

NAME: Linda Pham

CLIENT: Park Teen Center

NAME LIKE TO BE CALLED: Linda

DATE: April 2007

HOMETOWN: Vietnam.

TRANS. DATE: 4-5-07

LINDA, WHAT IS YOUR VIETNAMESE NAME?

T-h-u-y-v-i.

TWEE-VEE?

Um hum. (yes) It's two.

TWO? TWO VEE?

Twee-vee.

TWEE-VEE. (yeah) TWEE-VEE. THAT'S HOW YOU SAY IT. IT'S TOUGH FOR ME TO MAKE ALL THE, ALL THE WORDS WITH MY MOUTH. (smile) SO LINDA, WHERE DOES YOUR FAMILY COME FROM?

They came from Vietnam. Well, my dad came from, um, Saigon, and my mom came from another city. I don't know.

SHE CAME FROM A DIFFERENT CITY.

Yeah.

WITHIN VIETNAM. (yeah) AND THEY BOTH CAME FROM THE SOUTH VIETNAM? IS THAT DIVIDED UP?

Yeah, south. No.

OK. UM, WHERE WERE YOU BORN?

I was born here, at Lincoln, Nebraska.

WHEN DID YOUR, WHEN DID YOUR PARENTS COME OVER HERE? DO YOU REMEMBER THE YEAR?

No.

DO YOU HAVE ANY SIBLINGS? ANY BROTHERS OR SISTERS?
A little sister named Lisa.

SO YOU WERE BOTH BORN HERE.
Yes.

UM, WHAT STORIES HAVE YOUR PARENTS TOLD YOU ABOUT THE CITIES THEY GREW UP IN?

They, well, my mom, she, she went out, she drop out of school when she was in sixth grade just to help her, um, her family and stuff so get money to buy food and stuff. So it was hard for her. And my dad, I don't really know. (smile)

HE DOESN'T TELL A WHOLE LOT OF STORIES ABOUT...
No.

UM, DOES HE EVER SAY THE TOWN, LIKE HOW BIG WERE THESE TOWNS?
Well, where he live was a big town. Where my mom live is just a little town.

LITTLE VILLAGE?
Yeah, a little village.

UM, WHAT DID THEY TELL YOU ABOUT THE HOUSES THAT THEY GREW UP IN?
Well, I have been to Vietnam and I've seen where my mom lived. It was like straw house, straw house, yeah, wood. And...

AND SO WOOD SIDES (yeah) AND STRAW...
Yeah, wood side and a straw top.

OK.
Yeah. And...

WAS IT, WAS IT DIVIDED UP INTO ROOMS OR WAS IT JUST A BIG, OPEN SPACE?
It was divided into rooms.

OK. UM, WHAT ABOUT YOUR DADS?

My dad? I don't know about his. (smile)

NOW HE GREW UP IN A BIGGER CITY, RIGHT?

Yeah, a bigger city.

OK. UM, HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU BEEN BACK?

Two times.

TWO TIMES. WHEN?

When I was six, and when I was 12.

WHAT DID YOU DO WHEN YOU WERE BACK, WHEN YOU WERE SIX?

Uh, when I was six...

DO YOU REMEMBER?

Well, yeah. Um, I went to my mom's side of the family and stay there for a while. Um, I don't think I remember that much. (smile) All I remember, I was going to my mom's side of the family at that time.

UM, WHAT RELATIVES WERE THERE?

Um, my mom has (pause) five sisters and brothers. Um, I think it was three sisters and two brothers. And (Pause) well my grandpa and grandma then live in separate homes for some reason, I don't know. Yeah. (smile)

THEY HAVE SEPARATE HOUSES?

Yeah, it was like on two sides. Like, yeah, across from each other. And then my aunts and uncles live right beside them. And then my aunt have a shop right next to my grandma's house, and then there is like other two houses where my aunt, aunt and uncle lives. Because that whole place right there that my grandpa owns it.

OH. (yeah) SO ARE MOST OF THE PEOPLE IN THAT TOWN PART OF YOUR FAMILY?

