



2023 ANNUAL REPORT



Letter from our Executive Director/ Board Chair



Dear Friends of ASIA Families,

We are excited to share our annual report for 2023. Your unwavering support and generosity have played a pivotal role in ASIA Families' success, and we are deeply grateful for your commitment to our mission.

Throughout the past year, ASIA Families remained busy and focused as the changes brought by COVID were finally in the past. Culture School and Camp Rice were back to their usual routines. In May we had a spring concert that featured the musical talents of several members of the ASIA Families community along with other musical artists. Our wonderful Korea Tour planning team conducted two Korea Bridge Tours which were a highlight of the year for the families and adoptees traveling to Korea.

Thanks to your support and generosity, we sponsored 7 adult adoptees to join the summer Korea Tour and provided post-adoption services. We were able to award \$11,000 in scholarships to 11 young adult Korean adoptees (\$1000 each) between 2022 and 2023.

ASIA Families was recognized in two very important ways in 2023. Grace Song was awarded a Presidential Commendation by the President of South Korea, a very prestigious and well-deserved recognition. In the Fall of last year, ASIA Families was recognized as Best of 2023 Leesburg Virginia.

We hope you will enjoy some of the inspiring stories in this report from individuals whose lives have been positively impacted because of your generosity. These stories are a testament to the transformative power of your support.

As we look ahead to the future, we are committed to continuing our mission-driven work and making an even greater impact with your ongoing support. Your generosity fuels our passion and drives us to strive for excellence in all we do.

Your contribution will sustain ASIA Families' Mission of service to Korean adoptees and their families and support the work of our many volunteers who give their time to teach, inspire and love our children, teens and adult adoptees.

Thank you once again for your generosity and belief in our mission. We look forward to continuing this journey together.

A very exciting event this year will be the ASIA Families 15 th Anniversary Gala on October 19, 2024. Please mark your calendars as we hope all of you will join the celebration!

With gratitude,

Mary Anne Wylie, **Board Chair**

Grace Song, **Founder and Executive Director**

Finance and Fundraising Committee

Patsy Reese, Jeff Miller, Leigha Basini, Valerie Fleming

Governance Committee

NaDa Shoemaker, Patsy Reese, Leigha Basini

Marketing and Communication Committee

Shelley Huthins, Sarah Arbes, Dae Sung Batoff

Membership Committee

Sarah Arbes, Julia Whitelock

Program Development Committee

Grace Song, Si Yeon Kim, Jane Yoo, Hyun Lydia Kim,
Jae Lee, Eunjung Choi, Julia Whitelock, Dae Sung Batoff,
Patrick Niceforo, NaDa Shoemaker

Strategic Planning

Ashley Skryme, Leigha Basini, Emily Schifrin

Staff

Grace Song | Executive Director
Eunjung Choi | Executive Assistant
Hyun Lydia Kim | Korea Bridge Tour Director
Si Yeon Kim | Camp Rice Director
Jae Lee | Korean Culture School Director

Communications Team

Shelley Hutchins | Communications Lead
Hyun Lydia Kim | Social Media
Peter Suskind | Jotform Tech Support
Junhee Kim | Graphic Design
Sung Lee | Photography
Jaebeom Park | Video Editing
Matthew Booth | Photography
Jae Lee | Translation



Vision

To Give a Voice to Adoptees and Adoptive Families

Mission

The mission of ASIA Families is to welcome Korean adoptees of all ages, their adoptive parents and siblings and relatives, the Korean community, and friends into an extended family community through mutual support, education, and Korean culture.

