

Timothy Chung

My life story began at South Cove Community Health Center eighteen years ago when Dr. Wong brought me to this world. And coincidentally, he also delivered my older brother at South Cove in 1997. Ever since I was born I would go to South Cove clinic for any check-ups or health issues. I remember how I would always love going to the doctors despite feeling sick because I could get a cool sticker. I was afraid of taking a shot or taking medicine that would taste horrible but the nurses would create a fun environment making all of them seem fun. My mother also reciprocated the care that she had gracefully received at South Cove by contributing her career to the center since 1999. And till this day, her daily routine of advocating for the patients at South Cove has not slowed down for the past seventeen years. In the years of my childhood I would visit her workplace, and the medical professionals at South Cove would influence me by planting seeds of passion for taking care of the underserved community.

Since my mother works at South Cove, my frequent visit at the hospital allows me to create a special bond with the people who work there. I witnessed the determination each South Cove worker had in order to improve the patient's well being. I was especially inspired by Dr. Tang who was my primary care physician. He would not only help his patients resolve their problems but he would always find a way to have them leave with a smile on their face. What stood out to me the most was how South Cove would help many new immigrants create a sense of belonging in America and integrate into the community, a home away from their native home. Dr. Tang's passion for helping others set the example of being selflessness in one's profession. When I was 6 years old, I met a student who had just immigrated from Hong Kong and spoke only Cantonese. Recognizing how South Cove has always embraced immigrants from different cultures, I took the initiative to reach out to this new friend. Throughout the school year I would translate everything we were learning from English to Cantonese for

her. Never once did I feel tired of helping, instead I would enjoy knowing the fact that I am becoming a role model the way that Dr. Tang has shown me. Eventually the student improved her English so much that she no longer needed my assistance. As I got older in high school I continued to grow my passion to help people by volunteering at a hospital where I was given the opportunity to work directly with patients. I applied Dr. Tang and other South Cove employees' compassion for others to assist patients at the hospital where I would create a welcoming environment and to make sure they felt inclusive and valued.

Dr. Tang's unrelenting work ethics and my growing passion for serving others inspire me to leverage my education I earn in college to benefit people in need. I will begin my undergraduate study at University of Massachusetts Amherst in the upcoming fall semester with a major of mechanical engineering. After earning my degree, I have a dream to travel to places with extreme poverty such as Congo or other places known to be less developed. There I hope to construct different types of technologies such as irrigation systems or simple gadgets that would create a better living condition for the people there. For example, a majority of people living in Africa do not have access to clean water, and a cost-effective filter could save the lives of million children who suffer from cholera, typhoid, and dysentery. Our generation is given the key and opportunity for unlocking the knowledge that can solve the most complex problem and inequality in this world. Thus it is our responsibility to take up this privilege wisely, be attentive to the social issue around us and leave a smile on strangers that we help along the way - a lesson learned from Dr. Tang that will make a lasting impact, one person at a time.

South Cove Community Health Center has always been there for me and has given me the sense of community. Without this organization I would not have the strong desire to help others, and I would not have the mindset to think about going to other

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places around the world. With the increasing influx of immigrants and the aging Chinese population, I am sure that those who come to South Cove for medical services will be in good hands.