Yeah.

SO YOU HAVE LOTS OF, DID YOU HAVE LOTS OF COUSINS?

Yeah, a lot of them. (smile)

A LOTA COUSINS?

Yeah. (smile)

SO WHEN YOU WERE SIX, DO YOU REMEMBER HANGING OUT WITH YOUR COUSINS?

Uh, yeah. (smile) Um, my grandpa have a big garden at the back. And fish pond and stuff. I remember going back there and eating mangos and stuff. (smile)

EATING MANGOS?

Yeah, they were good. (laugh) (LAUGH)

SO WHEN YOU PLAYED WITH YOUR COUSINS, WHAT TYPE OF GAMES DID YOU PLAY?

I don't remember, really. I don't remember.

NO. YOU JUST REALLY HUNG OUT WITH THEM.

Yeah. (smile)

UM, WHEN YOU BACK WHEN YOU WERE 12, WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER ABOUT THAT?

Well, that time my mom built a new house for my grandpa. It was, it wasn't a straw house and wood and stuff anymore. It was like tile and tile floor and cement walls. But then it was still different from American homes because there weren't any doors for that. At night there would be a metal door on the front and closed. Because in the day they would just leave their door open like that. Yeah. They wouldn't think there would be robbers going in there and steal stuff.

BUT THERE WASN'T?

Hum um. (no)

THAT'S KINDA NICE.

I know. (smile)

HOW WAS HIS SECOND HOUSE DIFFERENT FROM HIS FIRST, FIRST HOUSE?
WHAT FLOORS DID HE HAVE IN THE FIRST HOUSE?

The first house, it was dirt. It was, it wasn't any wood. It was just dirt.

JUST DIRT FLOORS.

Yeah.

AND THE SECOND HOUSE, HE HAD TILES.

Tiles, yeah.

OK. UH, DID, UH, DID YOUR GRANDMA LIVE WITH HIM IN THAT HOUSE?

No. My grandma stay in the old house with like a straw and wood. She doesn't real like the new kind of home. She's like used to the old kinds. Yeah.

DO YOUR GRANDPARENTS GET ALONG?

They don't talk. I've never seen them talk before.

OH. SO MAYBE THAT'S WHY THEY...

I guess. (smile)

THEY MIGHT NOT. OK. I DIDN'T KNOW IF IT WAS LIKE TRADITION OR WHAT,
BUT...

I don't think so.

OK. WHAT WAS THE, WHAT WAS THE MAIN MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION. IF
YOU WANTED TO GET AROUND IN, IN, UM...

It was kinda like motorcycle. Yeah, it was like motorcycle. And then if you go to like another city, you would ride, you will rent a van and go there.

SO HOW WAS IT, HOW WAS IT DIFFERENT THAN AMERICA?

Well, in the big cities, in Vietnam, they will have like one traffic light for a big, huge street. It was really crowded and I was really scared. I would bump into people and stuff. And yeah.

SO NOT VERY MANY TRAFFIC LIGHTS.

Yeah, there was like only one for one big open street.

HOW DID THEY KNOW WHO WENT FIRST?

I don't know. They just go. (smile) And you just blow the horn and tell them to move and just go.

THAT WOULD BE, THAT WOULD BE SCARY.

I know. (smile)

I WOULD BE VERY NERVOUS. I DON'T LIKE CAR ACCIDENTS. WHAT ELSE WAS DIFFERENT?

Um, they don't have really many cars. And there would be trash everywhere. They would just throw trash everywhere and stuff. So it's really dirty there.

THE CITIES?

The cities.

WAS THE COUNTRY DIRTY WHEN YOU WENT TO YOUR MOM'S FAMILY?

Yeah, it was dirty too. The ponds were all dirty with garbage and stuff. Garbage be floating in the ponds. So yeah.

YEAH. UM, WHAT ELSE WAS DIFFERENT?

What else? Um, (pause) nothing else was different I guess.

EVERYTHING ELSE WAS THE SAME AS AMERICA.

