

Hello, my name is Ben.

I am 2015 High School graduate who is working hard to fulfill my dreams.

My parents immigrated from Laos and have raised my brothers and I in the Midwest. I love to work and help provide for my family. I enjoy playing soccer through Special Olympics and enjoy TV shows that are on Nickelodeon. I am very caring and kind.

Hmong is my family's native language and our traditions are very important to us. It is important for others to have respect for these things and to understand how they shape our lives.



DREAMS

That I have for myself:

- To have a house.
- To help my family.
- To work more hours at ShopBop.

That my parents have for me:

- To own my own business.
- To be involved in more activities in the community.
- To live on my own.

WORK

I work at ShopBop approximately 25 hours a week. My supervisor says that I am a very hard worker and values the job I do. In fact, she is exploring how we can increase my hours. I would like to continue to advance my career.

I rely on supports from Goodwill to provide spot checks throughout the week. **My yearly vocational support rate is \$5,384.** This is important because they help answer my questions, help me communicate with my supervisor, and build supports to help me be independent and successful.

HOME SUPPORT

In Hmong culture, everyone in the family supports each other. Also, parents support their children until they are ready to be on their own. They do not initiate the change themselves.

I clean our family home and help cook. Right now, it is hard to imagine living on my own. My parents and support broker are working to help build my confidence with my independent living skills. They are exploring using SDS public services to assist me and help reach my goal of independent living. **My parents are not funded to provide my supports.**



COMMUNICATION

Due to language barriers, speech and language delays, I need people to help me understand as well as articulate my needs. **I have \$915 in SDS funds for interpreter services.** Change is hard for me and I ask a lot of questions. I trust my team, especially my support broker Jenn, to help me understand different options, my choices, and a new routine. My broker helps coordinate my SDS services, maintain my benefits, help my family understand my benefits (especially Social Security), coordinate recreational activities and advocates for my life goals. My family and I put all of our trust in Jenn to help make informed decisions in my best interest. Her constant support helps me become more independent.

