Christ Church United in Lowell

September 11, 1981

To Whom It May Concern:

This is an unsolicited letter of recommendation in support of the important work being done by the IndoChinese Self-Help Project in Lowell. My name is David Specht, and I work as Minister to the Community at Christ Church United in Lowell.

During the past year, Lowell has, as you are no doubt aware, become the new home for nearly a thousand IndoChinese refugees. Unfortunately, the majority of these refugees were brought into our community by a sponsoring agency that was, for the most part, ill-equipped to adequately resettle them. The result has been an ongoing pattern of crisis situations which have demanded responses from churches. Unmet needs in the areas of medical attention, housing and food, fuel assistance, employment and conflict resolution have presented themselves most regularly to us (here at Christ Church).

While we have been steadfast in our desire to be of help in situations such as these, more often than not, we have sought assistance from Jacqui Fidler and her staff at the IndoChinese Self-Help Project. Here we have come to depend upon the Project's translation services, sensitivity to cultural nuances, and solid relationships with community services. In short, we have found the Project to be an extremely reliable and accessible resource to which we can turn for expertise and assistance in addressing refugee crises. The essential nature of their service is underscored by the fact that they are, in our experience, the only Lowell-area resource equipped to provide the community with these case-management services.

In addition to this service, the IndoChinese Self-Help Project has taken the lead in facilitating the organization and empowerment of the three IndoChinese ethnic communities through the support and resourcing of their gatherings and the nurturing of their own indigenous leadership. They have also been active and founding participants of a community-wide coalition of churches, agencies and individuals concerned with the challenge of IndoChinese refugee resettlement in Greater Lowell (Greater Lowell IndoChinese Services Steering Committee).

For all of these reasons, I offer this letter as an expression of my endorsement of the Self-Help Project, as it seeks funding that will allow it to continue and expand its resource offerings to IndoChinese in the Lowell area during the upcoming year. Please do not hesitate to contact me for further feedback on the variety and quality of services they offer to our new IndoChinese neighbors. We would be lost without their help.

Sincerely,

David L. Specht
Minister to the Community