Um, (smile) no, (pause) I guess, I don't know. (smile)

NO, THAT'S OK. UM, WHEN YOUR PARENTS TELL YOU ABOUT WHY, WHEN YOUR PARENTS TELL YOU ABOUT VIETNAM, IS IT MAINLY POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE STORIES THAT THEY TELL YOU?

Mostly negative.

MOSTLY NEGATIVE.

Um hum.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE NEGATIVE THINGS THEY TELL YOU?

Um, that my mom had to drop out of school and help her mom sell stuff and, yeah. And she didn't really like school because of like the hitting and stuff there. And then her

parents would be really strict. Wouldn't let her go out and have fun, like here. So she was really strict. Even to me she's really strict too. Only like in the weekend she will let me play the movies, only like once. Not like in to other places too. And (pause) that's about it.

YEAH?
Yeah.

SO IT WAS JUST REALLY STRICT STRUCTURE. (yeah, strict) UM, WHAT, WHAT POSITIVE THINGS DO THEY TELL YOU?
Positive? Um, (pause) I don't know. (smile) Nothing. I don't know.

THEY DON'T TELL YOU ANYTHING REALLY POSITIVE ABOUT VIETNAM.
Yeah.

THEY DON'T EVER SAY "YOU KNOW, WHEN I WAS IN VIETNAM I REALLY LIKED THIS..." AND THEN TELL YOU WHAT THEY REALLY LIKED.
OK, yeah. Here they don't have that many fruits, like mangos and stuff. Only like only sometimes in, like in the summer they'll have mangos. Not in winter. So they don't have many fruits. So when my mom was in Vietnam she ate a lot of fruits and stuff. And when it was Chinese New Year it was when my friend, my family at Nam, my mom's side of the family, would get, will like get together and eat one huge family dinner. But here just a small family dinner I guess. And, and she will remember like, like if you, yeah, and Chinese New Year they will have like new clothes at Chinese... That's like the only time they get new clothes at, so yeah. That.

DO THEY DO THAT HERE? (PAUSE) NO, NOT AS MUCH.
Not as much. (YEAH)

AND SO WHEN YOU TALK TO THEM AND THEY SAY "YOU KNOW WHAT, I REALLY DIDN'T LIKE THAT ABOUT VIETNAM", ARE THERE OTHER THINGS THAT THEY DO THAT ABOUT?
(pause) Well, my mom hate the north Vietnam.

NORTH VIETNAM.
Yeah. Because they, my mom say the north Vietnam won the war because south Vietnam won their freedom.

AND THEN SO THERE IS STILL KIND OF CONTENTION OR...
Yeah. They have two different flags. (YEAH) Yeah.

AND SO YOUR MOM DOESN'T LIKE THAT. DOES YOUR DAD TELL YOU ANY
GOOD THINGS OR BAD THINGS ABOUT WHAT HE LIKED OR DIDN'T LIKE IN
VIETNAM?
No.

NO.
(smile) Nothing.

UM, WHAT DO THEY TELL YOU ABOUT WHY THEY DECIDED TO COME TO
AMERICA?
Well, (pause) my grandma want my mom to come here to like get a job and send her
money. Like it would be an easier life over there in Vietnam for her. I think.

SO YOUR GRANDMA ACTUALLY SENT YOUR MOM HERE.
Sent my mom here with my uncle.

TO MAKE MORE MONEY.
Make more money to send over there.

OH. (yeah) TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR THE FAMILY.
Um hum. (yes)

WHAT DOES YOUR MOM SAY ABOUT THIS?
Well, she didn't say anything to my grandma. She didn't say that she didn't want or did
want to go. She just had to do it.

SHE DIDN'T HAVE A CHOICE. WOW.
I don't think so.

THAT COULD BE HARD.
Yeah. Because my, she, my mom have a younger brother, but then my grandma really
loves him and she think he was too young. And then my, and then her other brother and

sister were married so they couldn't go and had to stay with their family. So my mom was the only one was sent here.

SO HOW DID YOUR MOM END UP MEETING YOUR DAD?

