

When I first arrived from China at the age of ten, my family was poor with very limited English skills and resource. My parents had used up all their savings to move here in order for me to receive a better education. Without South Cove Community Health Center's services and support, my family and I would have struggled immensely. The Community Health Center provides medical services and interpretive services for low income family such as ours. In addition to that, because the medical center prioritizes services for the Asian community, many of the medical staffs are able to communicate with my parents in their native language. Last year, when I got a positive PPD with negative x-ray, my mom was anxious and worried because she thought it might have been a serious health concern. When the medical staff patiently explained to my mother that my positive PPD was treatable, my mother was relieved knowing that everything was going to be alright. With the South Cove's in-house pharmacy service, we were able to get all our medications on site, which helped alleviate my mother's stress levels.

I am a graduate of Brighton-Allston after School Enrichment Program (B.A.S.E.), a program of the South Cove Community Health Center. It exceeded my expectations as an after school program. Unlike the other program that I previously attended, B.A.S.E is an excellent mentorship program that helped me with my social interpersonal skills on top of my academic skills. At B.A.S.E, we worked on numerous science projects and art activities that expanded our knowledge base and sharpened our critical thinking skills. We also went on field trips that I normally wouldn't have the opportunity to as a new immigrant. These field trips exposed me to different experiences which helped me assimilate into American culture more easily. The

teachers at B.A.S.E. provided homework help and an abundance of patience, which ultimately led me to become a more confident person despite the obstacles I encountered as a new immigrant. I'm now able to help my family with translating important documents, letters, and phone calls. I was also accepted into two of the exam schools in Boston: John D. O'Bryant School of Mathematics and Science and Boston Latin Academy. This would've been a hard feat to accomplish without the constant aid of B.A.S.E.

I am hoping for an opportunity to volunteer at B.A.S.E. this summer. I would like to be able to use my interpersonal skills that I learned from B.A.S.E. to encourage children to work on positive behavior. As an English language learner, I understand the struggle in learning a new language, and I want to help the students in B.A.S.E that have a similar background like mine to overcome their obstacles. Not only do I want to use this opportunity to give back to my community, I also want to learn more about B.A.S.E. as a volunteer, and learning about responsibility and leadership skills while having the chance to practice these skills at the same time.

South Cove Community Health Center ensured my wellbeing by providing quality services and helped my parents to be part of the community by assisting them in their native language. B.A.S.E. had encouraged me to become a more humble person, their lessons and advice will forever impact the rest my life. They made assimilating in the United States much easier than we ever thought it would be. I'm forever grateful for their involvement in my life. My family and I will always be loyal and thankful for South Cove Community Health Center and their program, B.A.S.E.