

Donor Corner: Meet Shawn Chou



As a longtime supporter of the Asian Pacific Community Fund (APCF), **Shawn Chou** previously served on our Board of Directors and currently chairs the newly formed [Emeritus Board](#). By day, Shawn is an attorney at law with the [Vida Law Group](#), an immigration firm that specializes in business and family-based petitions.

Shawn became acquainted with APCF when incoming executive director, Chun-Yen Chen, introduced him to APCF's [Donor-Advised Funds](#) (DAF). Shawn believes that DAFs are a great vehicle for anyone who is interested in helping out the community. "It's up to me as a donor on the when, where, who, and how for my giving through my DAF. There's no need to rush to decide, due to end-of-year tax deadline, since you can put the money in the DAF account, get the deduction for the IRS, and grant the money at a later day. It's a great concept!" Shawn shares. Through Shawn's DAF at APCF, he has been able to make over \$65,000 in grants to support a variety of charitable causes, ranging from education and immigration to law enforcement and health care.

Born in Taiwan, Shawn immigrated to the U.S. with his sisters and mother when he was 10 years old, while his father stayed in Taiwan to continue practicing medicine. Before national health care was established in Taiwan, Shawn's father regularly offered free medical services to the local community; his small clinic was packed with patients seeking his medical care. This left a lasting impression on Shawn, inspiring him to also serve the community when he started his own law career practicing poverty law.

Over time, Shawn realized that many of his clients would return to him for additional needs. "To me, the clients got into legal trouble not because they didn't follow the law, but because they needed help, other than legal help," he says. "I wanted to help the community in other ways than just through pro bono legal work."

For Shawn, helping others is something that brings joy and happiness into his life. Like many parents, he and his wife Luyi hope that their children will not only learn to work hard and succeed in life, but that they will also have a heart to help others.

To those who are considering their own philanthropy through a DAF at APCF, Shawn imparts the following, "Although giving seems like you're doing something for others only, I am actually doing something for myself as well, as it brings me joy and happiness to know that I'm helping others in need. Try it – it's addictive!"

(This article was featured in APCF's November 2017 Newsletter – [click here](#) for the full issue.)