

May e-newsletter

May 29, 2009

Note from KACF Executive Director Kyung Yoon

Dear KACF Friends,

When a small group of professionals from diverse fields came together to launch KACF in 2002, we had a vision of creating a new grassroots movement of philanthropy and activism among Korean Americans of all generations to leverage their resources to help our community and elevate the impact of Korean Americans. As the first grant-making organization to focus primarily on the needs of the Korean American community, we are proud of our progress to date in working to make a difference in our community.

As everyone knows, the current economic downturn creates a challenging time for all non-profits, including our grantee partners, and we recognize that our funding is more critical than ever. I recently attended the Council on Foundations annual conference in Atlanta where I had the chance to exchange ideas with other foundations that are facing similar challenges but also working to come up with creative and collaborative solutions to build organizational ability to be agents of compassionate, impactful and positive change in our communities. In my role of introducing KACF and speaking about our roots to a larger philanthropic world, I was reminded that KACF was founded on the tradition of helping one another in our community, with the slogan of “A Dollar a Day for our Neighbors”. We will be exploring how KACF can reconnect with this grassroots fundraising theme in the coming months.

In the meantime, our other efforts to raise friends and funds for KACF continue with great enthusiasm, as you will see in this newsletter’s articles highlighting KACF’s participation in the recent CAPA festival as well as upcoming events including the June 3 “Spa, Sweets and Spirits” evening at the AMOREPACIFIC Beauty Gallery & Spa and the June 19 Young Professionals’ Summer Benefit at the Marquee. And of course, we are excited to be gearing up for KACF’s signature Fall event—the 2009 Building Bridges Gala! Read on for an update from our Gala Co-Chairs.

Finally, we are reminded about WHY we support KACF in a thoughtful article by our program officer, Brennan Gang, which highlights three of our KACF grantees. Thank you for reading and for your continued, vital support of KACF!

Best regards,

Kyung Yoon, Executive Director



Feeling Generous?

Please contribute!
Contributions can be sent to:

KACF
501 Fifth Avenue, 3rd Floor
NY, NY, 10017

Or donate online at NYCharities.org-KACF

Contact **Kyung B. Yoon**,
Executive Director of KACF, for
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More in this e-newsletter!



KACF volunteers at the 30th Annual CAPA Festival on Sunday May 3, 2009

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Grantee Partner Profile: 3 organizations making a difference!

(KACF will be highlighting the work of grantee partners through a quarterly grantee profile.)

Three of KACF grantee partners, **Korean American Association for Rehabilitation of the Disabled (KAARD)**, **New York Asian Women's Center (NYAWC)** and **YWCA of Queens**, that are completing a 3-year funding cycle in 2009, help individuals and families achieve a sense of physical, emotional and economic security.

KAARD helps Korean Americans with disabilities receive skills training, find jobs and get continued support after the job placement for individual success. As a minority within a minority group, they are at a greater risk of being isolated and unable to access services aimed at independence. KAARD, as one of the very few organizations working with Korean Americans with disabilities, is an important presence and a provider of much-needed services to help them achieve self-sufficiency.

The YWCA of Queens offers tutoring, counseling and other forms of support to out-of-school at-risk immigrant youth taking GED preparation classes. There is a wide service gap for those young people not in schools because most of the youth programs are school-based or recruit from schools, making YWCA's effort to target out-of-school youth especially critical. After completing the YWCA program, a large number of young people receive their GEDs and find employment or head to college.

Both KAARD and YWCA of Queens work with a vulnerable population, who face multiple barriers such as limited English proficiency, immigration status, disability and poverty. The third organization, the New York Asian Women's Center, a leading anti-violence organization that helps battered Asian women, in recent years, began working with one of the most vulnerable population - the victims of human trafficking.

In 2006, NYAWC used the KACF grant to start offering comprehensive support and referral services to Korean victims of trafficking, and three years later, it has become the go-to organization in helping this population.

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Grantee Partner Profile: 3 organizations making a difference! (cont'd)

Human trafficking is a modern day slavery that includes forced prostitution, domestic servitude and more. New York City is leading entry point for trafficking victims and JFK airport is a major trafficking transit hub. The U.S. State Department estimates that about 600,000 to 800,000 people are trafficked across national borders, and between 14,500 and 17,500 people are trafficked into the U.S. Many of these trafficking victims do not speak English, creating a tremendous barrier in receiving the help they need from service providers, police, court systems, and others.

In 2006, NYAWC used the KACF grant to start offering comprehensive support and referral services to Korean victims of trafficking, and three years later, it has become the go-to organization in helping this population. NYAWC's services include intensive individual counseling; legal, health and vocational referrals; community education workshops; and works with law enforcement and legal counsel to ensure that victim's rights and safety are protected. NYAWC also conducts outreach at the Midtown Community Court to screen and identify potential victims, which is critical, as women are often charged with prostitution rather than identified as victims of trafficking. These array of services help trafficking victims, who have experienced extreme powerlessness, regain their power to determine their own future.