Mom didn't tell me anything about that.

NO? (SMILE) BECAUSE THEY'RE BOTH FROM VIETNAM.

Yeah.

HUM. UM, (PAUSE) WHAT DOES SHE TELL YOU, WHAT DO YOUR PARENTS TELL YOU ABOUT ACTUALLY COMING HERE?

It, well they really think here was really different, especially like the house. It was different. Like the bathroom was different, and..

THE BATHROOM WAS DIFFERENT.

(smile) Yeah, the bathroom was different. Because where my mom live, they have to go to the bathroom in a hole. It's just a hole.

OH, RIGHT.

Yeah. And then when they take a shower, it's like this huge bucket, and they just take, scoop water out and just dump it on yourself.

THAT WOULD BE DIFFERENT.

Yeah, really different.

MY, UH, MY BROTHER IS OVER SEAS AND THAT'S WHAT HIS LIVING CONDITIONS ARE KIND OF LIKE RIGHT NOW WHERE HE'S AT. (oh) SO WHEN HE, HE SENDS BACK PICTURES EVERY NOW AND THEN. I'M LIKE WELL THAT'S DIFFERENT BUT, YOU KNOW, YOU GOTTA DO WHAT YOU GOTTA DO, RIGHT? SO THAT WOULD BE DIFFERENT. WHAT ELSE WAS DIFFERENT? WHAT WAS HARD FOR HER?

Um, she didn't really understand English. She didn't know what people was telling her and stuff. She was there with, wait, never mind, uh, she was there with her, her brother. And, yeah. Um, she didn't really understand English and stuff. I don't know.

WAS IT HARD FOR HER TO COME HERE?

Was it hard for her?

LIKE, UM, DOES SHE EVER TELL YOU HOW LONG IT TOOK FOR HER TO GET LIKE, UH...

Oh yeah. She said, um, they sent her to Philippines first, like to teach her English a little bit. She stayed there for a couple of months. And then, uh, like some people get chosen to go to America, only some people. There are some people there at Philippines are still there, and didn't get to go to the USA. So my mom got chosen to go to America.

HOW LONG WAS SHE IN THE PHILIPPINES?

For a couple months I think. Like a half of a year.

OH. (yeah) WELL THAT'S NOT, THAT'S NOT TOO BAD. (yeah) YOU COULD BE THERE FOR A LONG TIME.

Yeah. Like some people live there like until now and didn't get to come over here.

DOES SHE TELL YOU WHY SHE GOT CHOSEN?

No. (smile)

SHE JUST DID. (yeah) GOOD ENOUGH. UM, WHAT DOES SHE TELL YOU SHE KNEW ABOUT AMERICA BEFORE SHE CAME HERE?

Well, she say that, um,.... I don't know.

DOES SHE SAY THAT, UM, SHE KNEW AMERICA WAS, WAS GONNA BE LOTS OF BIG, BIG HOUSES AND BIG BUILDINGS AND LOTS OF...

Well, (pause) I don't think so. I don't think so. No, she didn't say anything about that.

SHE DIDN'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT AMERICA BEFORE SHE CAME HERE. (no) NOW BECAUSE YOU HAVE BEEN BACK TO VISIT, UM, HOW WOULD YOU COMPARE LIVING HERE TO LIVING THERE? WHICH ONE DO YOU LIKE BETTER AND WHY?

Well, I kinda like Vietnam better. Because I got more family members there. And, and now, yeah, like the foods there and stuff. And I get to hang out with my cousin. I get to do anything I can do there. Because my mom really know the place really well. Not like here. She won't let me go anywhere, except for the movies, the mall. So over there I got to do anything I want. So yeah, I like over there better. (smile)

SO YOUR MOM IS NOT A...
As strict. (AS STRICT) In Vietnam.

YEAH. WHAT FAMILY DO YOU HAVE HERE?
I got three uncles here.

YOUR MOM'S BROTHERS OR YOUR DADS?
My mom.

