



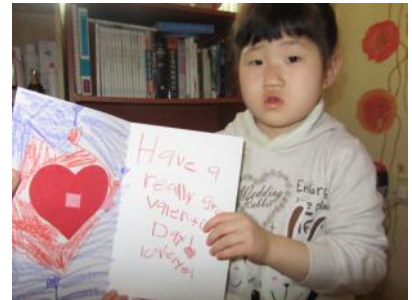
Korean Kids and Orphanage Outreach Mission

The KKOOM Quarterly

Spring 2011

Dear KKOOM Friends:

Since our last Quarterly, I've made my first 2011 trip to South Korea and spent about six weeks visiting various orphanages and meeting with several of the volunteers who carry out the programs and projects you can read about in the pages to come (see pg. 4 for pictures). Even though we've recently changed our administrative structure to allow for the use of outside contractors and consultants, KKOOM is still very much a volunteer-led and driven organization. Whether it's by the elementary school class that sent Valentine's Day cards (see right) or by the orphanage staff "moms" who accompanied me on a field trip to a Korean Costco to pick-up study tables for the kids (see pg. 3), I am constantly reminded of the love and hope we all have for the kids in Korea, and we trust that our stewardship of KKOOM is helping to make real and tangible differences in the lives of many.



Sujin (age 5) from Samsungwon Orphanage in Gumi holds a card she received from the students in Ms. Tammy Ng's first grade class (Horizon Elementary, Everett, WA, USA)

It's been such a rewarding adventure so far, and we look forward to having an even more positive impact on the lives of many kids in South Korea (and back here in the U.S.) in the months and years to come. Thank you for being a part of this journey!

Warm regards,

Aimee Jachym | President & Chief Administrator

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Contact: P.O. Box 973, Portage, MI, USA 49081 | + 1-269-340-0430 | info@kkoom.org

International Education Program Online Tutoring

(L to R) Hana, Yein, Myeongin,
and Woocheol

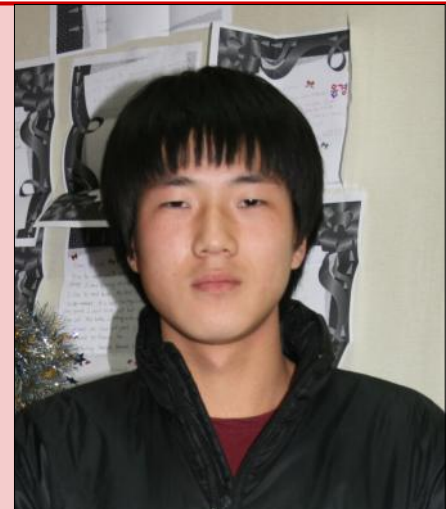


These four students, ages 14-15, at Emmanuel Orphanage are the first participants in KKOOM's online tutoring module. Tutoring began in early April when KKOOM's Aimee Jachym visited Emmanuel in person. Now, however, the students meet with a volunteer English teacher over Skype internet video calls, rather than in person. The students have lessons for 30 minutes to one hour, two to five times a week. The curriculum was created by a team of KKOOM volunteers (including Allison Sullivan, who is tutoring Hana and Yein) over several months starting last fall, and the tutors are working with these students to test the curriculum and module before KKOOM initiates a broader launch in other orphanages. The students also use Facebook to interact with the tutors and post messages in English as part of their regular homework. If you're interested in becoming a volunteer tutor, let us know, and we'll send you additional details.

Post-High School Support Initiative Upon graduation from high school, most kids have to move out of the orphanages in which they were raised. At that time, they may receive some start-up money from the orphanage or donors, but whatever they get (in rare cases as much as \$1,000 USD) isn't very much when you consider the full cost of beginning an adult life on one's own. So we're happy to announce that **KKOOM has established an initiative to support the children after they leave the orphanages.** We will seek to fund direct expenses (e.g., job training, college, clothes for interviews, cell phones, start-up pocket money, etc.) on a case-by-case need basis. To give now or for more info see: <http://goto.gg/8013>

Meet a Future Beneficiary of the Post-High School Support Initiative

JIN DONG is a high school senior at Gumi National Electronic Technical High School, and is extremely focused on his studies. He has one of the top grades in his class in English and his favorite subject is social studies. On weekends, if Jin Dong isn't studying at the library, he is helping his mom (the house mother at Samsungwon who has raised him for the past 11 years) with laundry and chores around the house or playing soccer with the other kids at Samsungwon. He typically studies on his own until midnight or later in his room at Samsungwon, while his younger brothers in his house sleep around him. When asked how he is inspired to keep going, **Jin Dong says, "My [house] mother always inspires me. She didn't bear me, but she has supported me and has always loved me and the other siblings at Samsungwon."**



