

## **Hmong Quick Facts – Culture and History in MN**

- Many Hmong refugees came to the US as the Vietnam war came to a close in the late 1970's. One third of all Cambodian refugees were resettled in Minnesota, most through Catholic Charities and Lutheran Social Services.
- Hmong were given special protected refugee status by the State Department because of their cooperation with the CIA in providing aid to the US during the Vietnam war.
- The Twin Cities metro area now has the largest concentration of Hmong in the USA, with Saint Paul having the greatest concentration of population.
- The Hmong are recognized by the United Nations as one of many ethnic groups as an “unrepresented peoples,” an ethnic group without a current “home country.”
- The Hmong have a long history of deep ethics for living, which include family loyalty, hard work, community involvement, no lying or stealing, bravery, and courage.
- The rich, ancient history of Hmong people reflects a complex culture and social system. Many know of Hmong New Year celebrations in the metro area in late November, with state-wide and local gatherings, food, music, dances, and cultural celebrations.
- Many Hmong have converted to Christianity through the years, with many Hmong congregations of various denominations. There are three Hmong-Lutheran churches in Saint Paul alone, with other metro Lutheran congregations who have had Hmong outreach ministries for decades.
- Sunisa “Sun” Lee of Saint Paul is a three time Olympic medalist, winning the gold medal in the women’s artistic individual all-around in the 2020 Summer Olympics. Suni made history as both the first Hmong-American to compete in the Olympics in any sport and the first Hmong-American to win an Olympic medal.

## **Additional Resources:**

- [Hmong Cultural Center](#)
- [Hmong Museum](#)
- [Hmongtown Marketplace](#)
- Hmong Farmers Market on Friday mornings at 544 University Ave W, St Paul, MN 55103