Board members

Sarah Arbes	Leigha Basini
Dae Sung Batoff	Valerie Fleming
Jeff Miller	Patrick Niceforo
Emily Schifrin	NaDa Shoemaker
Ashley Skryme	Garrett Redfield
Julia Whitelock	

Advisors

Chansoo Holly
Shelley Hutchins
James Sung Un Kim CPA
Sunny Kim

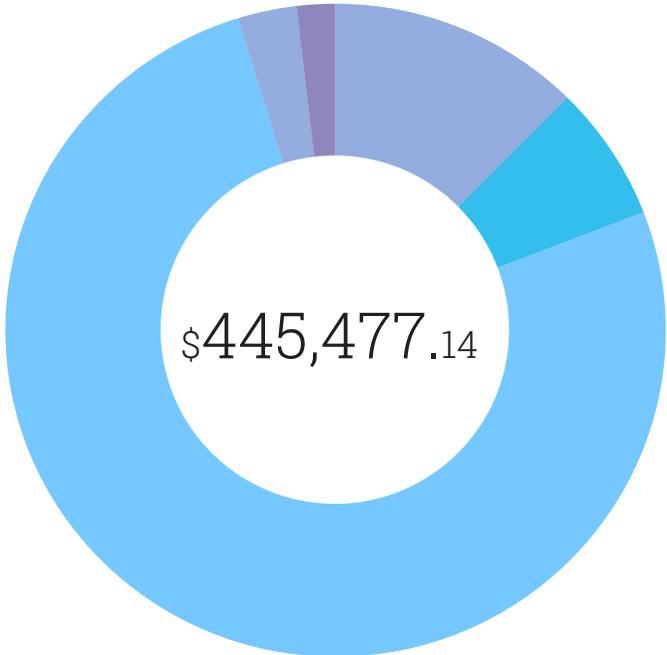
Executive Committee

Mary Anne Wylie, Board Chair
NaDa Shoemaker, Vice Chair
Patsy Reese, Treasurer
Garrett Redfield, Secretary

Where our Funding Comes From

2023 Revenue Total \$445,477.14

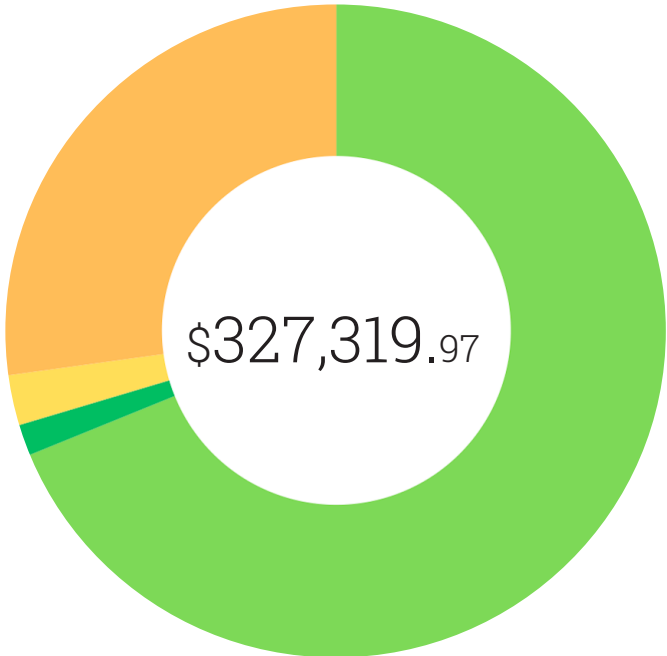
- Program Registrations
76%
- Unsolicited Donations
12.5%
- Solicited Donations
6.7%
- Grant
2.9%
- Others
1.9%



