

If I could, I would like to go back to my birthplace. Born in one of the 9 refugee camps located in Thailand, being alive was a privilege. Like every other family living there, my parents risked their lives to cross the river and escape persecution from the Burmese soldiers. Through the many stories that I overheard as my mother shared her traumatic past with friends, it amazes me of what one is willing to risk for safety. Sometimes, I would even record their conversations in order to replay and remind myself of the sacrifices made for me to be where I am today.

If I could, I would like to visit refugee camps located near the border of Thailand and Myanmar. I want to hear the refugees' personal stories of how they arrived there and what they had to go through. I will implement the knowledge and skills that I will obtain from social work classes in the university I attend to help families overcome their post traumatic stress. Becoming a social worker there will allow me to give back to the community as well as provide a chance for families dealing with physical or mental issues to improve their circumstances. I will start my journey there because I want to learn more about my ancestor's culture I was not exposed to.

If I could, I would be a part of a non profit organization that works to improve the life of others, especially refugees. Being one myself, I can relate to the struggles that refugees face when striving for improvement. I want to be that person others can count on when in need of transportation, helping fill out forms, or translating. It excites me to think that someone will have opportunities because of my service.

If I could, in addition to being a part of a nonprofit, I would also create my own organization that aims to help families specifically in the process of resettling. I remember when we first immigrated to America, everything seemed so fascinating because we were never exposed to it before. Luckily, there were a few neighbors that spoke our language so we would constantly go to them for help. Also, there was a case worker that was really kind and caring for us, which helped us to become more knowledgeable about the American culture and tradition. Through his and the help of our neighbors, we eventually adapted to our new home. My family's transformation inspires me to become someone that will be able to make a change in other's lives. I want to be a part of or start my own organization where I can personally give assistance to families that are in the process of restarting their own lives. Through the help of scholarships and grants, I will be able to take classes that will give me more knowledge and skills needed to achieve my future goals.