

Lily Yuan

South Cove has had a huge impact on not only my life but also my family's. My family has been with South Cove ever since my parents came to America from China; naturally my brother and I followed our parents, and went for yearly checkups at South Cove. They selected South Cove primarily because they did not know any English and because of its location near Chinatown. They were able to communicate with the people at South Cove in their native language and they felt welcomed and not foreign. One of the hardest things that immigrants have to face are language barriers and South Cove lessened the stress of that burden for my parents. I could feel the connection between patients and doctors, through language and culture. It must have been how my parents felt, having doctors from similar backgrounds who they could easily communicate and connect with really creates a sense of belonging and relief.

For me, South Cove has impacted my health and well being. I believe medication for sickness and vaccines to prevent diseases are important to the health of a family. I grew up with South Cove, coming in for appointments yearly in Septembers. Whenever I had to draw blood or have a shot, the nurses really made sure I was comfortable and ready for it and after the first few times, I became more brave and unafraid of shots and blood drawings. I appreciate that the nurses were all really caring and gentle with me as well as all their other patients. As a child walking through South Cove, I remember seeing pictures of children pinned up on the walls of the hallways. This made me realize how strong sense of community is within South Cove, the people are closely knit together and I believe the bond between these patients with the doctors are very important. Not only did I see the strong connections within South Cove, it also really made me feel at

ease to be there because I felt like the warm feeling of the place makes it less intimidating.

As I grew older, over time, I became more opened up to my doctor, Sherri. Having her as my doctor every year has had a huge impact because now I am able to be more honest with her about my health and trust her to keep everything private. Sherri has always been open minded and willing to give advice no matter what kind of situation I am in. Having small conversations with her about things going on in my life such as family and school has helped me be more comfortable with discussing my health. Overtime, it gradually became less awkward for me to speak about my personal health and lifestyle because of the relationship we built over the course of several yearly checkups. I have heard of doctors who have told their patient's parents of personal information that should not be shared, I am grateful that my privacy is respected by my doctor, although I hide nothing from my parents, Sherri's respect of my personal information really makes her trustable.

Even until this day, we never switched to any other hospital, such as the Floating Hospital down the street because of this irreplaceable connection we have with the people who make up South Cove. Without South Cove, my family would not have been able to receive checkups in a place they feel comfortable in, due to language barriers and their race. South Cove is also really well staffed with doctors who genuinely care about their patients and build connections with to create a trustworthy and accepting environment.