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(2/17/87-2/19/97)

A Ten year
Anniversary
Celebration of
Komar Day
Care Center -
CMAA
(2/17/87-2/19/97)


Betty Borden, former director of the Komar Day Care Center, and Samkhan Khoeun, executive director of the Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association, keep a watchful eye as, from left, Jonathan Soun, 4, Randy Hell, 3, Matthew Keo, 4, Sarin Ruom, 3, and Sophat Chhim, 5 , play with a chalkboard. The Komar Day Care Center yesterday celebrated its 10th anniversary.


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A collaborative publication of the Cambodian Mutual Assistance Associatoin of Greater Lowell, Inc., (CMAA) the Cambodian American Voter League (CAVL), and the Khmer Cultural Institute (KCI)








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 Every Saturday Morning 10 AM - 12 Noon

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## Why Do We Need Foster Home?

TThe Department of Social Ser vices provides services to families and children. The mission at DSS is to support and strengthen families, keeping families together whenever possible. DSS provides a full range of family support services, including counseling, day care, and parent aides. When families can not provide the necessary care and protection for their own children, DSS intervenes to ensure children's safety.

When a child can no longer be cared for by their family DSS intervenes in order to protect the child. If a child needs to leave their families home, DSS will first attempt to place the child with a family member. If no family member is avail-
able or not appropriate to take the child, DSS will then place the child in a foster home.

The Lowell DSS office, located at 33 E. Merrimack Street, provides services to Lowell as well as the seven surrounding communities. Therefore our foster homes are located throughout the greater Lowell area. When a child needs a foster home, certain factors are considered when a placement is trying to be found. We try to place children in foster homes of the same ethnic background as the child. We try to place sibling groups together. We try to keep children within their school districts. All of these factors are not always possible because of the short-
age of foster homes we have. And children are places in a good foster home, which in fact didn't allow us to meet any of the above factors.

Placing children in foster homes is a daily occurrence in our office. If you were to walk through our office lobby on any given day you might see the older children sitting there. Then you might wonder why they have all sorts of bags and luggage surrounding them. These are the teenagers waiting to be placed. These teenagers might sit all day wondering where they will sleep that night. They might have just had a tough time in court, may be the court ordered them into a foster home, they have no idea where they will end up. An even tougher situation is that we might only be able to get them a foster home for one night on an emergency basis. This means they

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Po.Box 1744
77 E. Merrimack Street
Lowell, MA 01853
508-454-5054

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## Cambodian Women

## Speak: an interview

## with Sara Im and

Chantha Bin.
Cath pierSath and Joachim Nickerson

$\mathrm{S}_{\mathrm{mam}}^{\mathrm{ma}}$ reserved and soft spoken but articulate woman, came out of the ThaiCambodian border Khao-I-Dang Refugee Camp. She arrived in the United States September 1981. She initially lived in Connecticut and moved to Lowell after a few years there. She came to the U.S. by herself, and later brought her mother and three brothers to this country. She has a college degree in Mathematics and Business Management. Now, she is working with the Cambodian American League of Lowell (CALL) as its program coordinator. The C.A.L.L. is an organization that focuses on economic development in the Southeast Asian community in Lowell. They provide small business training, help people understand how to acquire loans to achieve their dream of buying a home and become literate in the business world.

Sara is one Cambodian women who has achieved success. When asked to define "success" she spoke of having a balance in various areas of life. This includes a family, a stable job for financial security and a moral and spiritual responsibility towards
the community in which you live. To achieve success, she also adds, one has to be very self-determined and have a desire to learn and grow. One must want to make a difference not only in one's own life, but in the lives of other people and be able to see oneself as a contributing member of society. Importantly, one must do what one loves in order to achieve a certain self-sufficiency and satisfaction.

In society, some social, economic and political issues are unique only to women. They have to balance family and work and also their roles in society. A lot of the issues are difficult, and Sara has identified several relating to her own life. Being a woman and an immigrant in this country has expanded her horizons and perspective, but not without struggles. She had to deal with cultural and language barriers, which many Cambodian women are still struggling with today. Many Cambodian women in America are not as integrated into the mainstream American culture as Sara has. A lot of the Cambodian women in Lowell are experiencing post traumatic stress from the war and the Khmer Rouge years. They have not recuperated like Sara and thus it is harder for them to provide their children with any positive wisdom to guide them. Therefore, it is more difficult for them to identify and achieve their own personal goals. Although Sara is fluent in English and Khmer, she still feels that it is more challenging to realize her goals than it would for a native English speaker.

