

## Judy Le shares her story of courage and triumph at PAIR’s 4th Annual Youth Empowerment Luncheon

Judy Le helps leaders grow. She guides them to focus on their values and to develop self-awareness. Throughout her evolving career, she has been motivated to help others discover their purpose and create impact in the world.

Judy’s childhood experience informs her approach to leadership - and to life. When the Vietnam War ended, two-year-old Le escaped with her mother on an old fishing boat. Rescued by an American naval ship after 21 days lost at sea – food, water, and fuel gone, Le and her mother were taken to a refugee camp in Singapore.

Eventually, through the U.S. refugee resettlement program, she was reunited with her father and brother, who had been languishing in a refugee camp in Malaysia. The family was settled in Houston. With support from the Vietnamese immigrant community and a welcoming city, they made their home here.



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In [a recent article in \*Houstonia\* magazine](#), Judy describes **the refugee experience as “a painful series of making the least-worst decisions for your family in hopes for something not-as-bad as your current situation.”**

Aware of the sacrifices her parents made for the future of their children, Le studied hard. She attended Rice University with the help of many scholarships and graduated cum laude with a degree in sociology.

After working for Deloitte Consulting as a change leadership practitioner, Judy earned a Master’s degree at the University of Texas. She then returned to Houston to advance her career in a field that, **“at its core, is about a belief in humanity and human potential.”** She served as program director for Leadership Houston and director for Leadership Rice, at Rice University, leading courses and programs that instilled authentic leadership in undergraduate students.



Recently, Judy started her own company, [TakeRoot Leadership Coaching and Consulting](#), to provide leadership development and team building guidance for non-profit and for-profit organizations. She also teaches a course called the “Art and

Practice of Influencing Without Authority” at Rice University's Glasscock School. Judy is a lead facilitator for [LeaderShape](#), a national leadership institute, and serves on the board of [Girls Inc. of Greater Houston](#). She is a certified leadership coach and team performance coach.

Judy notes that **her story is the story of every refugee who came before her and of each one who will come after**. Don't miss the opportunity to hear Judy Le's compelling and uplifting **story of losing her homeland to make a new home in America**.

**Please join us for her keynote address at  
PAIR's 4th annual Youth Empowerment Luncheon,  
Friday, May 5, at the Junior League.**

[Make your reservations today!](#)

If you cannot attend, please consider  
a contribution to [PAIR's annual fund drive](#).

*Your support of the luncheon and fund drive make it possible for refugee youth in Houston to participate in supportive programs that ease their adjustment, help them succeed in school, and graduate from high school prepared for the future. Please invest in these deserving young people!*