




CHUNG PARK, PH.D.



A HUNGER FOR KNOWLEDGE

As a 3-year-old boy, Chung Park had his first lesson in the value of education. He was living in the Mie-ken Province of Japan (his parents are Korean), and he and his brother were caught picking tangerines from his neighbor's tree. The neighbor explained the importance of honesty, and sent them home with a basket full of her precious fruit. Many years later, Chung cites that experience as one of many that initiated his life-long pursuit of knowledge. He went on to earn a degree in economics at the University of Seoul, and in 1970, he received a visa to study in the United States,

where he got involved in the restaurant industry to raise tuition money. Chung made learning the inner workings of restaurants his second course of study, and quickly graduated from dishwasher to busboy to waiter to chef. When he decided to move his family to South Bend, he opened Hana Yori (which means "artistic cooking" in Japanese) restaurant and pushed on with his education, adding an MBA, CPA certification and a Ph.D. to his credentials. Outside of work and school, Chung is a passionate scratch golfer, loves to sing karaoke and is a voracious reader of history books.

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