Sara has always been a very good role model for young women. Her commitment to the community
and her long term involvement demonstrate her ability to face challenges. Every year she assists CALL in organizing a beauty pageant which focuses on helping young women build self-esteem and establish roots and cultural identity. It helps young women identify and realize personal goals in addition to strengthening the family.

Sara is also participating in the Lowell Career Beginning Planning Team to provide youth with mentors who could assist them in clarifying their future career and goals. When asked what advice she would give to young women, she said they should identify a role model or mentor who they like, and follow his or her example in order to achieve their own success. Success includes the motivation to learn, grow and experience new challenges.

Sara is always looking for leaming opportunities. Recently, she completed an Economic Development Leadership Training provided by CIRCLE (Center for Immigrant, Refugee Community Leadership Empowerment).

When asked, with her knowledge and skill, if she wants to go back to Cambodia to help, she said that she doesn't have enough strength to go there and work. However, she will visit family. Her mission is to help people here in the United States since there is a great need especially among the Cambodian people. "Cambodians abroad must be strong and unified if they want to help rebuild Cambodia from its war torn history," she said.

While a lot of Cambodian men occupy themselves with the politics of Cambodia, Sara keeps herself

Continue to page 10

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77 East Merrimack St.,
Suite 22
Lowell, MA 01852

## Tel (508) 452-4156 Fax (508) 452-0317.

informed without getting involved in the political quagmire. She is an American citizen, and she is well informed about political issues both in America and in Cambodia. She votes in every election.

Sara reflected on the role older Cambodian women play. She thinks of her mother who had little education, but who helped her become strong and determined as an individual. Her mother has been a positive role model by being a good example. Sara appreciates her mother's wisdom and simplicity in her ways of resolving life's day to day problems. Her mother draws the daily wisdom of life from her own experience. In many ways, Sara appreciates the older people because of their life experiences. "Older people - a lot of them are wise," she said.

Sara talked about intergenerational relationships. She feels that teenagers who grow up in America have a harder time dealing with cross-cultural issues. They have to figure out where they belong and where they are in American society. "It is very hard for them to balance two different cultures." The younger generation is the future of the Cambodian American community. The obstacles they are facing now don't necessarily weaken them, but probably will strengthen them since they have gone through the struggles and appreciate what they have been through. "I have to keep reminding myself all the time about where I came from and how I survived the Khmer Rouge,"

As adults, we have to be positive role models and provide them with guidance and support to face
the challenges they deal with in life and prepare them for the future. One does not have to have a college degree to be a positive role model. "My mother never had a college education, but she teaches me ways to save money, life management skills and provides me with practical solutions to solve conflicts."

The Cambodian community in Lowell has suffered a great deal from a bad reputation due to gang violence and intergenerational conflicts which evolves from a lack of basic skills to identify and resolve issues. "This is why we need to work extra, extra hard to recuperate from this gang image."

Sara, in her integrity, looks at life in a practical sense just as her mother taught her. This includes basic skills to deal with day to day living and problem solving. As a positive role model, this is what she would like to give to other young women.

## Chantha Bin and Her Journey



At the age of nine, Chantha Bin was separated from her family by the Khmer Rouge and put into a children's camp. The war created many orphans due to land mines, starvation, relocation and mass killing. When
the Vietnamese occupied Cambodia in 1979 she fled with other people and was befriended by an old lady who she called "grandmother". They both became very ill and were in comas and the old woman's family dug two graves. At this point she had a dream of a man in white who said there is room for only one. They had to make the choice as to which one stayed. The old woman had trouble making a decision and the man suggested that she go because she was old and had lived her life whereas Chantha was young and had a lot of years ahead of her. She awoke, the old woman had been buried and the family was ready to put Chantha in the grave as well.

