



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Ellen Rogers  
Community Relations Coordinator, MSDWT  
Cell 317-435-0746  
Email: [erogers@msdwt.k12.in.us](mailto:erogers@msdwt.k12.in.us)

## **North Central Senior Honored in World Refugee Day Essay Contest**

**INDIANAPOLIS, IN (November 5, 2015)** – North Central High School (NCHS) senior, Tae Aye, was recently honored by winning second place in the World Refugee Day Essay Contest. World Refugee Day has been celebrated every June 20<sup>th</sup> since 2001 to recognize the refugees around the world for their courage and contributions to the receiving community.

Tae immigrated to the US six years ago with her family. Her family fled from terrorism in Burma to the Thai refugee camps where they lived for many years before being granted refugee status to be able to immigrate to the US. At NCHS, Tae is a member of the volunteer based Bridge program, where she takes advantage of many opportunities to serve the Indianapolis community. Some of the volunteer activities that Tae has contributed to include set up for La Plaza's FIESTA celebration; manning water stations for community marathons and the MSDWT Great North Run; working at Gleaners on the NCHS MLK Day of Service; assisting with the NCHS holiday canned food drive; recruiting 8<sup>th</sup> grade students to the Bridge program, and volunteering at other local schools' International Festivals. This year, she was one of five NCHS girls to be honored with the *One Girl at a Time Award* from the Women Like Us Foundation where she helped the local Indianapolis community and took a humanitarian trip to Costa Rica over Fall Break 2015 to work with impoverished school children in Samosati. After graduation, Tae plans to study Elementary Education at IUPUI.

Refugee students around the US were encouraged to submit an essay this year sharing their ambitions and ideas for helping others in their community. The Burmese American Community

Institute received nearly 100 student essays this year. It is a great honor that Tae received second place recognition.

For more information about the Burmese American Community Institute and their efforts right here in Indianapolis, visit [www.baci-indy.org](http://www.baci-indy.org).



Upper Left - Tae's photo taken in the NCHS Learning Center

Upper Right -Tae is the girl front left. She was helping with the Monumental Marathon last October.

Lower Left- Tae is the girl in the middle, fifth from right or left. She helped with the Great North Run last March.

Lower right - Tae with NCHS Assist. Principal Mrs. Payne. (Tae was selected by the Women Like Us Foundation to go to Costa Rica over Fall Break to do humanitarian work)