

2010 – Grand Marshal Sam Meas

Sam Meas was born in Cambodia, Kandal Province, sometime between 1970 and 1972. In 1983, Sam and his oldest cousin escaped the war zone along the Cambodia-Thai border and made their way to Kao I Dang refugee camp inside Thailand. For the next three years, alone in the camp, Sam relied on the generosity of other Cambodian refugee families to survive. For Sam to survive, he learned to cook and helped Thai families by cleaning, sewing, babysitting, carrying water and chopping wood. After three years in the camp, Sam was sponsored by Catholic Charities of Virginia and was permitted to resettle in the United States of America as an “unaccompanied minor.” Sam lived with a host family for three years, and was eventually adopted in 1992 and raised by a single Mother in Virginia.

All during his difficult transition period, Sam pursued his education. He graduated from Virginia Tech with a Bachelor of Science in Finance in 1996 and moved to Boston, Massachusetts to pursue the American Dream. Today, Sam stands as a testament that the American dream is alive, as a Principal with State Street Global Advisors, where he oversees a team of Performance Measurement Analysts, but more importantly offers inspiration to those who still believe in America’s greatness.

Since June 2001 Sam has volunteered his time as a member of the Board of Directors of North Suffolk Mental Health Association (NSMHA), based in Chelsea, MA. NSMHA is a private, non-profit agency, with an annual budget of about \$30M, providing community-based services to children, adults, and families dealing with problems of mental health, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse. He is presently serving as the Vice Chairman of the Board and has also served as Chairman of Finance, Personnel, By-Law, Compliance, and Audit Committees.

