

SPIRIT OF THE MEMORIAL ORCHESTRA

Not too many years ago Senior Jimmy Chang lived on the streets of Virginia with his family. They had been kicked out of his uncle's house because of a dispute. In the cold – they had to huddle under bridges to protect themselves from the rain.

Jimmy's family knew no English – but they had borrowed a great sum of money to be able to emigrate to America. Now – out on the streets with a tremendous amount of debt – his family had no income. Through the help of a friend – Jimmy's family moved to Texas where debts climbed higher with no end in sight with a sister about to enter college. It was then that Jimmy felt that he had to do something to help his parents.

Starting at the young age of twelve, Jimmy was able to save \$2,000, which he risked by investing in Pokemon cards. The \$2,000 turned into \$7,000 – giving him the money to open a software company. In the first month – he earned \$15,000! After a several years of running the business and keeping up with the demands of school – Jimmy made another switch to importing and selling cars. Soon – Jimmy was earning \$35,000 a month, bringing his net worth to over \$1 million!

His mother reports that Jimmy is very good at saving money – but I am here to tell you that it is not that Jimmy has won this award because he is so financially successful. Sure – we applaud him for these successes – but that's not why we have awarded him the Spirit of the Memorial Orchestra.

It's not about money – but it's about what good he can do with it. Jimmy is known to have donated much of his money to Chinese charities and organizations. He is also a great supporter of the Memorial Orchestra. Some of you may not know this – but he has helped fund – or has single handedly funded some of the events we have done this year. I know that Jimmy doesn't want the glory – but his life has exemplified a spirit of unselfishness that we should all adopt.

Last year – I told you that we might not have an award every year. I also told you that it might look different each year. This year the award is all about volunteerism, about vision, discipline, a desire to help, a generous heart. And that's why I'm proud to present to you – this year's winner of the SPIRIT OF THE MEMORIAL ORCHESTRA award – Jimmy Chang!

- Bingiee Shiu