

Tony's Story

My name is Tony Pham. I live in Garden Grove. I was born and raised here and lived in Orange County for 24 years.

I like to learn and learn about new things as well as meet new people and hearing their stories. I am over-energetic and love talking to people. I get super excited about the silliest things and know interesting facts just because... it's interesting. I am never bored. My life is never boring.

My biggest struggle is definitely a shift from education to a career. Growing up in Orange County, I didn't have much. At one point I was almost homeless. For the longest time I was working three jobs. It is my first time only working one job. It is a pretty big deal for me. But the biggest struggle for me at the moment is time. Like learning how to time... I've become much more selfish with my time. I'm mindful of how I spend my time, who I spend it with and what I do with it because of the shift to education to getting a career.

My greatest joy is seeing to get to see my friends and family.

A hate-free OC means to me much more than being culturally diverse. I feel like it is community which is a reason why I want to be a teacher. I genuinely believe the quote that says, "It is easier to build strong children than repair broken men". In my experience, I have seen myself included, broken men. To me a hate-free OC means actually being a citizen, being a part of the community, such as volunteering or caring for your neighbor or each other. That includes being responsible and mindful.

My advice to residents of Orange County is "pockets of sunshine". People say it depends on what you see. But there are awesome people in this community, awesome things and places. I love the programs that Orange County has to offer. Reading an Orange County website, and they offer "Walk Nature" and stuff like that which I'm interested in and I am sure many more are interested in it as well.