Chantha came to the United States in 1982 as an unaccompanied minor and lived in Amherst MA. with American foster parents. Cambodian and other unaccompanied refugee minors were sponsored by Lutheran Child and Family Services who recruited foster homes. She had two years of education in a refugee camp, Sakeo I and II, before coming to America. Her foster father was a professor at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst; her foster mother was a secretary. When asked why she had succeeded when others hadn't, she said that she had support from other minors who were mostly male but who supported and encouraged her and did not see her as a sex object. She lived in a very disciplined environment with her foster parents which was similar to how Cambodian parents raise their children. She finished high school and went to college. While in college

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16 PINE STREET ( Suite 8), LOWELL, MA 01851
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she began to experience post-traumatic stress disorder syndrome and lost a great deal of weight; she was only 79 pounds. Her foster mother took her to various doctors who were unable to diagnose the problem. She failed college and was expelled because her grade point average fell.

At this point Chantha got a job helping special needs children, and it turned her life around. She began to work with a child who she calls Benjamin who had cerebral palsy, and he didn't like to be touched or fed. This boy was unable to feed himself and do other basic skills such as going to the bathroom. He was unable to take care of himself and through working with Benjamin and others, she began to look at her own life. She realized that she had abilities which these children didn't and she began to ask herself why she was so sad. She began to see her abilities in a positive way. She became proactive, and one day her relationship with this boy changed her life. She decided to hug him and tell him that she was there for him. Initially she communicated with him by singing. It took time, but he did come around and began to feed himself and allowed her to become emotionally close to him.

Chantha was transformed by the experience of Benjamin and was able to go back to college and graduate with a degree in early childhood development. She had to get beyond her own suffering to reach somebody else and then both people grow.

Two years ago she went back to Cambodia where she met her biological parents after almost
twenty years of separation. Her mother was quite emotional, hugged her and cried, but she says that she didn't have the same emotion because she didn't know her parents. She realized that a mother's love for her child is always with her, always wondering where the child is, but the child can forget if the child doesn't have any memory of the mother. The mother can't forget.

She had difficulty relating to her mother in an emotional way from another perspective as well: she had a negative impression of her country of origin and culture because of its recent history and genocide. There was war and destruction and throughout her childhood she experienced nothing but loss and separation from loved ones. She ran from war, was alone and vulnerable. A symbol of hope and healing was present when she visited Angkor Wat and saw the beautiful sculptures smiling at her, and she began to realize that she belonged to a heritage of a great civilization than she had thought. The expression of the base relief revealed to her that she was a part of an ancestry that was gentle rather than cruel and charming rather than harsh and she began to feel proud and relieved of self-condemnation and shame.

At the moment Chantha is working with the school system as a community Liaison with parents, and she hears the concerns of parents. It is her impression that the women take the greater responsibility in raising children and caring for the home. The men sometimes abandon the family. Some of the women raise their children alone and have few emotional supports. Like Sara Im, she believes that Cambodian
women should form a coalition as a support system, a self help group.

As a facilitator in the school system she has the opportunity to assist with communication between parents and children. While she isn't a trained counselor, she believes that she helps with the healing process as well. By being open, honest and down to earth with the parents she found that they trust and appreciate her. Through working with the community and talking with people we are all in the same circle of suffering even though our specific issues may vary.

## Continue from page 4

will be back in the office the very next day to wait to see where they will sleep that night. This is totally unfair to any child, but this is reality. We just do not have the number of foster homes we need to accommodate all the children that come into care. We will find a home each night for a child in need, the home may only be temporary, but at least the child will be safe.

TThe Department, statewide is try ing to open 1,000 new foster homes, throughout the entire state, within the next year. The Lowell office has a target number of 48 new foster homes. We do not ask people to have a large home or to take large numbers of children into their homes. If you have room for one child, this is fine with us. We want applicants to consider how a foster child will fit in with their own families. How many foster children can fit in with your family, what age child would be a good match for your family. Foster families receive the professional support from the staff at DSS. Foster parents are monetarily reimbursed

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Lowell Community Health Center Administration Office 585 Merrimack Street •Lowell, MA 01854

## 요 (508) 937-6045 FAX (508) 970-0057




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# MTV's Hip Hop Black Culture and Cambodian Youth <br> Chath pierSath 

the hip hop culture, which is often viewed as black culture, has found its way to the hearts of Cambodian youth. In raps, these Cambodian youth, gangsta wannabes are finding a new sense of self in black street life - as portrayed in rap music. Rap is the sermon of the street and youth against conventionality and cultural restriction.

