

Day 2 with Shiwei

Matthew Zhou

The second day with Shiwei has been one of the highlights of my summer so far. The day started off with a trip to Logan Airport, by request from the man himself. Shiwei said that he enjoys seeing the size of airplanes and the hustling vibe from the passengers. Immediately after exiting the bus, we rushed into one of Logan's grand terminals. We spent a good amount of time inside the terminal going up and down the escalator between the arrivals and departures floors. He then said that he wanted to go up onto the third floor too, but I had to break it to him that we couldn't get up there since we didn't have boarding passes. Who knew somebody would enjoy escalators so much? After going up and down both sets of escalators six times, we embarked for Boston's Children's Museum.

It was very clear that Shiwei was beyond excited for the museum. Each time the Silver Line bus stopped at a station, he would ask me, "How many more stops?" Finally, after arriving at Courthouse Station, Shiwei bolted towards the museum. As we approached the entrance, Shiwei proudly exclaimed that this was his favorite museum in Boston and he talked about all of the memories he had from his trips to the museum prior. Inside the museum, Shiwei was beyond happy. We started out at the Science Playground. Shiwei absolutely loved composing bubbles. Then, he also enjoyed playing with the various games inside the golf ball exhibit. Here was where I also saw Shiwei's warm heart. He always picked up golf balls that others dropped and returned it to them, and always offered a ball to a youngster who didn't have one. Scared by Shiwei's appearance, some of the young and innocent children no longer wanted their golf balls back. However, Shiwei kept trying with others, even when he initially faced rejection. This was amazing, in my opinion, and shows Shiwei's warm personality.

The rest of the day at the museum included playing hide and seek, looking through microscopes, and playing tic-tac-toe and Skee-Ball. We also visited the Big Dig exhibit, which fascinated Shiwei, as well as the Arthur and dinosaur exhibits. To end the day, Shiwei climbed the net structure three times and then re-visited the Science Playground. By the time we left the museum, we had extensively covered every single exhibit in the museum. Every single one.

After lunch, as we were walking back, we passed by a 7-Eleven, and Shiwei told us that he wanted a Slurpee. He had so much fun pumping the drink into his cup, and absolutely loved drinking the slushie as he walked home.

The funds from the Sharon Youth Fund give Shiwei the ability to enjoy his visit to the United States, despite the fact that he is primarily here for medical treatment. But more than anything, it gives me joy seeing Shiwei being so happy every day I have been with him. And without the money given from the Sharon Youth Fund, I wouldn't have been able to see him so joyful.