

NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES | 100 Hmong tornado victims pack Henry High Library



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June 09, 2011

On June 8, nearly 100 North Minneapolis Hmong tornado victims poured into Henry High school to get information and help and ask questions. So many more people showed up than expected that the meeting had to be moved to the library to accommodate everybody.

People shared stories of what happened to their families and houses during the tornado. Many also talked about the difficulties they have had in getting food and clothing and housing.

Families also brought questions and problems ranging from dealing with insurance companies, hiring quality contractors, finding replacement housing, recouping lost rent payment, and getting electricity reconnected.

The meeting was facilitated in Hmong by Blong Yang, a lawyer for the Minneapolis civil rights department. Blong's house was also hit by the tornado, and the idea for the meeting arose when Henry High Asian Club students knocked on his door and offered assistance.

Many Hmong families have faced special problem dealing with the tornado disaster because of language barriers and not knowing how to deal with insurance, contractors, and finding help.

Participants also enjoyed a dinner of laab, papaya salad, Hmong eggrolls, and purple sticky rice.



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