KACF is proud to partner with NYAWC, KAARD and YWCA of Queens in our shared commitment to improving the lives of individuals and families in our community.

Letter from the KACF Building Bridges Gala Co-Chairs

FROM THE GALA CO-CHAIRS:

We are very excited to co-chair this year's 2009 Building Bridges Gala! It has been thrilling to see how, in just a few short years, the KACF gala has become the largest and most influential New York City event for supporters of the Korean American community in the Greater New York area. In a year when our grantee partners are in greater need of funding and support than ever, we are committed to continuing our work of fund raising for our grantees and helping to foster a culture of philanthropy in the Korean American community.

We are close to finalizing an October date and venue for the gala and look forward to keeping you updated on these and other important details related to the gala. In the meantime, please mark your calendars for our upcoming Benefit Committee launch on June 24th in Manhattan. In past years, our KACF Benefit Committee members—those who commit to being “ambassadors” of the Gala and to bringing in at least one table of supporters--have provided critical leadership for the success of the gala. If you are interested in joining the Benefit Committee this year or would like to find out more, please email us at gala@kacfny.org.

Sincerely yours,

Mun, Sarah and Tony

**Please mark
your calendars
for our upcoming
Benefit Committee
launch on
June 24th!**

KACF (and its culinary chops) on display at CAPA Festival

The 30th annual Asian/Pacific American Heritage Festival (www.capaonline.org) took place on Sunday, May 3rd at the Dag Hammarskjold Plaza near the United Nations, and KACF was there once again to participate in the largest pan-Asian community celebration on the east coast.

Despite the gray skies and rain-soaked conditions a dozen members of Steering Committee, the leadership committee of young, emerging philanthropists, and volunteers cheerfully braved the weather over the course of that afternoon to help educate the public on KACF's mission, work and recruit volunteers.

In an effort to attract more people to KACF booth and to diversify and expand our fund- and friend-raising efforts, the festival team brainstormed and came up the idea to sell tacos; a Korean-ized version, of course. Dan Lee, the Steering Committee's PR/Marketing Lead and accomplished cook, conducted a successful tasting session amongst friends. "After seeing my friends, including women, each eat four or five of them, I wasn't worried if they would sell, but if the weather would allow us to sell," said Lee.

The total funds raised at \$2 per taco was ultimately modest for the day, but having such appetizing bait to hook visitors to the booth could not have worked better. And once there, these visitors got a chance to learn about KACF's grantmaking work aimed at improving the lives of individuals and families in the Korean American community. They also learned about the Foundation's commitment to guiding young people, like those participating in the festival, to becoming leaders in philanthropy and in their communities. Hearing about the KACF and seeing this gung-ho group of Steering Committee members and volunteers passionately represent the Foundation (and dish out tacos in the rain!), many were eager to join KACF.

Kudos to the festival team for their creative fund- and friend-raising idea, cooking prowess, and most of all, their commitment to KACF!



Left: From left—KACF volunteer Amanda Choi, KACF SC member Dan Lee, and volunteer Heather Choi prepare Korean-style tacos.

Right: KACF SC member Dan Lee in front of the KACF poster at the 30th Annual CAPA Festival

Photo credit: Philip Lee

AMOREPACIFIC and KAF—Spa, Sweets & Spirits fundraiser June 3rd!

On June 3rd, please join KACF for a fun and relaxing evening of SPA, SWEETS & SPIRITS and learn about KACF's mission to serve the Korean American community!

The evening will include many complimentary spa services courtesy of AMOREPACIFIC, which is generously hosting this fundraiser for KACF. It will be a unique opportunity to enjoy delicious sweets and special spa treatments while networking with like-minded women who are dedicated to giving back to their community.

The spa services being offered by AMOREPACIFIC include hand reflexology, skincare consultation and a gift certificate for a complimentary facial. There will also be gourmet chocolate brownies and other "inspirational indulgences," courtesy of Sweet Muse, and special green tea infused cocktails.

The \$60 donation ticket is fully tax deductible and covers all the drinks, sweets and spa treatments.

In addition, guests will receive a gift bag with travel skin care products, facial mask, and gift certificate for a complimentary Express Facial.

All guests will also be automatically entered to win one of these designer special drawing gifts: Reiss, Shin Choi, Jussara Lee, DavidBartonGym, and AMOREPACIFIC Beauty Gallery and Spa.

Please note, space is limited and we encourage you to purchase tickets online at <http://kacfny.amorespa.googlepages.com/home>

We hope you will join us to celebrate the power of women and the beauty of giving back to our community.



