



Hunger Action Day 2004 May 12, 2004

Fifty- one Fresno County residents went to Sacramento to talk to their legislators about hunger and programs to help feed hungry neighbors in Fresno and in California.

Following the visits, participants were asked what they liked, what they wished, and what they learned.

Cha Mee Xiong – I love the Sacramento trip because I get to see all the people at the Capitol. I am happy to see such a big group going this year. The meeting with Senator Florez's staff was great. He gave us good responses to our questions and concerns. I wish that we could stay in Sacramento longer and have more visits.

Xong Yang – I was frustrated with a lot of things in Fresno. Today, the trip to Sacramento allowed me to release my frustrations and concerns to my legislator. I am happy that I had a chance to visit and speak to my legislator. The meeting made me feel better. Thank you. I wish the rally could be longer and bigger. It was exciting to see so much people fighting for the low-income people.

Ia Lor – I am so happy to be able to go to Sacramento with April and Phoua to meet with Assembly Member Parra. Thank you for taking us. I wish to see more Hmong people throughout the state join us next year.

Lia Lee – Thank you for the Sacramento trip. It was great to talk to the legislators. I like the Capitol.

Mee Lee Xiong – I like seeing all the people at Capitol. It was exciting to see so many different people in and around the Capitol visiting the legislators and rallying outside. I wish to see a bigger and better Hunger Action Day next year.

Yer Xiong – I love the rally. It gave me a lot of hope and motivation. Thank you for taking us to Sacramento. I wish I had more time to meet with the Assembly Member Parra, so I can tell her about all the frustrations and issues that I and many others have in Fresno. I also wish I could meet with the Governor. In the future I want to see a Hmong leader in the California legislation. I think that it was good to visit Parra, but I feel that her staff member was not engaged in the meeting because she was not taking notes on the issues that we were concern with. I hope that Parra will remember our stories and help our cause.

May Moua – The rally was very exciting. I am happy that I had a chance to see all the legislators. I hope they will help us. I wish that the Hunger Action Day will continue next year. I want to go to the Sacramento again.

Youa Vang – I was happy to meet with Senator Charles Poochigian. It was an important meeting. I like the fact that he seems to be listening to us and allowed us to take pictures with him. I feel that today was a very important day and we as Americans should do this more often. I hope that as a legislator, Poochigian will think more about the Hmong people in Fresno and help us, as we have helped him. I want to see two buses from Fresno go to Sacramento next year.

Loah Anh Ngyuen – It was an interesting day. Coming from San Jose I have I learned a lot from Fresno County. While the people are resting and I going on visits, I think that they should get education on nutrition. The dietician interns could do brief nutrition presentations.

Melinda DeWhirst – It was frustrating finding where the events were happening because we did not have maps. I would recommend maps of the Capitol for next year. It was good that there were two leaders per group and that the Fresno's diversity community was represented. It was a good combination of Hmong and Spanish speakers in each group. The lunch was good. I think there should be ideas for bills on nutrition in the community that is represented of the huge diversity in California. I feel that there could be more education on the bills for the people that were here for Hunger Action Day and make sure that the people agree with the bills that were presented. Children's Service Network is a good group to contact more people to go on this trip next year.

Nao Lee – I like everything. I am happy that April asked me to come on this bus trip.

Pa Yang- This is the happiest day of my life. I liked seeing the Capitol and meeting with our legislator. Please keep in contact with the legislators on the important bills that we talked about today. Our children need better and healthier lunches at school. No more pizza, just rice and vegetables and a little meat.

Blia Vang – I like everything. I was able to the capitol and legislators. Thank you, April for taking us. I wish for Fresno Metro Ministry to have many successes in regards to this trip, so that we'll be able to go the Sacramento more times in the future.

Jessie Torres- I like everything, especially the plates and the meeting with Sarah Reyes.

Bernardino Jurez- I like everything. I wish healthier lunches to be served at schools. I want to go to Hunger Action Day again.

Lydia Velasco- I liked the diverse group of people, representing the San Joaquin Valley united in lobbying our representatives not to cut programs that help low-income people. I didn't like that the trip was long, but it was well worth it. I wish that the programs stay intact, finger print scan is eliminated, increase in Cal-Works would be great and to have school breakfast for all our schools.

Alicia Marquez—I liked Assembly Member Nicole Parra. What I dislike is what she said about Fresno, why there are no jobs and she said the reason no jobs is because of the pregnancy rate. I wish that they would take away the law about fingerprinting.

Joan Schlesing—I appreciate having the opportunity to visit legislators with a group—and also having transportation to Sacramento. I thought we needed more time to organize our efforts statements with the legislators. I would also like to hear outcomes of this effort. (i.e., any correspondence to Fresno Metro Ministry from Sacramento)

Debbie Newlin—I like the opportunity to go the Sacramento to meet with the legislatures on state food issues. I dislike the fact that there was a lack of knowledge on where to go (offices), where to meet (activities during lunch). This was a great opportunity and I would not mind assisting with the organizing the event in the future.

Tina Canales—I like meeting with the legislatures. The people from Metro were able to speak and state their case on the food issues. There needed to be maps of the area along with the time and places to meet for the group.

Beth Arrindell—I like the meeting with Sarah Reyes and observing her interaction with the representatives from our group. We could use a map of the capitol building for the group leaders, so we knew which doors could be entered by the group and where the location of the Central Valley group would be.

Juan Gonzalez—I liked to be in the capitol. I'd never been there. The last time that I had been in Sacramento was in 1994. I enjoyed being there again. I didn't like the food and we spent too much time seated on the trip. I wish good things for the community especially for the needy.

Maria Andrade—I like that I was able to talk and meet with Bustamante's staff. He showed concerns about my situation. I didn't like that I was not able to meet with Bustamante in person. I wish that all the bills that we talked about pass and stop the budget cuts.

Mai Chue Lee—I really enjoyed the trip. It was great to see the people and the capitol. I wish there would be no budget cuts.

Soua Lee Moua—I like everything. I want a fair budget, no cuts for the needy.

Khou Vue—I like seeing the capitol and the legislature. I wish the bills we talked about pass and there are no budget cuts.

Neng Lee—I like everything. I don't want to see the budget cuts and I want to see all our bills passed.

Mirna Valadez—I like everything. I dislike that the walk to the bus was long. This needed to be more coordinated. I want all of our bills passed and no budget cuts.

Chong Vue Vang—I like everything and the fact that I was able to see the Senator. I want all the bills to pass.

Chia Xiong—I like to see the State Capitol and to be able to talk with the legislator. I don't like that if the budget is cut, I will be homeless. I want the bills to pass and no budget cuts.

Kia Xiong—I like everything. I wanted to see and meet with Senator Florez himself. This is my second time to the capitol; I want to see the bills pass and not more budget cuts.

Lia Vang—I was able to see Assembly Member Sarah Reyes and it was good because she expressed her concerns for the people.

Mee Yang—I was glad to see the state Capitol and legislative representatives for the first time.

Chong Vue Vang—I feel that this was an important trip to going to Sacramento. It was great to see the state capitol.