



The Nguyen family of Fairport waits in the anteroom before being called for their interview. From the left, Phong, Vinh, Lien and Cuong Duy. Holding Robert is Cuong Van.



Other children among the more than 60 people waiting for their permanent resident cards mug for the camera.

'One First Real Step

For more than 60 Vietnamese refugees who have settled in the Rochester area, last Tuesday was more than an extraordinarily beautiful spring day. It also was the day they each "took the first real step" on the road to becoming U.S. citizens.

The 14 families gathered at the offices of the Catholic Family Center for interviews with travel control officials and received their "green cards," credit card sized pieces of pasteboard declaring the bearer a permanent resident of the U.S.

Phong Nguyen's family was there. He and his wife Lien, their Vietnamese child, Vinh; and their U.S.-born son Robert, who by virtue of the place of his birth already is a citizen. Joining them were Lien's brothers Cuong Duy and Cuong Van Nguyen.



The Nguyens leave the 50 Chestnut Plaza Bldg. into a brilliantly sunny spring day.



Cuong Van and Cuong Duy examine their new "green cards."



Joseph Terrano congratulates Phong.