Beyond the boundaries and restrictions of their own culture, Cambodian youth who grow up in America are moving fluidly between other cultures, borrowing from whoever they can relate to. Often times, what they borrow is seldom viewed as something good. What they do and express in their lifestyle, a lot of the time, raise eye brows and questions about who they are and what they are all about. Parents, in particular, are scared and skeptical about the whole thing, when they hear their children listen to rap music and see them wearing baggy clothes. Some boys even pierced their ears, which their fathers would never do since gender roles are tightly defined within their cultural context. Here, in America, anything goes. Everybody is free to do whatever he or she wishes. Individual freedom is loudly being expressed and valued.

Cambodian parents who are less integrated into the American cultural mainstream are lost. Some can't understand why their children have chosen to listen to this obnoxious, loud
and in-your face form of music and wear such unattractive baggy clothes, hang out on the street and dance as though they are pointing fingers at each other, trying to pick a fight. What they are doing is actually their way of rebelling against their parents and any notion of cultural establishment. The in-your face lyrics that they gyrate to give them an identity, a way of relating to the world and their peers. These in-your face lyrics often describe and sometimes glorify violence, misogyny, fast living, drinking and drugging. Some lyrics are just senseless, repetition of screams and "I do you good baby," most of which you don't understand.

Parents are not so much to blame for all of this. MTV and other medians of cultural infiltration and media are constantly telling these youth how to behave, act and dress. Wearing a baseball cap sideways is cool and it signifies a certain sign of group identity. Baggy jeans and cloddy athletic shoes are trendy. The music video stars are wearing them. The girls soaked their lips mud red. They project their figures by wearing bell bottom pants and tight shirts brought back from the 60 s . They dance slow dances with boys before they even married. Young girls as young as twelve are learning the arts of flirting.

Some parents are overwhelmed, fearful and afraid of what their children are turning into. They think their children are cultural monsters who
are experiencing some cultural difficulties, trying to figure out where they belong, what they believe and why they are put on this earth, and for what purpose. Maybe they're just expressing the spirit of being young in this free for all nation, America.

One night, at a non-smoking and non-alcohol fundraising party that the CMAA peer leaders put on at Roger School, I saw several young boys as young as twelve smoking Marlboro cigarettes. There were a lot of them there. They paid five dollars to get in. Those who smoked weren't allowed to take their cigarettes and lighters in. At the beginning, a few danced, and even toward the end, only half of those who were there danced. The rest sat and watched. That was their night out of the house. Those who danced pumped their arms front to back. Their legs stayed in rhythm, propelling their short wiry frame forward almost airborne. This boy and his gang danced as if they were swimming through time. Easy. Smooth. Cool. Some of them wore a bandanna over their heads. A young man had a nose ring and one of his pant legs rolled up which doesn't make sense to me. They looked nothing like the innocent, charming, Angkorian faced Khmer children I know, and if I was in their parents' shoes, I would probably be very shocked to discover what I had seen. At the same time, how everyone can not judge by external appearances because there can be gentle spirits beneath the facade. I understand them because I also grew up in this country and realize the issue of trying to balance two cultures is harder for these young people.

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This one young man has a very distinguished Khmer face, wide nose and big beautiful lips, but he lives in the wrong century. He got on the floor, break danced, his baggy clothes, long, dyed hairdo pushed him out of the Khmer Empire. He could have been a warrior then, but hip hop had him fully catered and controlled to its rhythm. He chain smoked Marlboros with his friends, talked street English and was totally illiterate in his own culture and language. This is his culture of earrings, nose rings, long, punky dyed hair, pumas shirts, Adidas shoes, large neck chains, Marlboro cigarettes, skin tight shirts, baggy, doggy pants, baseball and ski caps. He feels comfortable in them as we feel comfortable in our "so-called normal clothes." These symbols of hip hop culture is now widely diffused into the hearts of Cambodian youth.


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& \text { Lowell, MA } 01852 \\
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# American Tobacco Companies Are Cashing In On Cambodia's Poor <br> Chath pierSath 

n Cambodia, there are two landmines for every child and adult. The case of HIV/ AIDS is on the rise. The $70 \%$ forest covered land has been reduced to $40 \%$ in just three years. Corruption is a way of life among government officials. With an increase in bars and nightclubs comes an increase in HIV/ AIDS cases, alcoholism and domestic violence. To top this, there's the problem of smoking and American Tobacco Companies cashing in on Cambodia's poor.

