



This is a bedspread that my sister and I made for our mom, to comfort her during the last two heroic years of her life. It's our modern take on the Korean [bojagi](#) style of patchwork quilting, and it incorporates fabric from all kinds of sources—old [hanbok](#) that didn't fit any more, silks that our aunt sent over from Korea, and more. Beyond being a reminder of the single most inspiring person I've ever known, this bedspread also represents many of the traits and values that make me who I am—a fusion of Korean heritage and American modernity, an industrious DIY spirit, love of family, finding beauty in the way small pieces fit together to create a whole, and actively seeking joy during challenging times.

Keuna Cho (*right*)
Jumpstart Senior Manager,
Research and Evaluation

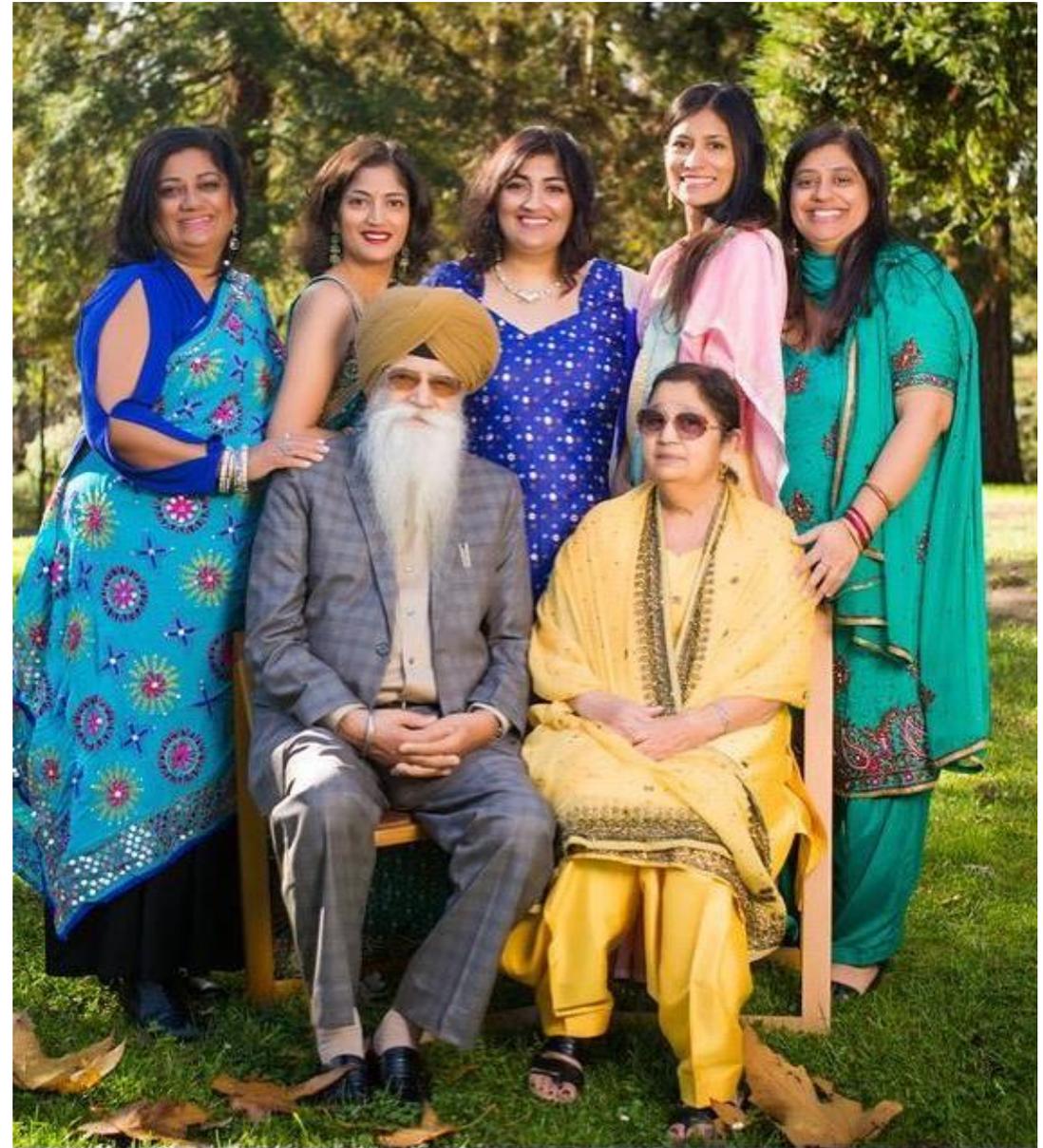


My parents immigrated to the U.S. in the 70s from Punjab, India. They brought their three young daughters with them and in the coming years would welcome two more baby girls (I'm the youngest!). I love this photo because my family means more to me than anything, but this photo deeply inspires me for what only I can see. I see an older couple that came to a completely new world, leaving being everything and everyone they knew. I see their struggle to create a life for their children that balanced two very different and often opposing cultures. I see their commitment to their family and I see them continuing to instill those values in each of us, and their 7 grandchildren. I see the American dream come to life in this single photo and it leaves me feeling empowered and ready to take on anything!

Vicky Bhogal

Jumpstart Director of Donor Impact –
West Coast

(top row, center in above photo)





The gold ring in the photo is my grandmother's. In the Philippines, we refer to our grandmothers as "Lola." She gave this to my mom when she moved to the United States and my mom gave it to me when I was older.

The ring itself isn't worth very much, but it means the world to me because it is one of Lola's items and because my mom trusted me to hold on to it. For me, the ring is a reminder of where I am from and how I got to the place that I am today. I am proud to hold on to this ring, knowing how strong my Lola was and how resilient my mom is. I don't wear it very often anymore because I do not want to lose it, but it is very important to me and is something I plan to pass around within our family!

Justine Aguilos
Senior Manager, Award Administration





