

TITHRA

LUCKY TO BE ALIVE

Tithra, nineteen, has been in North America since 1986. He has spent a lot of time as a gang member with other Cambodian teens in the area where he lives. He wants to be an artist using traditional Cambodian arts and crafts. He would like to return to Cambodia, especially to see the temple of Angkor Wat.

When my family came to the United States, I was eleven years old. First we went to Chicago, where my dad went to school. Then we moved to Boston. We lived there for a couple of years until my father got a different job and we moved to Providence, Rhode Island. There are a lot of other Cambodians living here in Providence. It's not such a big place, not like Chicago or Boston, so it's easier to meet other Cambodians. There are a bunch of women who do Cambodian sewing together.

The kids hang out together. The gangs are mostly a way for us to be with other people who can understand, who have the same kind of background. Our families are pretty strict, so