Jin Dong is an anomaly in that he has succeeded largely on his own, without much outside academic support. Most Korean students attend private after-school academies. By the time they are high school seniors, they study at school until 11 pm and then head to academy for another two or three hours of study. Because of his social situation, Jin Dong did not have the opportunity to attend a college preparatory high school and instead attends a vocational high school where he is being prepared for a job in electronics or an IT field. However, Jin Dong hopes to surpass the expectations of his teachers and ignore the social stigma of the world around him. Unlike many Korean orphans and kids living in orphanages, Jin Dong will sit for the Korean national college entrance exam this November, and he hopes to gain admission to Gyeongbuk National University in Daegu, the most prestigious university in his province. There, he plans to study business administration and would like to become a management expert. In his own words, after doing all of that, **"Then I will help some children in poverty regularly."**

With funds raised from this new Initiative, KKOOM plans to award Jin Dong a scholarship to help with his college expenses.

KKOOM Purchases and Delivers School Sandals and Study Tables



Just before the kids at Emmanuel Orphanage in Gimcheon went back to school this March (they were on winter vacation from late December through February), KKOOM spent \$673 USD on new sandals for all of them. Kids in Korea wear sandals at school instead of shoes, which they take off at the door. Aimee Jachym, KKOOM President, spent an afternoon with Emmanuel staff members shopping for all of the sandals. As you can see, the kids were really happy to receive them.



In late February, we spent \$427 USD at the Costco in Daegu on seven new study tables for the kids at Samsungwon in Gumi. Each of the seven houses there now has a new table, as pictured, and the children are making good use of them.



Current Volunteer-Led Projects (VLPs): KKOOM recently awarded the following funds for VLPs at orphanages in Korea: **Dara Kaye—Daejeon Children's Home, Daejeon, \$1,500 USD** for the purchase of three computers. Dara helped fundraise a large portion of the funds through a supportive network of family and friends based here in the U.S. You can read more about Dara's VLP and her experience in a recent *Korea Herald* article: <http://bit.ly/jPsGQT> **Owen Wilson and Sinead Kelly—Sun Rin Orphanage, Pohang, \$354 USD** for the purchase of textbooks for use in an ongoing volunteer-led English class for the children. Many of the volunteers at Sun Rin are teaching English at nearby primary and secondary schools.



KKOOM was recently featured on **KBS World Radio** in an interview that aired on April 22nd in Korea and around the world. You can watch the interview with Dara Kaye (Left, Volunteer at Daejeon Children's Home) and Aimee Jachym (Right, KKOOM President) here: <http://bit.ly/iYUjAZ>

Wanted: USED FLUTES

Do you have a flute in your house that's collecting dust? KKOOM would like to collect it and take it to Korea, where the children in one of the orphanages we work with can use it to enjoy music as an outlet of creative expression. We've heard a number of times that orphanages have volunteers who can teach the children how to play the flute, but they do not have enough instruments. Perhaps you can help us fill that need by donating a flute that you're no longer using.

Also Wanted: PICTURE & COMIC BOOKS

All of the children at orphanages in Korea are learning English in their schools, but there are often not enough English books to go around at the orphanages. Especially needed are simple picture books, suitable for pre-school through early elementary children, and PG or G-rated comic books, suitable for grade school children. If you have any books that you'd like to donate, please send them to us, and we'll take them to Korea.

HOW TO SEND THEM

Email us (info@kkoom.org), and let us know your donation is on the way. Then mail to: **KKOOM, c/o Lindsey Terbrack, Treasurer, 5936 Downing St., Portage, MI 49024 USA**

Please note that at this time, KKOOM is not looking to collect other used items, but if you have something that you'd like to donate, drop us a line, and we'll see what we can do.

Scenes from KKOOM activities, March-April 2011



Thank you for your continued support!

Donors since February 2011: Anonymous (3), Umit Altan, Robert Boykins, Sharon Brophy, Richard Choi, Ryan Coogan, Grace Kwak, Nicholas Lam, Erica McDonald, Joe McGuire, Michael Morris, Hui Jin Park, DongYeon Pyo, Kari Scanlon, Katherine Schmerzler, Sara Schwartz, Donna Spangler, Eric Walters, Yisook Yi, Gina Yu

A special thank you to our **Recurring Donors** who choose to support KKOOM on a monthly basis!

John Kaiserlik, James Long, Brittany Parling, Jody Williams

We sincerely apologize for any errors or omissions in our donor list or throughout the rest of our newsletter; please email us at info@kkoom.org and bring corrections to our attention. Thank you.

You can become a Recurring Donor today by visiting www.kkoom.org and signing up to give on a monthly basis.

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KKOOM is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization organized in the State of Michigan.