YOUR MOM'S BROTHERS. (PAUSE) WHAT OTHER STORIES DOES SHE TELL YOU ABOUT SCHOOL, DO EITHER PARENTS TELL YOU ABOUT SCHOOL?
Nothing.

DO THEY TELL YOU, UH, WHAT WERE THE CLASSROOM, CLASSROOM SIZES LIKE? HOW MANY KIDS IN A CLASSROOM? DO THEY TELL YOU?
Well my mom say there was like a lot of kids in a classroom. It was really humid and they only got like one fan per class I guess. And, yeah, that's it.

DO THEY TELL YOU ALL THE TEACHERS WERE MEAN?
Um, yeah, I guess. All, all the teachers were all strict and stuff.

AND WHAT WERE THEY STRICT ABOUT? WHAT DID SHE SAY THEY WERE STRICT ABOUT?
Like the teachers like when they were teaching they would tell the kids to be quiet, not even one sound from anyone. They can't do anything, just sit still there or else they'll get, get hit in the hand or something.

DON'T LIKE GETTING HIT. (smile) HOW DO YOU FEEL KIDS TREAT YOU, BEING FROM A DIFFERENT CULTURE, HERE IN AMERICA?
Well, they think it's pretty cool because I talk, I speak in another language. And they didn't relay care. Because some of them think I'm Chinese or something. They never thought I was Vietnamese because, yeah. They always thought I was Chinese.

DO YOU GET THAT A LOT? THAT, UM, PEOPLE, THAT AMERICANS TYPICALLY THINK ANYBODY FROM THAT REGION...
Is Chinese.

IS CHINESE? DO YOU GET THAT A LOT?

(smile) Yeah.

WHAT LANGUAGE DO YOU SPEAK AT HOME?

Vietnamese. My mom, my mom won't let me speak English at all. Because she thinks that I will forget Vietnamese and just remember English. I'll forget the Vietnamese culture and stuff.

WHEN YOU WERE A LITTLE KID BEFORE YOU STARTED SCHOOL, WHAT LANGUAGES DID YOU KNOW?

Vietnamese. That's it.

THAT WAS IT.

Um hum. (yes)

WHAT WAS IT LIKE FOR YOU TO GO TO SCHOOL AND IT WAS ALL ENGLISH AND ALL YOU KNEW WAS VIETNAMESE?

Well, I don't really remember. Yeah.

WHAT WAS ELL LIKE?

ELL? It really helped me in my reading and writing a lot. And, yeah.

SO HOW DO, HOW DID YOU LEARN ENGLISH SO WELL?

What do you mean how?

WHAT ARE SOME THINGS THAT YOU DID TO LEARN NEIGHS?

Well, ELL helped me a lot and they, yeah.

DID TALKING TO OTHER KIDS HELP YOU A LOT?

Yeah, I guess.

DO YOU WATCH AMERICAN TV AT ALL?

Yeah, I do.

AT HOME?

Um hum. (yes)

DID THAT HELP?

I guess, yeah. (smile)

I WAS JUST WONDERING, ALL, ALL THE DIFFERENT WAYS THAT YOU LEARNED ENGLISH. DID YOU LISTEN TO AMERICAN MUSIC?

Um hum.

DID THAT HELP?

Yeah.

YOU MENTIONED THAT, UM, YOUR MOM DOESN'T WANT YOU TO FORGET THE VIETNAMESE CULTURE. (um hum) UM, WHAT THINGS DOES SHE DO OTHER THAN SPEAKING ONLY VIETNAMESE AT HOME TO MAINTAIN THAT VIETNAMESE CULTURE?

She, um, she always cook Vietnamese food, always. She, she doesn't know any American food. But yeah, she cooked me Vietnamese food and like and Chinese New Year she will like decorate the house and then, and take me to like when it was Chinese New Year there will be this concert. And there will be like lions and drums and fire works and stuff. Yeah. And I'm in a Buddhist group right now, and they teacher me traditional dance.

OH, THAT'S FUN.

Yeah, and I actually get to dance in Chinese (inaud). And other, other, yeah.

WHAT OTHER HOLIDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS DO...

