

*"Asian Health Services played the most important role in saving my life."*

- Ms. Jiang, AHS Patient

It is not uncommon that our patients are faced with navigating the complexities of living life as immigrants and refugees, often with nowhere else to turn. Ms. Jiang is one of those patients.

Ms. Jiang immigrated to the U.S. in 1993 due to circumstances that forced both her and her husband to flee from China, leaving behind their two daughters. Ms. Jiang recalls:

*"My children in China grew up without knowing their own mother. I haven't seen them in over 26 years."*

To make ends meet, Ms. Jiang and her husband opened a small Chinese restaurant in San Lorenzo. They also had two more children who they raised in San Francisco. Due to unfortunate circumstances, Mr. Jiang was deported back to China in 2004, leaving Ms. Jiang alone to raise their young children. Years later, Ms. Jiang developed a severe thyroid illness that restricted her breathing and caused her to have constant headaches for over a year.

*"My thyroid had grown to the size of a tennis ball. I was scared to visit the doctor because of my immigration status, so I only took Tylenol to suppress the pain."*

At the brink of collapse, she went to see a provider at AHS who treated Ms. Jiang's urgent condition. With help from AHS's Membership Services Department, Ms. Jiang was immediately enrolled into various assistance programs, which allowed Ms. Jiang to undergo surgery, address her depression and make a full recovery.

*"Without AHS, I wouldn't have been able to make a full recovery. AHS saved my life."*

Ms. Jiang continues to receive care from AHS, including behavioral health counseling services. Ms. Jiang's children also received health care services from AHS.

*"My kids have benefited greatly from AHS' services. It allowed them to thrive and do well in school."*

As a testament to the resilience of the Jiang family, Ms. Jiang's children both went to top schools in the U.S. on full-ride scholarships. Ms. Jiang's daughter, upon receiving her first job on Wall Street, recently told her mother: "Mom, we don't have to be poor anymore - I can support us now."

