Korean American Adoptee Adoptive Family Network (KAAN) Annual Conference
The Westin O’Hare, Rosemont, IL | June 21 - 23, 2024

2023 Conference By the Numbers
#KAAN2023 Chicago, IL: June 30-July 2, 2023

Registrants
- 287 adoptees and family members
- 164 first time attendees
- 221 identified as an adoptee
- 33 States + DC
- 2 Countries
- 30 Adoptee awarded registration scholarships

Volunteers
- KAAN is people! Our conference is run entirely by volunteers!
- 10 Advisory Council members
- 17 individuals who assisted with conference planning & logistics
- 2 Youth Program mentors

Programming
- 3 keynote & mainstage entertainment offerings
- 45 breakout sessions
- 33% sessions for adoptees only
- 33% speakers & keynote

Other highlights:
- 2023 Adoptee Leadership Summit
- Wellness activities
- First-time attendee sessions
- Adoptee-only dinner
- Bookstore
- Games, art projects, selfie station, and a dance party!

Save the Date:
June 20–23, 2024 for the #KAAN2024 Conference!
Help us continue our tradition of bringing connections to our community and make a donation to KAAN today.
Dear Friends,

Since 1998, KAAN has served adoptees and their families with opportunities for education and dialogue. Together, we have built a community that works to deepen understanding of adoption and the lived experiences of adoptees. As dialogue on adoption changes, KAAN continues to support the resilience of adoptees and provides space for each person to adapt, grow, and develop into their whole selves.

The KAAN Annual Conference provides a unique opportunity for transracial adoptees to meet, in person, with other members of the KAAN community. Often, it is the only time of year when adoptees and their families are surrounded by others who share their same life experiences. The KAAN Annual Conference offers validation, affirmation, and the opportunity for each of us to be seen and heard in a manner we rarely experience in our everyday life. For many, the KAAN conference experience is transformative and life changing.

This year’s conference theme is Representation & Visibility. As visibility of adoption storylines and adoptee characters grow in mainstream media, it is important to examine it with a critical lens. We will explore how adoption-related stories are developed and informed, learn how they are internalized by adoptees and non-adoptees alike, and reflect on the power of representation which can transform or reinforce the common adoption narrative. In short, we see Representation and Visibility as more than simply telling our stories as Asian Americans and having ethnic mirrors. It is enriching, correcting, and centering the stories of adoptees and discovering what adoption is and is not.

Today, I need your help to continue the work of KAAN. As the sole, national, adoptee-led, non-profit, all-volunteer, grass-roots adoptee organization, we can show adoptees and their families that our love and commitment does not end on adoption day but continues for a lifetime. But I cannot do it alone.

Your commitment today will directly support the KAAN Annual Conference and provide essential community connections and relationships that help sustain the mental and emotional health and well-being of adoptees and their families. Choose a donation level or pick a specific program to sponsor and help us make a difference, together.

Sincerely and With Gratitude,

Katie Bozek, PhD
KAAN Executive Director

The KAAN Advisory Board are community members from across the country who are Korean Americans, adoptees, and adoptive parents:

Katie Bozek, Executive Director (MI)
Rachel Hye Youn Rupright, Assistant Director (NY)
Nathan Roudabush, Treasurer (MI)
Amanda Assalone Cho (GA)
Scarlett Hester (IN)
SunAh Laybourn (TN)
Grace Newton (IL)
Jen Neis, adoptive parent (MN)
Nathan Nowack (CO)
Kala Sharp, adoptive parent (OK)
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<tr>
<th>KAAN 2024 Conference Programming Sponsorship</th>
<th>Session $1,000</th>
<th>Keynote $2,000</th>
<th>Youth Program $3,000</th>
<th>ASL Program $5,000</th>
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<td>Complimentary tickets (2) to KAAN Conference Gala Dinner.</td>
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KAAN also offers these additional conference sponsorship opportunities listed below. Each includes donor name, logo, full contact information, detailed description, and an embedded link on the conference app and KAAN website.

- General Meal Sponsorship (Saturday Breakfast, Saturday Lunch, Sunday Breakfast) $13,500
- Gala Dinner Sponsorship (Saturday Dinner) $20,000
- Attendee Welcome Bags, Exhibit Space, or Mobile Advertisement on Conference App Call Katie Bozek katie@wearekaan.org
**Sessions:** At the KAAN Annual Conference, sessions include a wide array of topics related to the adoptee experience, the adoptive family experience, and other systemic contributors. We feature a variety of accomplished scholars, practitioners, grassroots activists, allies, and creative professionals from across the nation. KAAN provides travel reimbursement and stipends to our speakers as an acknowledgement of their time, talents, and sharing of their story. By providing financial assistance, KAAN strives to break the exploitive pattern common in the public sphere with requests for the adoptive community to share their story without compensation.

**Keynote:** The KAAN Annual Conference works to promote the work of adoptees and the adoptee experience by featuring them as a keynote speaker to address the entire community as a shared experience. KAAN provides an honorarium for the keynote speaker(s) in recognition of their time, talent, and expertise.

**Youth Program:** KAAN partners with Sejong Cultural Education, Inc. to provide a robust youth program during the conference. Geared toward youth from 8 – 17 years of age, volunteers provide cultural activities, facilitate discussions about adoption and ethnic identity, and supervise an off-site field trip. This is an integral part of the conference that allows the next generation to forge relationships with other adoptees and children of adoptees.

**ASL (American Sign Language) Program:** In keeping with KAAN's mission of inclusivity of adoptees of all experiences and abilities, each conference includes an ASL coordinator and several interpreters to provide services to members of our community. Interpreters attend sessions and events to allow all adoptees to fully participate, connect, and dialogue with the KAAN community at large.

*Established in 1998, the first KAAN summit included leaders from the Korean adoptee community, adoptive parents, and the Korean Consulate of San Francisco. Leadership agreed to host an annual conference that travels the country to connect with different Korean American communities and attendees from all regions in the United States.*

**Why is KAAN important?** In the words of our members, KAAN provides a safe place for adoptees to gather, connect, and share with each other. The conference provides a space for understanding and clarification of your own thoughts about our shared experience. In short, through community we find that our homelands are each other.