There are lantern(?) and the night of love. That's around like November. The lantern is like around in the summer.

THE NIGHT OF LOVE? WHAT'S THAT? WHAT'S THAT HOLIDAY?

I don't know, but like, I don't really know much about that, but in like this year, this year, it's just like a normal holiday. (smile)

BECAUSE WE HAVE VALENTINES DAY IN AMERICA.

Um hum. (yes) Yeah.

IS IT KIND OF LIKE VALENTINES DAY? IT SOUNDS LIKE IT WOULD BE, BUT IT'S NOT.

But it's not. It's just a normal holiday.

OH.

Yeah.

WHAT ABOUT LANTERN?

Lantern light is, is a holiday for little kids. Like at night there would be, um, little kids playing with their lanterns. And then at the Buddhist youth group, we do, um, this celebration for little kids. We will walk the little kids around, around like, around here at the temple with their lanterns and stuff.

DO YOU CELEBRATE AMERICAN HOLIDAYS?

Um, we celebrate Christmas and new year and that's about it.

WHAT ABOUT HALLOWEEN?

Yeah, Halloween too. (smile)

YOU DO HALLOWEEN TOO?

Yeah.

VALENTINES DAY?

Not really. No.

FOURTH OF JULY?

Of course. (smile) (SMILE)

CAUSE OF ALL THE FIREWORKS.

Yeah.

THANKSGIVING?

Thanksgiving? No. Not really.

UM, WHAT ABOUT, WHAT ABOUT CLOTHING, DRESS?

Dress? Um, like when I did traditional dancing there would be like this long dress and under it would be white pants and long sleeve and, and the thing would go up to the neck. And yeah, that's the traditional Vietnamese dress.

BUT OTHER, OTHER THAN DANCE, (um hum) THERE IS, YOU DRESS JUST LIKE THEY WOULD BACK IN VIETNAM?

Um hum. (yes)

SO A LOT OF YOUR COUSINS BACK IN VIETNAM DRESS LIKE YOU DO.

Um, yeah.

UM, WHAT ABOUT MUSIC?

Music?

YEAH, IN THE HOME, DOES YOUR MOM LET YOU LISTEN TO ANYTHING AMERICAN?

Yeah, she, she let me listen to anything. And she would be listening to Vietnamese music. And then there is like music entertainment, Vietnamese enter-, there is a lot of music entertainment. They would like make movies and have bunch of new songs and like plays and there, yeah.

SO YOU STILL KEEP IN, IN TOUCH WITH THE MUSIC SIDE OF VIETNAM AS WELL.

Yeah.

UM, DO YOU HAVE THE OPTION TO WATCH VIETNAMESE TV?

Um, yeah, I do. Um, like every, yeah, there will be like these Chinese and Korean movies translated into Vietnamese. Yeah, my mom will rent it like every Thursday, which is today. (smile) Yeah. It's like long movie. It's like a lot, it's like episode. Like each movie, each movie will have like three episode and we will get like, yeah, three episode each week to watch.

WELL THAT'S KINDA FUN.

Yeah. (smile)

IS THERE A LOT OF ACTIVITIES IN THE COMMUNITY AMONG THE VIETNAMESE POPULATION?

Yeah, there is, um, Buddhist youth group. That's Vietnamese. And there is a Catholic

youth group too. And there is also this Asian cultural center. It's like close to O'Asian Garden. (UM HUM) Um, (pause) that's all I can think of right now.

YEAH. HAVE YOU EVER HAD TO TRANSLATE FOR FAMILY MEMBERS?

I always have to translate for my mom like when she had to buy insurance. And when I have to move into a new school and stuff, I have to translate all of that. And when (inaud) would have to go to like hospital, like everywhere we go I'd have to translate for her.

FOR YOUR MOM. (yeah) YOU'RE TRANSLATING ALL THE TIME.

Yeah. My little sister doesn't do anything. (smile)

(SMILE) UH, HOW DO YOU LIKE TRANSLATING?

