

San Jose, CA

Saving for Cosmetology School



“If you want to reach your goals, there are always ways to reach them. The IDA program has been a great teacher, and that means so much to me.”

Thao and her husband moved to the U.S. in 2007 in hopes of providing a better life for their 3 year-old daughter. Although she is still learning the English language, Thao went to work right away as a waitress. It hasn't been easy for her to work, take care of her daughter, and adjust to the American way of life. But Thao is determined to build a future for herself and her family.

IDA Account Fast Facts

Amount of Matched Funds: \$3,000
Monthly/Total Savings: \$70/\$1,500
Amount of Withdrawal: \$4,500
Time to reach goal *with* IDA: 1 year

Challenge

Thao's goal is to become a hairdresser and one day have her own salon, but she doesn't yet have the savings to enroll in cosmetology school.

Opportunity

Through the IDA program, Thao learned how to better manage her family's finances and put aside money each month so that she can enroll in school one day. Once she is done with her training and able to open her own business, these financial skills will help her be successful and increase her family's income.

Hearing About Opportunity Fund

Thao was referred to Opportunity Fund by one of our community partners, Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County.

Lessons Learned

Today, Thao is saving every month. And now, with her savings growing in the bank, Thao knows that it will not be long before she can complete her training, receive her license, and start her hairdressing business. And that will be just the beginning. Because Thao plans to keep saving, for her future and for her daughter's future.