I was younger due to my sensitive gag reflex, the dentists still treated me with the same caring attitude as they did with any other patient. Sometimes they even modified their approach so that I would feel more comfortable getting my teeth cleaned. Once I grew older, however, my gag reflex lessened in sensitivity. At that point, with the help and advice of my dentists, I was finally able to make a daily habit of brushing and flossing. For all the great lengths they went to for me, I greatly appreciate the impact the dentists at South Cove made on my personal dental health.

To conclude, though I only visit South Cove once a year for a round of teeth cleaning, the health center has helped me and my family in more ways than just providing dental care. From aiding my family's financial situation to serving as a place of comfort for people like me, and even to caring and nurturing this difficult patient here, South Cove has made a world of difference in my life. Therefore, South Cove has impacted me and my family in a hugely positive way.