I think I learn more when I translate. Like learn more Vietnamese. And also English. Because like sometimes, like when my mom went buying insurance, I didn't really know anything about insurance there. Yeah, I think I kinda learn more about insurance, like how it works and stuff. Yeah.

NO, THAT'S REALLY, THAT'S REALLY COOL THAT YOU'RE ABLE TO LEARN ALL THAT INTERESTING STUFF. CAUSE MY MOM WOULDN'T HAVE TO DO THAT. SO I WOULD, AS A KID, I WOULD NOT LEARN A LOT OF THAT KID AS YOU GET TO.

(um hum) IT'S KINDA COOL. HAVE YOU, DO YOU EVER FEEL LIKE YOU LEAD A DOUBLE LIFE? LIKE ONE AT SCHOOL YOU'RE AMERICAN AND ONE AT HOME, YOU'RE VIETNAMESE?

Not really. Because at home I'll be on the computer and watching American shows and hearing American music. Yeah. I don't think I'm living a double life at all.

WHAT ROLE DOES LANGUAGE PLAY IN HAVING FRIENDS OVER TO THE HOUSE?

My mom won't let other, other like not Vietnamese people. It's not like she's racist but then she doesn't really trust them. And she won't let me go to other people, other than Vietnamese friends house. Cause she won't trust. She will think about negative things that would happen to me there. (UM HUM) So yeah.

SO DOES THAT AFFECT FRIENDSHIPS AT SCHOOL?

Um, no. I'll be like contacting them on the phone and yeah.

SO YOU STILL HAVE FRIENDSHIPS WITH THEM. YEAH. HOW OFTEN DO YOU STAY IN TOUCH WITH FAMILY IN VIETNAM?

We will call them in the weekends like once a week.

ONCE A WEEK.

Yeah. (smile)

THAT'S A LOT. DO YOU GET TO TALK TO COUSINS AND GRANDPARENTS AND...

Yeah. I don't really like to talk to my grandparents that much because they would be like, um, like "be good in school, have good grades, and like grow up, get a good career, high paying job," and stuff. Well, yeah. And I got little baby cousin, he's like two or three years old, yeah. He's really funny. (smile) I really like talking to him.

(SMILE) YEAH. UM, WHEN YOU'RE, DO YOU HAVE COUSINS YOUR AGE?

Yeah, I do.

DO YOU TALK TO THEM?

Um hum. (yes)

UM, WHAT KIND OF QUESTIONS DO THEY ASK YOU ABOUT AMERICA?

They don't really ask questions about America that much.

REALLY? (yeah) THEY'RE NOT CURIOUS ABOUT AMERICA?

I don't think so.

HUM. IS ANYBODY OVER THERE CURIOUS ABOUT AMERICA?

Anybody?

THAT YOU TALK TO ON THE PHONE?

(pause) No. (smile) (LAUGH)

OK, THAT'S GREAT. UM, IF, IF YOU HAD COUSINS THAT WERE GOING TO MOVE OVER HERE, OR FRIENDS THAT WERE GOING TO MOVE OVER HERE, (um hum) WHAT WOULD YOU, WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE THEM BEFORE THEY CAME OVER HERE?

Um, I don't know. (smile)

HOW WOULD YOU TELL THEM TO GET READY TO COME OVER HERE?

How to get ready to come over here? Like what? (smile)

WOULD YOU TELL EM, UM, START EATING A LOT OF MCDONALDS TO GET USED TO AMERICAN FOOD OR START SPEAKING LOTS OF ENGLISH... OR (PAUSE) START CELEBRATING DIFFERENT HOLIDAYS OR LISTEN TO DIFFERENT MUSIC OR WEAR DIFFERENT CLOTHES OR... WOULD YOU GIVE THEM ANY ADVICE?

About dressing advice, yeah. I mean their clothes is kinda like here but it's kind of, yeah, I don't know. I don't know.

A DIFFERENT STYLE.

A different style. It's like well it's like t-shirt and pants too. But then their jeans, I don't know. But then it doesn't really last long. It just like fades away to like white. (smile)
Um, yeah, jeans are different there.

