

S.H.E (Sisters of Hmong Empowerment)



On a cold evening in January of 2006, over ten young Hmong women gathered in an apartment living room in Fresno, California. Over snacks and conversation, they envisioned together what their community could look like if they began working together to create a new model of leadership that empowered young Hmong women and girls in high school and college.

After this first convening, they continued to meet every month at the apartment, where they shared stories and experiences, engaged in leadership activities, and held dialogues on social, cultural, and educational issues.

Today, through the support of Stone Soup Fresno, the group has blossomed into Sisters of Hmong Empowerment (SHE). Through learning from one another, networking, exchanging knowledge, addressing the gender implications in the Hmong community, and creating a positive environment that promotes respect, SHE is forging a new model of leadership that speaks to the needs and issues of many young Hmong women today.

MISSION: to empower young Hmong women to develop into leaders who will have an active voice in the community.

GOALS: to provide 1) Educational workshops, 2) Networking opportunities, 3) Cultural enhancement and 4) Awareness of community issues.

SHE believes in a horizontal structure of leadership where everyone's knowledge and experiences are valued and brought to the table.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Participating in the Southeast Asian Resource Action Center (SEARAC) National Leadership Gathering in Washington, D.C.
- Initiating and participating in a six-week course to learn the Hmong system of writing.
- Conducting a series of workshops to learn aspects of Hmong culture .
- Coordinating a Mother's Day Brunch to honor Hmong mothers and engage in a dialogue about Hmong mother/daughter relationships.
- Coordinating a Career and College Exploration Day for Hmong teen girls.
- Encouraging engagement through organized SpeakOuts for Hmong teen girls.
- Facilitating the start-up of Brothers of Hmong Empowerment (BHE) to cultivate leadership development among young Hmong men in the community.

IMPACT: SHE is...

...learning to establish her voice in the community.

...creating opportunities for the next generation of young Hmong women.

...building her skills to advocate for her community.

...empowering others to participate and take action.

...pioneering a new model of leadership.

JOIN US: See the Stone Soup Calendar page for some of our activities, and contact the office to learn how you can become involved.