



**Lan Le, Program Director**

I first interacted with YMCA New Horizons in 2003 as a volunteer, and now it has been 10 wonderful years being a staff member, Program Coordinator, and now Program Director for New Horizons. The reason why I am passionate about my job goes back to my personal history. Since I was a young girl, disability has been a part of my life. In 1990, my younger brother was involved in an automobile accident that left him wheel chair bound with the need for constant care. There was a moment when I visited him at school and his head was down. His teacher came up to him and whispered something in his ear, and he suddenly raised his head smiling and laughing. That one moment affected me dearly and it melted my heart. I wanted to be like that teacher. I wanted to work in the field of special needs and New Horizons allowed me to pursue this passion making it a perfect fit for me. I could not be happier with where I am currently at, being able to see participants weekly and taking them out to events. These are moments to cherish with smiles and laughter. Being part of New Horizons has been rewarding, and I would not trade it for anything. This experience is life changing for me as well as for people around me, and I love the impact that I have experienced.