



The Korean American Adoptee Adoptive Family Network (KAAN)
Box 140022 | 1625 Walker Ave NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49514

2024 Fact Sheet

Why We Exist

Since the beginning of international adoption from Korea, over 250,000 Korean-born children have been adopted to the United States. Now many are grown to adulthood. With their families, this community is estimated to be over 1 million. KAAN grew out of the need for these adoptees and families to connect. In a world that is increasingly polarized, finding common ground is essential.

Our Mission

KAAN is a nonprofit founded in 1998 to build a national Korean adoption community with adoptees at its center. Our mission is to enrich the lives of Korean-born adoptees by connecting the community through dialogue, education, and support.

What We Do

KAAN brings together adoptees and their families together to connect. We welcome those who have relevant wisdom and experiences to share with the community. We center adoptee and first family voices, reversing the traditional adoption narrative that is often written and based upon the experiences and knowledge of adoptive parents.

Joining Us in Creating Community

- **Attend our Annual Conferences** – The annual conference rotates locations, with the host community taking an active role. We strive to provide a meeting place for a national adoption community while also strengthening the local community.
 - Attendance ... 225-350 people
 - Demographics ... Adoptees of all ages; family through birth, adoption or marriage; other Koreans and Korean-Americans; social workers; adoptees from other backgrounds; community leaders; and more. Most are from the United States but also travel from Canada, Asia, Europe and Australia.
 - Programs ... 25+ workshops and activities, film screenings, artist showcases, adoptee-mentored youth and childcare programs, support forums, entertainment, and exhibitors/vendors. Topics include racial identity development, cultural ties, search/reunion tips, family relationships, current research, and legal issues. Includes adoptee-only programming as well as a general tier. KAAN does not represent one perspective but offers a place for respectful exchange of ideas.
- **Read our Blog** – A place to showcase voices and opinions from our community on current events and relevant issues.
- **Community Conversations** – Small group virtual meet-ups for both adoptees only and open to all, to talk about specific topics that our community is experiencing.
- **Follow us on Social Media** – Keep up-to-date with community news and events.

Who Benefits

Through KAAN ...

- Adoptees, our largest demographic, discuss common issues that are often not understood, misunderstood or dismissed in other spaces.. Some also choose to present to the community or mentor younger adoptees.
- Family and friends gain insight into the range of adoptee experiences and often commit to further education and change.
- Non-adopted Koreans and Korean-Americans discover shared experiences of race and identity.
- Attendees are inspired to engage in, lead, or even start up hometown organizations that build community and address needs.
- Educators, authors, filmmakers, advocates, and activists find an audience for their work.
- Researchers and groups reach out to us for perspective.
- Social workers and agency employees hear the voices of adult adoptees and others.

How We Are Structured

- KAAN is a project of The Foundation for Enhancing Communities, fiscal sponsor (www.tfec.org).* Donations are tax-deductible.
- Volunteer staff and leaders (many who are adoptees) donate their time and expertise.
 - Executive Director ... Katie Bozek
 - Assistant Director ... Rachel Hye Youn Rupright
 - Treasurer ... Nathan Roudabush
 - Advisory Council ... up to nine elected members from across the United States
 - Support Staff ... skilled volunteers in areas of registration, audio-visual, speaker selection/scheduling, marketing, social media, development, youth team, and other pieces
 - Local Planning Team ... new group each year that works to connect the conference to the local area in terms of program, promotion, and fundraising.

Where We've Been

- 1998: Founding at a small leadership summit.
- 1999-present: Annual conferences that travel across the country (also to Seoul in 2006).
 - 1999 ... Los Angeles, CA
 - 2000 ... Hasbrouck Heights, NJ
 - 2001 ... Seattle, WA
 - 2002 ... Minneapolis, MN
 - 2003 ... Arlington, VA
 - 2004 ... San Francisco, CA
 - 2005 ... Detroit, MI
 - 2006 ... Seoul, South Korea
 - 2007 ... Boston, MA
 - 2008 ... Chicago, IL
 - 2009 ... Denver, CO
 - 2010 ... Hershey, PA
 - 2011 ... Atlanta, GA
 - 2012 ... Albany, NY
 - 2013 ... Grand Rapids, MI
 - 2014 ... Minneapolis, MN
 - 2015 ... St. Louis, MO
 - 2016 ... Pittsburgh, PA

- 2017 ... Pittsburgh, PA
 - 2018 ... Minneapolis, MN
 - 2019 ... Minneapolis, MN
 - 2020 ... Virtual
 - 2021 ... Virtual
 - 2022 ... Denver, CO
 - 2023 ... Chicago, IL
 - 2024 ... Chicago, IL
- Other significant activities
 - 2003, 2006 ... Trips to Korea led by KAAN.
 - 2006 ... Books published by KAAN: *Pushing Up the Sky* by Terra Trevor; *A Euro-American on a Korean Tour in a Thai Restaurant in China* by Chris Winston.
 - 2010 ... Corporate office moved from California to Pennsylvania.
 - 2012 ... Youth program expanded to include childcare and formal adoptee mentors.
 - 2018 ... Katie Bozek stepped into the role of Executive Director as the first Korean adoptee.

How You Can Support

Since most who attend KAAN come for personal (not business-reimbursed) reasons, we raise funds to keep fees as low as possible. Volunteer opportunities, sponsorship, donation, and other options are available on our website or by contacting us directly. KAAN is a project of The Foundation for Enhancing Communities, fiscal sponsor.

- Donations (tax-deductible) include gifts to the general fund, for scholarships, and in support of the youth and speaker/mentor program.
- Corporate sponsorships and other business opportunities allow you to support the conference and/or advertise, exhibit for your organization, sell merchandise, purchase a table at the gala dinner, or participate in part of the conference while also benefiting KAAN's programs.
- Gifts of time and skill are welcome as well and help us provide our programs and services.

** The official registration and financial information of The Foundation for Enhancing Communities may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1.800.732.0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.*