Where our Funding Goes

2023 Total Expenses \$327,319.97

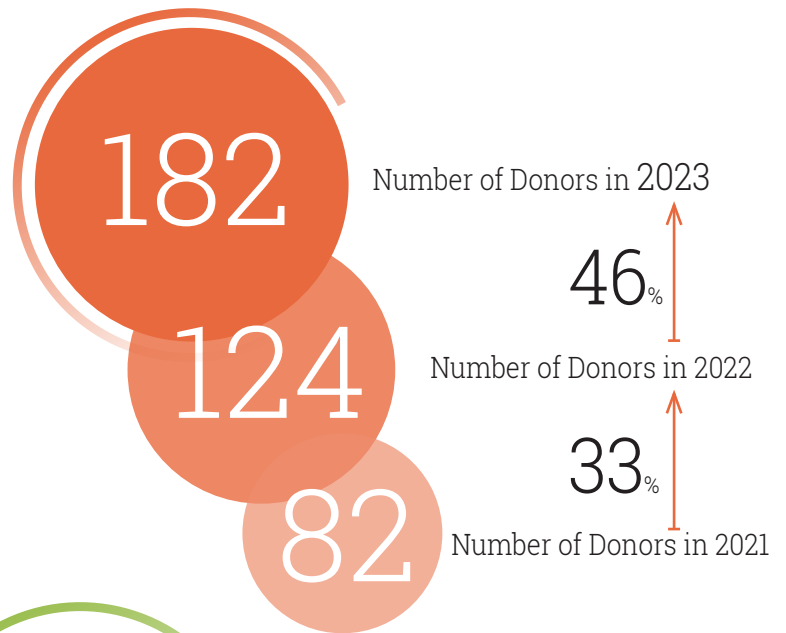
- Program Cost
68.9%
- Admin Cost
27.2%
- Fundraising Expenses
2.4%
- Schoarships
1.5%



Number of Donors

In 2022, ASIA Families received support from 124 generous donors, whose contributions played a vital role in advancing our mission and supporting those in need.

Fast forward to 2023, and we are thrilled to announce a remarkable increase in community engagement. We welcomed 58 new donors in 2023 making for a total of 182, marking a significant 46.77% increase from the previous year. This surge in support demonstrates the growing momentum and commitment of our community to making a positive impact.



Total Amount of Donations

Alongside the increase in donor participation, ASIA Families also experienced substantial growth in the total amount of donations received. In 2022, we gratefully received donations totaling \$54,683, which greatly contributed to our programs and initiatives. Looking ahead to 2023, we are overwhelmed with gratitude as our community's generosity reached new heights. This year, our total donations increased to \$85,611.65, representing an impressive 56.61% increase from the previous year. This surge in financial support enables us to expand our reach, strengthen our impact, and create positive change in the lives of those we serve.

Overall, these statistics paint a picture of a thriving and supportive community dedicated to making a difference. We extend our heartfelt thanks to each and every donor who has contributed to our cause, as their generosity fuels our mission and inspires us to continue striving to serve adoptees. Our donations come from a diverse array of sources, including Korean adoptees, board members, parents of Korean adoptees, Korean American community members, and anonymous donors. Interestingly, a significant portion of these donations are unsolicited, reflecting the genuine support and commitment of our community to our cause. We are deeply grateful for the spontaneous generosity of these individuals and groups, whose contributions play a vital role in advancing our mission and making a positive impact. Additionally, we acknowledge and appreciate the ongoing support of those who actively engage in soliciting donations, as their efforts further amplify our ability to create meaningful change.



Major Contributions Received in 2023

\$10,000 or More

Rhee Brothers (Syng Man Rhee and Janet Choon Ock Rhee)
Sung Un Foundation/Han San Inc. (President Jin Geun Song)

\$5,000 or More

Amber Lash (President Sang woo Bang and Si Yeon Kim)
Chansoo and Norman Holly
Jane Genth
Julia Whitelock and Brian Murphy
Korean Education Center
National Center for the Right of the Child (NCRC)
and Ministry of Health and Welfare (MOHW)

\$3,000 or More

Mary Anne and Gill Wylie

\$2,000 or More

Anonymous Donors

\$1,000 or More

Anonymous Donors
Bill Webner and Ashley Skryme
Elizabeth Edgerton and Mark Gabriel
Kristi and Tim Anson
Kore Development Advisors, LLC (KORDA)
Lilly Gilmour
Shining Star Korean Presbyterian Church
Tae Yoon Kim
Teresa and Michael Bosch