Newport, Camel and Marlboro cigarettes, which are most favored by young people in the United States, are also very popular among Cambodian youth in Cambodia because they come from America. Marlboro is widely advertised. Groups of Marlboro girls can be seen all over the city streets dressed in Marlboro colors, red and white, giving men free cigarettes.

Most of these girls are high school age students. There are not many jobs for young girls in Cambodia. Beside prostitution, they sell beers and cigarettes and work long hours in restaurants for a very low wage.
"Here, try one," I was once urged by a girl. "It's Marlboro smooth,
freshest taste, from America."
There are hundreds of foreign cigarettes in Cambodia. One cannot list them all. There's one brand, "Angkor," which one would think is an indigenous product, but on the label, it says that the tobacco is from the United States of America.

Each company has its own sales pitch. However, everyone of them uses young girls to sell their product. They dress in the colors on the cigarette pack. The beer companies make them wear uniforms that represent the country where the beers come from. Some are dressed like they were in a beauty pageant, wearing evening gowns. They wear sashes such as "Miss Tiger Beer" or "Miss Marlboro."

Cigarette brands like Lucky Strike, Marlboro, Newport, 555 and the French version of Alan Delon take over the airwaves and television ads. They pay beautiful actors to endorse it. "It's smooth and fresh," says one actor as he takes in the smoke and blows it back out of his nostrils as though he's Humphrey Bogart (who by the way died of cancer).

In the United States, while Americans are trying to kick their

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273 Summer Street Lowell, MA 01852 (508) 452.3383



 smoking habits, the Cambodian boys are just starting and doing it the Marlboro way. Boys as young as thirteen are seen smoking with their gangs.
I remember attending

CMAA peer leaders' fundraising party one Saturday night, out of the 40 or 50 young men who smoked, all smoked Marlboro, a cigarette with a very high content of carcinogen and chemicals to hook you up.
"According to a recent international report, smoking kills 3 million people every year, and the annual toll could reach 10 million by 2020. So far, most of tobacco's victims have been men in developing countries, but now, the report says, more women in the West and men in developing countries have begun to smoke. However, while Westerners struggle to kick the habit, tobacco companies are casting about for - and finding - new groups of people ready and willing to light up" (from the World Press Review, November, 1994, "Smoking Wars").

In Cambodia alone, there's no way of telling how many people would die of lung or heart disease and cancer caused by smoking. Most men don't live that long. The average life expectancy is between 45 and 50 years, and according to a report by the World Health Magazine in 1995, chronic diseases like lung cancer and heart disease are generally uncommon because relatively few people survive to those ages when such diseases become manifest. In Cambodia, health data and figures showing the patterns of tobacco use are poor and unreliable. Yet smoking is particularly risky in Cambodia where populations are anemic because it reduces their blood's oxygen - carrying ability. Very poor people often use tobacco

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as an appetite suppressant - a cheap and accessible means of warding off hunger pangs. The men who drive cyclo and motortaxis, and street children especially, use cigarette as well as alcohol to suppress their appetite.

A country like Cambodia does not have the financial ability to educate people about the danger of smoking. While health education messages against smoking are widely disseminated in developed countries, they are nowhere to be found in Cambodia. Television, radio and newspaper outreach are impossible since they have all been taken over by tobacco companies who have money to pay for air time.

The international tobacco companies, fearful of declining profits in the

West, are turning toward new markets in Cambodia and other Southeast Asian countries. In Laos, during the water festival's boat race, the winner takes Marlboro home: Marlboro money, Marlboro cap and T-shirt, even Marlboro trophy. Marlboro billboards in Cambodia are very visible in every social and traditional event. The handsome, good old American cowboy on the billboard is seen urging people to smoke. What people don't know is that the man in the picture with a cigarette in his mouth died of lung cancer. With controls over nicotine and tar content, health warnings, and advertising a lot less stringent in Cambodia, Marlboro is free to sell and enlarge its billboards.