AND SO YOU'D TELL THEM CLOTHING WISE. (yeah) THERE IS DIFFERENCES.
WHAT WOULD YOU TELL THEM THAT THEY COULD DO FOR FUN IN LINCOLN?
Um, go to movies, go to the mall. Um, skating. Things like that.

DO YOU HAVE THOSE THINGS BACK IN VIETNAM?

In, we got skating but then it's not as big here. It's like a little spot with a bunch of people skating. That's why I never skate there cause I'm scared I'll get trip and stuff. And about the movies, I don't know about that. And the mall. Yeah, they got malls there. Only in the big cities. In the small cities I don't think there is malls. (YEAH) Yeah.

UM, WOULD YOU TELL THEM TO START PRACTICING ENGLISH BEFORE THEY CAME OVER HERE?

Yeah. At Vietnam there is actually, like there is, in school there is a course you get to learn English for and stuff. So yeah.

WHAT GRADE DOES THAT START?

Um, well, one of my cousins, she's already out of school, she is now learning English.

SO YOU DO THAT AFTER SCHOOL?

I guess.

I SEE. IS SHE OLDER? YOUR COUSIN?

She's much older. She's like 20 something. (OH, OK)

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE THAT YOU CAN TELL ME ABOUT VIETNAM?

Anything else about Vietnam? (UM HUM) Um, I think they're really unorganized there. They don't even have a president there. That has really amazed me. I don't even know how they, I don't know, control Vietnam I guess. But then, yeah, I don't know, I think that's the reason why there is trash all over and stuff. And they do have police there too. Like, yeah, they do. And then and then my sister once, she went to the hospital there and then they would put people, a lot of people in just one room. And then when my sister was sick she just, they just take the temperature and then give her medicine. Like a lot of pills. I, I was like you just give them medicine just of the temperature. It was, it was really confusing. I mean I don't get why. I mean I don't even know what they're giving to my sister, but it made, my sister got better because she was, she had, I think she had, she was eating food that wasn't really clean. Yeah. A lot of people in my mom's place, they will be selling food outside and stuff. And I don't think this was really clean, that's why my sister got sick. But I didn't know why I didn't get sick. Um, yeah. That's about it.

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU COULD TELL ME ABOUT YOUR MOM'S EXPERIENCE, YOUR MOM OR DAD'S EXPERIENCE HERE IN AMERICA? WHAT IT'S BEEN LIKE FOR THEM?

I think it was really hard for them just to like (pause) I don't know, get me to school and stuff. And they didn't really know English. I didn't even know how they, I don't even know... Well I think they have friends, friends that help them translate and stuff. Like when I get sick and get in hospital and stuff. And I guess it was really hard for them.

THEY STILL DON'T SPEAK VERY MUCH ENGLISH?

Well, my mom, I think she understand as she knows, when I say "mommy" she knows I'm calling mom. And she knows OK, thank you, hi, bye, yes, no and I don't know, I don't care. (smile) (SMILE) Cause I say that a lot, so she knows that. Uh, yeah, that's about it.

HAS SHE TAKEN ENGLISH CLASSES?

No, she haven't. But there is English classes, but I don't know why she isn't taking them.

YEAH. WHAT ABOUT YOUR DAD, DOES HE SPEAK VERY MUCH ENGLISH?

I don't know about that because I don't live with my dad.

OH....
Yeah. (OK)

UM, THAT WOULD BE VERY HARD TO LIVE IN A PLACE WHERE YOU DON'T SPEAK THE LANGUAGE. I DON'T KNOW HOW SHE DOES IT EITHER.
I know. That's why it was really hard for her I guess.

AND IT'S GOOD THAT SHE'S GOT, UH, A DAUGHTER SO SMART THAT CAN TRANSLATE FOR HER. THAT'S REALLY, THAT'S GOOD.
Yeah.

UM, WELL IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU'D LIKE TO TALK ABOUT?
Hum. I don't think so. That's it.

ALRIGHT, LINDA. THAT'S SO MUCH FOR DOING THE INTERVIEW.
OK.