

Wesley Tat

## **My Experience at B.A.S.E**

South Cove Community Health Center was one of my first experiences that introduced me into a working environment. The Brighton-Allston After School Enrichment (B.A.S.E.) Program has provided me with the tools I needed to develop the skills in order to become a responsible adult. These skills will be what I need in order to secure a brighter future. I have to thank my aunt for introducing me to B.A.S.E. Without her, I would not have known about this amazing program. I had a wonderful experience here. Every time I set foot into the building, I would always be consumed with the feeling of family and warmth. Here, I was able to meet and work with new and talented people that helped me grow into a better person. The staff here was very supportive and was always there to make sure that I received any advice and assistance necessary. This community truly made me feel welcomed in the B.A.S.E. family.

I have been volunteering at B.A.S.E., a program of the South Cove Community Health Center. The goal of this program is not to just babysit kids while their parents are at work or to help kids with their homework, but to enforce open-mindedness in young adolescents. Here, we provided the students with extra homework for practice and we encouraged them to participate in the activities we had planned. In order to prevent stressing out these students, a balance of work and relaxation is provided. Here at B.A.S.E, we see that all children are different; that they develop emotionally, mentally, socially and physically at different levels. We must remember that the minds of these kids function differently from our own since their minds are still developing. At B.A.S.E we run on the fundamental belief that all children can learn and be successful. Of course, many of our students may encounter several obstacles along the way, thus it is our duty to

encourage students to develop problem solving and effective coping mechanisms when they are faced with difficult situations.

I will be graduating from high school in 2017 and I hope to get into college in the Fall. The colleges I hope to be accepted into are UMass Amherst, Northeastern, and MIT. The profession that I want to have in the future is still undecided but I'm planning on majoring in either premed, psychology, chemical engineering, or computer science. Of course, in order to be prepared for these competitive schools, I must have enough work experience that will be able to push me through the coming years. B.A.S.E is my first introduction to the work force.

As a volunteer at B.A.S.E., I have truly learned to be a responsible adult. Here I have explored new areas and ideas and they helped me in developing plenty of new social and personal skills. One particularly important skill I have definitely improved on is teamwork. Working at an extended learning and enrichment program like B.A.S.E., I had the chance to work with the talented staff members, requiring a lot of responsibility and leadership skills. We all worked together to create a safe environment where kids were able to learn and have fun at the same time. The leadership skills come into play as the the staff and I are to make sure that the kids are following the rules at all times to ensure safety and fairness when under our supervision. Even still, I had to learn to be patient with these kids, as they need time to learn and develop.

This type of work has provided me with some work experience, giving me a familiarity in a working environment. I needed to be determined, not just to slobber out of bed and get to work on time, but I needed to be committed to devoting my time for something greater. I wanted to make the children at B.A.S.E feel that they are in an

environment where everyone is treated like family. I wanted to contribute greatly to this community by working hard and making the jobs of other staff easier, such as carrying heavy loads from point A to point B. All in all, I want to make this community even better than it already is and to promote imagination and curiosity.