



## VANG, MANAT

*Manat is a student who just recently arrived in America. He came from Wat Tham Krabok, the Buddhist temple in Thailand where the Hmong have sought refuge. He is learning how to speak English at D.C. Everest Junior High.*

***What your name and how old are you?***

I am Manat Vang and I am 13 years old.

***How many people are in your family?***

There are seven people in my family.

***Did they all come to United States?***

Yes, everybody here.

***Why did you come to United States in the first place?***

Because we have no choice so we have to.

***Where did you come from and what hardness did you have to go through to get here?***

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***Who are you staying with?***

My mom.

***What is the biggest difference between Thailand and United States?***

In Thailand there isn't any hot water so we shower in the cold and there's a lot of frost around.

***Was it fun coming over and are you enjoying it over here?***

Yes, it is very fun and I like it a lot.

***What kind of activities did you do in Thailand, anything fun?***

I don't really go out to play a lot but what made it fun is that sometime I get to go on trips.

***How is school going?***

School is very fun and I liked it very much.

***Are you learning English right now?***

Yes I am.

***Do you like the snow and the cold weather?***

Before I saw it, I thought I would enjoy it, but now that it's here, it is very cold.

***What is your favorite part of being here?***

Going to school.

***Is it hard learning English?***

Not really.

***Did you go to school in Thailand?***

I did go to school in Thailand; the only thing is that it is very different from here because over there they can punish you by hitting you.

***Do you still have family in Thailand?***

Just my dad.

***Is he planning on coming over?***

Yes.

***How did you get here and did it take a long time?***

I not really sure how long but it was a long time, back in September.

***Did you come here by boat or plane?***

I came here by airplanes.

***What was it like riding an airplane?***

In the beginning it was scary but once airplane lift off, it was okay.

***Is there anything else you'd like to add about Thailand or anything else?***

There is nothing.

*"It is kind of scary living in there because there is a lot of thieves around and at night it is very scary to go outside so I stay inside."*

***Do you have a lot of friends over in Thailand?***

I used to but when I went away to school far away from home, they all kind of drifted apart from me.

***What was the school's name?***

I don't really remember.

***What was it like to live in a camp?***

It is kind of scary living in there because there is a lot of thief around and at night it is very scary to go outside so I stay inside.

***Were there a lot of officers around?***

No there isn't, they are like very far away.

*Is there anything else you like to add about living in Wisconsin?*

Living in Wisconsin is a lot better than living in Thailand.

*Why did you guys choose Wisconsin?*

Because back in Thailand, wherever they decide where we should go or there are relatives living in the place where the Hmong are going.