

Khow Thai began as a dream in the head of a little immigrant woman. She was steeped in the wonders of the American Dream even while sleeping on the floor in someone else's house and cooking in a kitchen that wasn't hers.

The first step toward her dream was taken in 2002 when Khow Thai Cafe was opened in Boulder Colorado. Toi Newman, along with her husband of just one year, Larry, opened the little restaurant with little more than Toi's confidence and her amazing cooking talents. The business was opened with all the cards stacked against it and all the rules of successful entrepreneurship broken. The early days were scary: no customers, the location had a bad reputation for failure, and there was little or no capital for advertising. Rent came due with agonizing regularity.

Slowly, individuals drifted in. Perhaps from curiosity or just chance. They were greeted with the aromas of Toi's wonderful food, warm smiles and a comfortable atmosphere. After sampling the delicious dishes Toi prepared the few told their friends ... and neighbors ... and associates. The few became a few more and then more. Word of mouth began to catch fire and the people of Boulder took Khow Thai to heart. Having begun with little more than the dream in March of 2002 the Cafe was paying its bills by the end of August that year. Just as Toi and Larry started to believe they could begin to breathe easier the City of Boulder began the "Broadway Reconstruction Project"

The rest of that year and into 2003 Broadway, the road upon which the cafe faced, was in various stages of ruin and destruction. It wasn't unusual for a customer, having found their way into the parking lot for lunch, to be unable to find a way out due to the constantly changing state of the road repair. Even so, the business grew. Loyal customers promised to pop their SUV's into 4WD and jump the earth berms if needed to get to Toi's food. Early in 2003 the project was completed in front of the cafe and business exploded!

After the first year of operation, in spite of everything, the "Best Thai Restaurant" award was bestowed by the readers of the Boulder Weekly upon Khow Thai Cafe. That award has been revisited every year of operation since. Along with it the "Boulder Gold Best Thai Restaurant" was awarded by the Daily Camera in both 2005 and 2006. Along the way they picked up recognition as one of the "Top 150 Restaurants" in the greater Denver area by the Rocky Mountain News.

The awards have continued and customers keep crowding in to enjoy Toi's good cooking. If you haven't been in, come join the fun! If you have, come on back

and bring more friends
and eat more food!