Contributions from our Business Donors

AstraZeneca

First Korean Presbyterian Church of Greater Washington (Pastor Sang Bok Lee)

Glory Travel (President Jane Park)

TouChi U (President Eunice Eunjoo Jeon)

Impact Capital Strategies

James Sung Un Kim, CPA

Metro Hotel in Seoul, Korea (President Geun Lee)

Rhee Brothers (Syng Man Rhee and Janet Rhee)

Selahart Institute (Director Chunghee Kim)

United Way

Young Won Trading (Won Gyun and Julia Hwang)

Korean American Women's Association USA (President Sylvia Patton)

KPMG

Lotte Market (President Seungkil Lee)

Made by Korea

Network for Good

We are honored to receive gifts in memory of Clint Hopkins and Michael Kun Yung Howard.

Thank you.

Your generosity inspires us and reaffirms the importance of our work. Thank you for being a vital part of our community and for your ongoing commitment to making a positive impact.

Quotes from Donors

“

ASIA families continue to provide a community for our family and support for the lifelong adoption journey.

Thank you for enriching the lives of adoptees, parents, and siblings. We are eternally grateful for ASIA Families.

”

Our Programs

Korean Culture School

ASIA Families' Korean Culture School offers a unique opportunity for adopted individuals of all ages and backgrounds to deeply engage with the vibrant traditions and rich heritage of Korean culture. Through a diverse range of activities, interactive workshops, and cultural experiences, participants not only gain knowledge about Korean language, cuisine, music, and arts but also cultivate meaningful connections within the diverse Korean American community.

The program is designed to involve the entire adoptive family, ensuring that while children attend classes, adults can participate in adult adoptee panel discussions or engage with adoption experts.

This inclusive approach fosters a sense of belonging and unity, encouraging families, teens, parents, adult adoptees, and community members to come together, share their stories, and celebrate their shared bonds of Korean heritage.

ASIA Families' Korean Culture School prioritizes creating a supportive and welcoming environment where cultural exchange thrives, friendships blossom, and a strong sense of pride in Korean identity is nurtured.

It's more than just an educational initiative; it's a place where meaningful connections are made and cherished.

Camp Rice

ASIA Families hosts Camp Rice Family Culture Camp annually in July, a three-day family sleepover event held in the greater Washington, DC area.

Camp Rice offers a range of tailored programs designed for children, teens, adult adoptees, and parents alike. Participants engage in a variety of activities including cultural workshops, outdoor adventures, team-building exercises, and traditional Korean games.

This unique camp provides a fun and immersive experience where families can learn about Korean culture while creating lasting memories together in a supportive and inclusive environment.



Korea Bridge Tours

Korea Bridge Tours, sponsored by ASIA Families, offer summer homeland trips to South Korea specifically designed for adult adoptees and families with children adopted from Korea. Led by Grace Song, these tours are crafted with her expert knowledge of the language, country, culture, and Korean adoption history and trends, ensuring participants have the trip of a lifetime. The tour provides opportunities for adoptees to delve into their roots and gain a deeper understanding of their identity. Many former participants have described the experience as life-changing. In 2023, ASIA Families sponsored seven adult adoptees for the Korea Tour, covering all of their ground expenses through your gifts and generosity.



Adult Adoptee Scholarships

In 2023, five young adult adoptees received a \$1,000 scholarship each.



Helping the Adoption Community

157

Number of children and teens who participated in our programs

207

Number of parents of Korean adoptees and adult adoptees who participated in our programs

105

Number of families served

150

Number of volunteers who served

6479

Number of volunteer hours donated

Program Participant Testimonials



"It has strengthened my friendships with other families and really helps open my eyes to the complexities our children face."