For a dollar ( 2500 riels), any Cambodian can purchase a pack of

Marlboro, Camel or 555 and a variety of other brands of international and local tobacco addictives. There are hundreds of them, those tobacco companies who have money are the most prominent. Like Marlboro, it can afford to pay young female crusaders to go around in their colors to advocate its smooth, American cigarette taste.

In Cambodia close to $90 \%$ of men smoke, and it's a socially accepted behavior while cigarette companies exploit this practice to their own material benefit. By destroying the health and well being of Cambodian males, tobacco companies continue to become wealthy. This is happening all over the world with cigarette companies capitalizing on vulnerable populations.

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Chath pierSath

For some time, the Cambo dian Mutual Assistance As sociation of the Greater Lowell has been looking for a new home. The current office building cannot be upgraded to modern standards. For example, the heating system doesn't work properly. The Young Parent classroom sometimes requires that participants study without heat. During the summer, the building gets too hot due to poor air circulation and ventilation. In addition, the location of the building is not accessible to many people we serve and the office spaces are very limited in size and the building itself is very expensive. The CMAA is currently paying $\$ 42,000$ a year on the rent.

Two years ago, the CMAA board and the executive director were considering the purchase of the former St. Joseph High School located on 760 Merrimack street. It belongs to the Archdiocese of Boston and it was offered to CMAA for $\$ 50,000$.

The city government of Lowell was willing to give the $\$ 50,000$ in
should this building be given to the CMAA, our dream is to find enough money for its redevelopment and turn it into a Cambodian Cultural Center, which will house many human services and cultural activities that are important to the Cambo-

There are more than 20,000 Cambodians who reside in Lowell. Lowell, being a city of immigrants, is home to the second largest Cambodian population in the United States. They have congregated here

The Cambodians brought a unique cultural heritage to the city of Lowell.
owning its own home that will be utilized both as an office and as a Cambodian Cultural Center is still alive. The newly elected board members are currently embarking on locating another building, which, if everything works out, is to be the new CMAA's home and the Cambodian Cultural Center of Lowell.

The 80,000 square feet Courier real estate building is located at 165 Jackson Street, in Lowell. If and
 dian people. since the early 1980s.
grants and another \$100,000 as low interest loan for the building renovation project. The CEDAC (Community Economic Development Assistance Corporation) also approved a $\$ 10,000$ as a low interest loan to cover predevelopment work. However, the building was never purchased.

Today, the CMAA's dream of

They also brought their hopes and hopes and
dreams of safety and freedom away from war and the massive violence they experienced during the
Khmer Rouge during the
Khmer Rouge regime.

A Cambodian Cultural Center would serve many purposes for the community in Lowell. The Courier Building is big enough to create many centers within a center. The staff and some of the people they serve are already excited about this possibility. Each staff has already begun to design their office and classroom space. People are envisioning rooms to suit their various programs. These rooms include a

Continue to page 20 conference hall to hold large conferences or conventions as well as to do training workshops. Some had asked for a kitchen and a banquet room to be built, which can also be rented out to host wedding parties or special social and cultural as well as fundraising events. Others are looking to expand daycare, classroom sizes, have a dance studio for the children to learn and practice their cultural and traditional music, dances and theater. The 80,000 square feet Courier building is even big enough for a religious retreat center where people can get lessons on meditation, learn about Buddhism, hold conferences on peace and non-violence or any other subject of interest. It can even be a place to congregate and do religious ceremonies on New Yearcelebration or Pchum Ben (Ancestors Day): One staff thought about a movie theater that can also be used for concert, beauty pageant and other cultural and artistic performances. A youth coordinator wants a gym for recreational and sports activities for young people after school, as well as, for old people to do some recreational exercises that will enable them to live longer and healthier lives. AnEnglish as a Second Language teacher dreams of having a language lab built into her classroom. These classrooms are also to be used on weekends to teach Khmer language and give adults, through the Cambodian Voter League, weekend citizen classes necessary for Cambodians who want to become American citizens. Other staff thought about a business center to house commercial services like dental and medical
clinics, legal services, employment services office, cafe, restaurants, and various retail stores.
"Our dream is to turn the Courier Building into a one-stop center where people can come for social and commercial
services at the same time," said Mr. Samkhann Khoeun, Executive Director of the CMAA.