This is artwork that my grandmother stitched. My grandmother lived with my family and me in New Jersey throughout most of my late childhood. Even though we lived together, we had a language barrier my entire life – she was not able to speak English, as she had lived in Taiwan her whole life and moved to the US only in her late age, and I was not able to fully speak Taiwanese or Japanese (her main languages). Although we didn't communicate by words, we communicated through art – I distinctly remember that she would spend almost all her time embroidering and cross-stitching, and I would give her drawings that I made or she would spend time listening to me play the piano. My dad always tells me that I got my artistic skills from her! I love having a piece of her art in my home because it reminds me that art is a universal language and that we are connected to each other in more ways than we think.

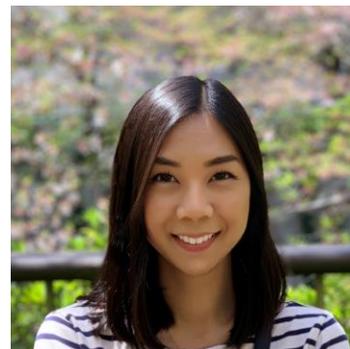


Julie Lin
Jumpstart Manager of
Institutional Partnerships

Decades ago, my grandmother gifted me this necklace that she brought with her from her home country of Vietnam. On it is a jade pendant of the Buddhist goddess of compassion, and it's said that wearing the necklace provides patience, courage, and protection. My grandmother is the matriarch of our family and one of the strongest people I know. As someone who fled Vietnam on a fishing boat to escape war, arrived in America without knowing anyone or understanding the language, and yet found a way to build community and start a new life in California, this necklace been something I've carried with me. While I no longer wear it (to avoid damaging the stone), it serves as a reminder of her perseverance, bravery, and resilience.



Victoria Hong
Jumpstart Senior Manager,
Research and Development



Amy Wu and the Patchwork Dragon instantly reminded me of this photo of my husband and I on our wedding day.

It was important for us to incorporate aspects of our identities into our celebration. In Vietnamese culture, dancing lions bring good luck and fortune and usually perform during lunar new year, fall festivals, and other joyful occasions. We kept their performance a secret, and I still remember the feeling the excitement, hearing the laughter, and seeing smiles on everyone's faces – most of all our own.

If I could hire Dancing Lions to perform every day at every Jumpstart meeting, I would!

Truyen Tran

Associate Vice President, Program Operations