"My Korea trip will impact the rest of my life. In ways I have yet to discover. It was a beautiful trip. I enjoyed it immensely. I loved the diversity of experiences. I loved the connections with other adult adoptees. It was so comforting to have so many people who just knew "what it's like to be adopted." I've never met that many people. It was a wonderful experience."

"I felt relief in my heart that my son had this transformative experience and could connect with other adoptees while on this journey. Knowing that he was deepening his sense of Korean and Korean adoptee identities while receiving the emotional support and expert guidance of ASIA Families staff made me hopeful that he will continue to find his way on his journey and know there are resources to facilitate his exploration."

"Amazing experience for our family. We will be sharing this experience for years to come."

"This tour impacted me as a person on so many levels. At times, I have felt out of place in America, because I am Korean. I thought maybe I would feel out of place in Korea, because I am American. Now, although it's a hard adjustment being back, I finally feel truly Korean-American."

"The Korea Tour was a positive and impressionable life experience. The guided tour allowed me to see and experience Korea with tour guides who were knowledgeable of both the culture and language. I would not have had the same immersive and enriching experience without the tour guides who knew Korea so well. The Korea Tour also allowed me to connect with a larger group of Korean Adult Adoptees from different generations, family backgrounds, and various places across the United States. I truly made lifelong friends on this tour and look forward to staying in touch with all of them throughout the years. Lastly, the Korea Tour allowed me to connect with my birth mother. I am truly thankful and grateful for all of the work that was put into making this connection a reality. Reconnecting with her gave me closure on certain aspects of my adoption as well as opened the door to a new relationship in my life."



Statements from our Volunteers

Thank you for your continued or potential support of ASIA Families as it continues to lead programming and services for Korean adoptees, adoptee families and community members!

"The mission is so important, and I -- and my family -- have benefitted over the years from the education about adoption issues, the camaraderie and support of the ASIA Families community and learning about Korean culture."

"What motivates me most are the people (volunteers, family members, and adoptees). I feel like ASIA Families is more than just a nonprofit group. The bonds created from the organization really last. I have met the dearest people through my experiences in the organization, and have learned the true meaning of family from volunteering."

"The best post-adoption group and support for my kids and me!"

"This is an amazing organization that has given so much to my daughter and our family and I would love to be able to give back."

"As a Korean American Adoptee, I would love to give back in any way that I can."

"I struggled with my identity as a Korean adoptee growing up, and I want to support younger Korean adoptees as they go through that journey as well. I also really enjoy working with kids/teens, so Korean Culture School and Camp Rice have been fantastic experiences, and I hope to continue to volunteer for those programs."

Cavin's

Story



Cavin McWhorter with Grace Song at the closing ceremony of Korean Culture School in December 2023.

"ASIA Families provided a safe space for me to explore my identity and connect with other Korean adoptees who were facing similar challenges. They provided significant insights on life and how other similar people dealt with what I thought was a "just me" issue.

For most of my life, I pretended to be someone who I wasn't. I lied and avoided questions that hinted at my background. Being with ASIA Families allowed me to be myself and find out why I hid from the world. It comforted me, and I felt safe from some of my problems.

After four years of being part of ASIA Families, I joined its volunteer program to help children in the same place as me. I believe that feelings of belonging and ethnic identification are crucial factors in forming a positive identity for adoptees like me. It wasn't just finding people with whom I related and was comfortable that made me who I am, but the experiences with these people that pushed me outside my comfort zone and forced me to confront my own identity and the societal expectations that came with it.

Some kids went through much more traumatic experiences than me, and I acknowledge that. In fairy tales, there's usually a happy ending or lesson to be learned. However, I found out the hard way, that sometimes there is no lesson or "ideal" ending. The journey of identity formation for transracial adoptees is filled with challenges and complexities.

I'm hopeful that perhaps I can help those younger who are just beginning their journey with the questions they have and the trauma they need to overcome. With any luck, I will ease their burden."



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