



Chan Hopson was a high school teacher in Cambodia when the “killing Fields” began. She survived the work camp and subsequently came to America. She was thankful, she promised to help as many Khmer children, women and families as possible. Her work to fulfill that promise benefits the entire Long Beach Community.

In 1995, she co-founded Khmer Parent Association (KPA) and has served as its volunteer Executive Director for over 20 years. KPA is instrumental in empowering Cambodians - primarily youth - to pursue a higher education. It provides underachieving, at-risk youth with a Tutoring After-School program, career guidance, and internship opportunities with local organizations and professionals. Chan Hopson is also founder of the South-East Asian Scholarship, which presents annual awards to 15 graduating high school seniors. For over two decades, she has enriched the lives of hundreds of children in Long Beach.

In addition to being an education champion, Chan Hopson works tirelessly to empower and educate the community residents about critical health issues. Ironically, many parents survived the genocide in the “killing fields” only to die at an early age from serious but preventable or treatable diseases such as diabetes and cancer. She established the first ever Annual Khmer Health Forum to educate the Cambodian community about various health topics and preventive medicine, organized two Khmer Women’s Health Ambassador trainings and one for men, and provided over 10,000 hours of volunteer services to St. Mary Medical Center.

While serving the community, she found out that many Cambodian mothers and daughters often do not realize that they inherit a rich heritage and culture through the past glorious Khmer civilization of the Angkor Empire. In 2015, she organized a Khmer Mother and Daughter Inter-generational Leadership Training for the purpose of closing the inter-generational gap between the traditional mothers and the Khmer American daughters. To culminate the training program, she and Assembly member Patrick O’Donnell of 70th District, co-hosted the first ever multicultural Mother and Daughter Conference on Saturday, February 20, 2016 at St. Mary Medical Center. The goals of the conference were to “Build, Develop and Strengthen Relationships Across Cultures, Create Friendly Dialogue, Connect and Share experiences as One Community.” The conference was very successful and it joyfully ended with a great speech from Assembly member Cristina Garcia of 58th District.

Chan Hopson is a graduate of multiple educational programs, including the Women’s Health Leadership Program, the Executive Leadership Program for non-profits, and the Family Development Credential from the University of Connecticut. She also completed the “Chronic Disease Self- Management Program” training at Stanford University, Mental Health First Aid Training from the Mental Health First Aid USA Program, Savvy Caregivers for Alzheimer’s patients training, Strategies for managing conflict in the community by National Conflict Resolution Center, QPR Suicide Prevention Gatekeeper Program Training by the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, Cervical Cancer and prevention from USC oncology Department and HIV/STD training from the Long Beach Health Department.

She has also earned numerous awards and nominations beginning in 1996 and continuing through 2015 such as the California State Lottery “Heroes in Education” Award, the California Senate Resolution for “Women Who Make a Difference”, Gene Lentzner Human Relations Award from CCEJ, Women of Distinction Awards from State Senator Ricardo Lara, from Assembly member Patrick O’Donnell and from the Soroptimist International of Long Beach. She was the Grand Marshall of the 2015 Cambodian New Year Parade in Long Beach. She was selected as the 2016 Woman of the Year for the 70th District, by Assemblymember Patrick O’Donnell for her service to the community in Long Beach.

She is married and lives in Long Beach since 1980 and has two grown sons.