

“A refugee story”

A refugee from Burma named Henry, arrived in the United States in 2011 at the age of 16 with his family, fleeing political persecution after his father’s involvement in the 1988 protests. Initially, he faced a significant culture shock, having only known American culture through the media. He had spent a decade in Malaysia while awaiting resettlement and struggled to leave behind his old life. However, in Indiana, Henry found a welcoming community that supported him, particularly in Europe.

Although Henry had always dreamed of becoming a pilot, he initially thought it was an impossible goal, as there few opportunities in Burma. After working in the IT industry for a few years, he realized he was not living up to his potential. Determined to pursue his dream, he left his job and started working toward becoming a pilot. Now, he is close to completing 500 hours of flight time and hopes to become an airline pilot in the future.

Henry wants to inspire other refugees and children to chase their goals no matter how difficult it is. He recently helped a young refugee who was bullied at school by taking him on a flight, showing him that dreams are possible. Moreover, Henry claims that being a refugee does not define a person’s future and that everyone deserves support to achieve their dreams. He is grateful for the support he has received and he is committed to providing that support to others.

Patsiatzi Dimitra B2