



VANG, YER

Yer Vang is a student at D.C. Everest Junior High. She is the daughter of Houa Nhia Vang and Mee Cha Vang. She has seven sisters and two brothers. She thinks life as a Hmong girl is hard and hopes to have more freedom in life. In her spare time, she likes to go to the Boys & Girls Club extension at Greenheck and hang out with her friends. She hopes to get good grades and make her family proud.

My name is Yer Vang. I'm fourteen years old and attend D.C. Everest Junior High as a Freshman. In my family there are twelve total -- my parents, seven sisters and two brothers-- having this many people in my family is fun because it never gets boring.

What language do you speak most often at home? At school?

I speak Hmong-lish, which is a mixture of both, at home and at school. I speak a lot of Hmong at home because my parents always stress the importance of keeping our language and our culture.

What kind of activities are you in?

I'm not in any school sports right now. I used to be in basketball and track, but after a year or so I dropped because I didn't have much time for other things.

Do you believe life now is different than life back then? And how so?

Yes. Because I think we have more freedom than our parents had, especially our moms.

Have you ever been asked to be in a gang? What is your perspective?

No. My view on gangs is that they're bad and they're trying to ruin our Hmong reputation. I think they're somewhat ruining it.

"Since we're in America, it's different because not many young Hmong people know their culture."

If you were asked to be in a gang what would you say?

No, because it's bad and because they're a gang. My parents would kill me if I did join one.

What is your perspective on drugs and alcohol?

I think they're bad because they ruin your health and mess up your brain.

What are your expectations for yourself?

My expectations are ... I don't really know.

What are your parents' expectations for you?

Get a good education and go to college... get a good life.