

Elaine is a wonderful example of why we do this type of work.

At four years old Elaine's father emigrated from Taiwan with Elaine while her mother stayed until they were able to afford for her to join. Elaine and her father lived in the back room of his brother's Laundromat in the Tenderloin as they couldn't afford room and board. Elaine has vivid memories of the cockroaches and rats that also made the building their home. Her mother eventually joined them and they lived in that room for two+ years until they were able to move into Elaine's aunt's store in Chinatown. They lived in the basement and although it was tiny, it was cleaner and safer than they had been in years past. Her parents worked incredibly hard, both taking on two jobs at times. They finally moved to the Sunset until Elaine reached high school when she was accepted into Lowell H.S. They once again sacrificed to make her life better by moving to be closer to campus. Eventually her parents were able to afford a souvenir stall in Chinatown where Elaine would work after school and on the weekends to help them out.

Elaine found Enterprise at the beginning of her junior year through a friend in homeroom. She had decided that joining clubs and organizations could help bring her out of what she called her "turtle shell" and shyness. Once she joined she never stopped blossoming and growing. Elaine completed two CEP internships (Serenity Dental and the Office of S.F. Public Health), joined our second class of Youth Council, became a speaker at our Partner Appreciation Event and our Private Collections Party and most recently won the award for the student that attended the most Job Shadows during their tenure at Enterprise; over ten!! Being an only child she really felt that Enterprise was her second family and that the environment and staff always made her feel welcomed and comfortable. She feels like her confidence, leadership abilities and teamwork improved tremendously just by being part of our programs. She recently wrote us a goodbye card and said that she wished her Enterprise membership never expired so she could continue to learn about different career options but promised that one day SHE would host her own job shadow when she started working!

Elaine is about to start her junior year at UC San Diego where she wants to study Public Health or Dentistry and we can't WAIT to see where her journey leads her.