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AAAAAAAAHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!!!!!!! I cried in panic, STOP! Or so I would have yelled if I hadn't been injected with a good deal of anesthetic and had dentist tools crowding my mouth. Instead I just bawled while the dentist pulled all my teeth out. I was probably crying because I was a wimp--and I definitely was since I had refused like my life depended on it to both go up an escalator and open my mouth so South Cove dentists could look inside when I was younger. But although I didn't know it then, this was no ordinary dentist appointment. At this appointment the dentist had decided to pull out 6 teeth all at once, and then pull out another few at a later date. My memory of the dentist was of dislike and forcefulness, although again i may have just been a wimp.

Due to the results of pulling out so many teeth so fast and my mother's concern of the dentist's needle practices, we left the dentist and again tried to take my dental care to South Cove. At this point I'd matured a little as comes with age, but my previous dental experience had been somewhat traumatizing. Before I had refused to open my mouth for fear of what the dentists might do once they had full access to my mouth--would they do something painful? And then my experience with the previous dentist had been about as bad as I had been fearing. So I approached the South Cove dentists apprehensively at best and...well, something really bad at worst...like the Joker from Batman or something.

Although my fear of dentists remained--not to mention I was still a wimp--the dentist I found at South Cove was patient and caring. Unlike any dentist I had encountered thus far, Dr. Hsu created a friendly environment that made me feel more like a comrade in need of dental help than just a patient to be operated on. This did little to alleviate my fear. However Dr. Hsu would have the patience to have personal talks with

me and answer questions as well as adeptly and convincingly explain the importance and reasoning behind why I needed dental care. With Dr. Hsu's excellent care and some time, my fear eased and I came to trust and become more willingly to have dental care. Being willing to come in for say, teeth cleaning sounds standard, but I'm not so sure I would have grown so much so quickly in this area without Dr. Hsu's help.

Dr. Hsu's amazing support is not just unique to him however, it applies across the board at South Cove. My pediatrician was friendly and considerate. It was easy to be open and talk to him and he explained things in a thorough but easily understandable manner. And mother having been working at South Cove for her entire career often lead me to meet a bunch of new people and attend parties. And although most of the time I didn't know most of the people there and I was an awkward child, (not that I'm not anymore) everyone was very friendly and I didn't feel the awkward social pressure that I might expect from going to a party full of people I don't know.

This amazing support was tested when my mom got cancer. Often when support and relationships are stressed so hard, you discover that they are far different from what you had thought. And so it was with South Cove's support for my mom. When she got cancer, the support she got from South Cove, was overwhelmingly positive. With no hesitation people rushed to her aid and she later remarked that in such a hard time South Cove's support made her feel "warm and encouraged". Seeing such support made me hope that everyone could be so fortunate to find so strong and supportive a community so they can get a helping hand when times are rough.