**Describe an example of your leadership experience in which you have positively influenced others, helped resolve disputes, or contributed to group efforts over time.**

This past June, I saw on WeChat (a Chinese social app) that a Chinese international student from Oakland was missing. I didn’t know this person at all, and I live three hours away from Oakland. Normally, I would have jumped at the chance to help, but I hesitated. What about this person’s family or friends? Then I learned that the student’s parents were still in Hong Kong. Even though I didn’t know this person or his family at all, I decided I wanted to help, simply because I could.

I found out that the student had not attended school for 3 days. He wasn’t on social media, and the police couldn’t find him anywhere. The parents were concerned that he’d gotten into trouble because they received a random call asking for money. This gave me the idea to call the jails in the area. The first time I called with his name and date of birth, I was told that he didn’t even exist! It was frustrating for me, someone who doesn’t know him at all, so I could only imagine how difficult it was for his family and friends. I didn’t want to give up, but the facts just didn’t make sense. Then, I realized that the student did not speak very good English. So I called the jails again, this time switching the order of his first and last name, as we do in China. That’s how I ended up finding him.

For me, deciding to help this family was not an easy decision. I could have very easily just have let it pass by me, because I didn’t know these people and had no obligations. However, I knew it was the right thing to do. And in the end, I ended up finding the missing international student.