

Speech by Rose Wong

My name is Rose Wong. I am a student in the Ph.D. program in social welfare at U.C. Berkeley. As an associate clinical social worker, I have been working part-time for the past three years at Cameron House in San Francisco as a counselor for children and parents who are in situations of domestic violence.

For me, the Culture to Culture Foundation's scholarship represents community support for my personal and professional goal to promote mental health among Chinese Americans. This support is extremely important to me because it reminds me that I am not alone in my knowledge of the unnecessary suffering from mental illness that many Chinese American families face.

My own knowledge of the needs of our community comes from my experience of mental illness in my family and the difficulties we had in being able to obtain mental health care for family members in a timely manner. These difficulties had to do with being immigrants, not having knowledge about mental illness, its treatment, as well as the stigma of mental illness in our culture.

I believe that Chinese Americans are slowly becoming aware of our community's mental health needs and how important of a social and public health problem it is. I see the Foundation as an important leader in this respect.

Also, we as students face so many challenges--personal, family, and social--in order to successfully obtain higher education in the field of mental health. The Foundation's support, in the validation it gives me of my goals, by that I mean the moral support that it represents, is truly invaluable.

As for my contribution to the purpose of this scholarship, I am committed to using my bilingual and bicultural background and skills for providing culturally competent mental health services as well as for developing and teaching culturally competent interventions for Chinese Americans. Thank you.