

Celebrating Success



Scott Carver Dakota
CAP Agency
Annual Report
October 1, 2005-September 30, 2006

ing Success

Fulfilling childhood dreams

Head Start para-professional Sophal Chai's journey to the CAP Agency in Rosemount was a long one. Ten years ago, she was a wife and mother of four young boys, running a jewelry business in her native Cambodia. But her family faced an uncertain future when her 37-year old husband was diagnosed with cancer. As Sophal held her dying husband's hand, he made her promise to move with their children to the United States of America. Cambodia is a small country, she explained, and her husband believed his children would live longer, healthier lives in America.

Sophal wasted no time preparing for her new life in the United States. Soon she had enrolled in English classes, the only adult in a group of six-year olds. Every week she closed her shop for one hour to attend the class, quickly progressing through the first four levels. At the fifth level, only five students remained and the teacher could not afford to hold the class for such a small group. Still not satisfied with her proficiency, Sophal paid the teacher \$20 per month to come to her home one hour each day for a year.

When Sophal finally moved to America, her children initially remained behind in Cambodia with her mother. With no family in the U.S except a second cousin, she had few prospects for supporting four children. Soon she married one of her cousin's American friends. Eventually her children joined her in America and she had two more children with her new husband.

Recently separated from her second husband, Sophal's position as a home health aide did not pay enough to support the four children still living at home, so she came to the CAP Agency for assistance. In addition to assisting clients with basic needs, CAP sometimes has a job to offer. Last fall, Sophal fulfilled a childhood dream of teaching children when she accepted a position as a Head Start para-professional. In January, she will start a program at Dakota County Technical College to obtain a certificate in Early Childhood Education.



Sophal Chai fulfilled a childhood dream to be a teacher when she became a Head Start para-professional in 2006. Now she helps children prepare to fulfill their own dreams.

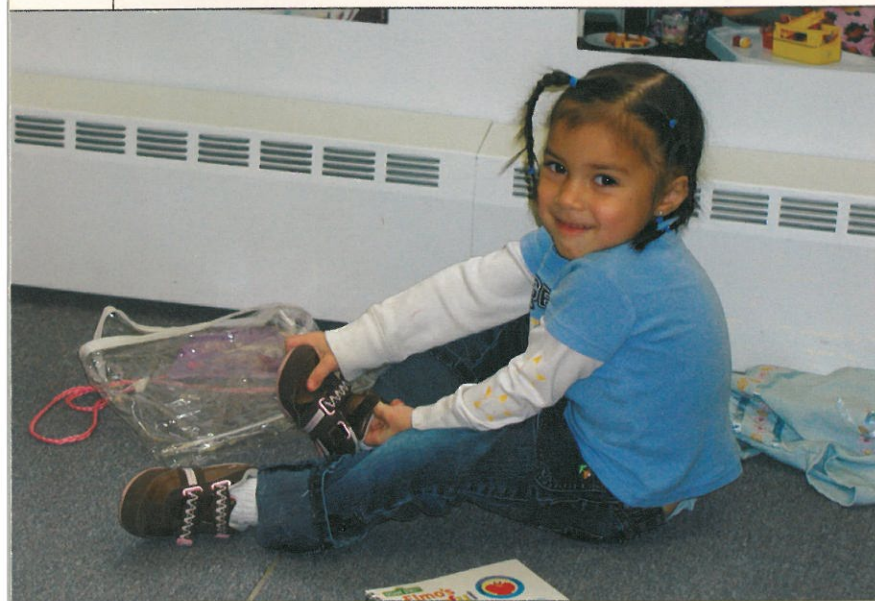
CAP Agency Head Start is lucky to have dedicated staff like Sophal to help students develop their own childhood dreams. "I love children," said Sophal. "And they love me."

You Can Help With Food Shelf Needs

Canned Fruit
Peanut Butter
Baked Beans
Black Beans
Cereal

Canned Tuna
Macaroni and Cheese
Rice
Bar Soap
Diapers

Laundry Detergent
Shampoo
Toilet Paper
Toothpaste
Monetary Donations



Shakopee Office
712 Canterbury Road
Shakopee, MN 55379
952-496-2125

Rosemount Office
2496 145th Street West
Rosemount, MN 55068
651-322-3500

Thrift Shop 952-402-9878
Office Hours Mon-Fri 8-5

www.capagency.org

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