KACF Steering Committee Summer Benefit—Friday, June 19th



On June 19th, the KACF Steering Committee will throw its second annual Summer Benefit. Last year's Summer Benefit was a big success, attracting over 200 guests and raising over \$16,000 for KACF. The Steering Committee hopes this year's Summer Benefit will be an even bigger attraction.

This year's event will highlight the "Dollar A Day" campaign created by KACF to enrich our surrounding communities. Tickets can be purchased at a discounted early bird rate (**\$85.00**) online. Additional discount applies for purchase of five or more tickets (**\$75.00 each**). Tickets purchased at the door will be **\$95.00**. There will be great prizes for raffles and great company!

To see more details and RSVP, follow the link below:

<http://www.facebook.com/p.php?i=700571&k=S3F554SSS66MXBABYC25X>

To purchase tickets, please visit <http://kacfny.googlepages.com/>

Summer internship opportunity at KACF!

KACF is looking for motivated college interns with a sincere interest and commitment to improving the lives of individuals and families in Korean and Asian American communities. Program interns are an essential part of KACF team, and they perform a wide range of responsibilities, including research, data analysis, writing, event planning, grantee communication and administrative duties.

We are particularly interested in a self-starter who is able to handle multiple projects. The ideal candidate must also enjoy working in a fast-paced environment and be comfortable navigating diverse settings. Korean language skills are desired, but not required.

As a part of KACF team, the program interns will receive a broad exposure to philanthropy as well as a training in grantmaking, impact analysis and grant prospect research.

The summer internship will run from June - August with a 20-35 hours per week commitment with flexibility. Fall and Winter internships require a three-month commitment for 10-20 hours per week. This is an unpaid internship.

If you are interested in learning more about KACF internship opportunities, please contact Brennan Gang at brennan@kacfny.org.

Upcoming community events and announcements...

1) New York premiere of Suwon Philharmonic Orchestra

Friday, June 5, 8pm
Isaac Stern Auditorium at Carnegie Hall
(881 7th Avenue, NYC)

The Korean Cultural Service of New York (KCSNY) and the Korea Music Foundation (KMF) are proud to present the New York premiere of the Suwon Philharmonic Orchestra celebrating both KCSNY's 30th anniversary as well as KMF's 25th anniversary.

Led by the renowned conductor Daejin Kim, also a celebrated pianist and recent Artist of the Year by the Korean Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, the Suwon Philharmonic Orchestra is one of the leading orchestras in South Korea. They have had numerous concerts in North America, Europe and Asia where they were received enthusiastically by local audiences.

Featured concerto artist Sunwook Kim, as the first Asian to ever win the top prize of the prestigious Leeds International Piano Competition, is also its youngest winner in 40 years, making him one of the most sought-after young pianists today. He has appeared as a guest artist with many major orchestras such as the London Philharmonic, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, Budapest Festival Orchestra and more.

The program includes Barber's Music for a scene from Shelley, Op.7, Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 4 in G Major, Op. 58, and Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 6 in B Minor, Op. 74 Pathetique.

Tickets are \$20-75. To purchase tickets, contact Carnegie Hall at 212-247-7800 or

www.carnegiehall.org.

For Korean-speaking representatives, please call Koryo Bookstore at 212-564-1844, Cosmos Department Store at 212-889-6410, 201-592-9211, 718-661-3416 or visit www.heykorean.com.

All other inquiries, call Korean Cultural Service NY at 212-759-9550 or Korea Music Foundation at 212-942-5978.

This concert is generously sponsored by the Suwon City, South Korea.



Upcoming community events and announcements (cont'd)...

2) The Ma-Yi Theater Company & The Play Company present

AMERICAN HWANGAP

by Lloyd Suh

directed by Trip Cullman

May 9 - June 7, 2009

Tuesday-Friday at 8PM, Saturdays at 3PM and 8PM, Sundays at 4PM



"Suh's play is full of surprises and genuine lyricism. Four stars!"

-- Time Out New York

(<http://newyork.timeout.com/articles/theater/74611/american-hwangap-at-wild-project-theater-review>)

"Lovingly drawn from the very first line. A Delight! Thrilling!" --

New York Times

(<http://theater2.nytimes.com/2009/05/20/theater/reviews/20hwan.html>)

A new American Comedy about a big Korean birthday!

Min Suk Chun returns to the ex-wife and family he left 15 years ago in a West Texas suburb, to celebrate his "hwangap" - the Korean expression for the much-revered 60th birthday that marks rebirth.

But what's in store for his next life cycle, if it starts with no pants and a bottle of Jim Beam?

With Michi Barall, Mia Katigbak, Peter Kim, Hoon Lee, and James Saito

For Tickets go to www.ma-yitheatre.org

The Wild Project

195 East 3rd Street

(Between Ave. A and Ave. B)

Tickets: \$25 / Student Rush: \$5

Group Rates (over 15) call: 212-971-4862

TDF vouchers accepted

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