What better use than to develop this Courier building into a business and cultural center? The Uptown District of Middlesex, Appleton and Jacksons streets hungers for human activities to make it more lively and active. Right now, it looks very impressing. A Cambodian business and cultural center would revitalize and attract people into the area and it would generate more money for the city as more people come to visit Lowell.

Imagine, abuilding where there's a small library that maintains a collection of Khmer as well as English language books and other resources needed by the Cambodian people, but not available to them elsewhere.

People will be coming in and out of the building. The district would be a safe place to shop, work, study and congregate for religious purposes. Next to it, there's a technology center with computers and Internet access for our staff, clients and young people to use after school. There will be enough office and professional space to rent out to other Southeast Asian non-profit and community based organizations. Many of them have already expressed an interest in leasing office space. A guest lodge to house Cambodian students, or special master residence artists or any other dignitaries from Cambodia is also on the list. This will be a multi-functional facilities of the 80,000 square feet envisioned through various

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Lowell Health<br>Survey Committee:

Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association
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UMass Nursing Department UMass Center for Family, Work, and Community
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## Learning and Working Together!

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 हmG-Garici बyrrn Dr. Linda Silka, Director, Center for Family, Work, and Community, University of Massachusetts, Lowell, 01854, Phone: 934-4677 I

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Continue from page 12 for each child per day. And children are provided with medical insurance in order to taken care of for medical, dental and optical problems.

Applicants must attend a tenweek training session. The ses-
sions are held one night a week for ten weeks. Applicants need to provide the department with references and applicants will have a Criminal Records Check completed on all household members over the age of fourteen.

Please contact Susan Tucke or Michael Ben Ho at 452-8970 to discuss obtaining an application packet.

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people. The possibilities are limitless.
This Cambodian Cultural Center, which will be named the Conway Khmer Community Center in honor to the donor, the Conway Family, will also provide jobs for Lowell residents. With this building, the CMAA will be able to expand its current human service programs and take on bigger economic and community development projects. It will host various learning and cross-cultural exchanges between local, state and federal institutions and the Cambodian community. The

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dream is to build collaborations and the kind of intercultural exchanges that will be beneficial to all communities across racial and ethnic lines. This Center can be a way for Cambodians to learn about other people and the political and social system of their new home. It can be a channel that attracts human and financial resources to carry out various community development projects here inLowell and in Cambodia. People outside the community can also use the Center as a resource for their work. The exchange will be very beneficial to all who are involved in our endeavor to serve our community at large. To find out how you can support this project, please call Samkhann Khoeun at CMAA 508-454-4286.


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 clo CMAA 125 Perry Street Lowell, MA 01852
Tel: (508) 454-4286; Fax (508) 454-1806 E-mail: CMAA@worldnet.att

Khmer Lowell Newsletter is a monthly publication of the Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association of Greater Lowell, Inc. (CMAA), the Cambodian American Voter League (CAVL), and the Khmer Cultural Institute (KCI). We welcome your contribution. Send us your articles, poems, short story, opinion column, political and social commentary or any kind of art work such as cartoon that you wish to be published. All articles should be limited to 800-1200 words. Please include your name, address and phone number. We reserve the right to edit any materials for space. No part of Khmer Lowell may be reprinted or reproduced without our written permission. Subscription rate for the first year (10-12 issues) is $\$ 25.00$ (USA); $\$ 30.00$ (Canada) and $\$ 45.00$ for all other countries. All advertising inquiries should be directed to Samkhann Khoeun, Vuthy Vann, or Thirith Hut. Copyright (c) 1997 by KhmerLowell Magazine.

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c/o CMAA - 125 Perry Street, Lowell, MA 01852
Tel: (508) 454-4286; Fax: (508) 454-1806
E-mail: CMAA @ worldnet.att

| Publisher/Editor |
| :---: |
| Samkhann Khoeun |
| Managing Editor |
| Vuthy Vann |
| Associate Editors (Khmer) |
| Pahim Kay, Savy Suth, Noret Som, Vuthy Vann |
| Associate Editors (English) |
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| Thirith Huth, Vuthy Vann, Noret Som \& Chath Piersath |
| Production Manager |
| Vuthy Vann |
| Editorial Assistants |
| Tem Chea \& Michael Ben Ho |

FAX: (508) 459-0044 • TEL: (508) 459-2575


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