Uplifting and connecting the Korean-American community through philanthropy.
As we ease into an increasingly “post-pandemic” world, we are elated for those of us who have been able to resume our lives and gain a sense of normalcy. At the same time, we are bearing witness to what years of lockdown have done to our community. Social isolation and interrupted services impacted everyone, but left a bigger impact on the most vulnerable members of our society. Mental health crises, hate crimes, and burnout are some of the most critical and complex issues affecting our community. We are grateful to our supporters and friends who put their trust in us to keep working on our mission of investing in our future and building institutions that will strengthen the resilience of Korean Americans in the Bay Area.

We are excited to share our 2022 Impact Report to give you a snapshot of the work we did last year: building deep and supportive relationships with our grantee partners to create lasting, long-term change; and strengthening the Korean-American community’s voice to advocate for those of us who need it most. There is so much important work that has been done, and so much exciting work that lies ahead. We look forward to walking this path together with our supporters, volunteers, and our dedicated community partners.
GRANTMAKING

The Korean American Community Foundation of San Francisco was founded by 13 Korean women as one of the only community foundations of its kind to build linguistically-specific and culturally-sensitive services for Korean and AAPI communities. In its eight years, KACF-SF has made $2.7 million in grants to 40 nonprofits and community-based organizations to address our most pressing needs including mental health, senior care, domestic violence, civic engagement and youth empowerment.

2022 KACF-SF Grantee Partners
6,663
Community members directly impacted through our grant-funded programs

295
Seniors benefited from culturally-sensitive classes and meal programs

99
Legal permanent residents assisted through the process to become US citizens

73
Community members trained in workshops to address domestic violence and intimate partner violence

11
Faith leaders trained to identify and respond to mental health crises

6
Masters of social work, and marriage-and-family-therapy interns trained to support Korean American communities

KACF-SF Grant by Priority Area

- Physical and Mental Health: 36%
- Senior Care: 28%
- Youth Empowerment: 9%
- Civic Engagement: 9%
- Domestic Violence: 8%
- Capacity Building: 10%
MENTAL HEALTH

The pandemic has taken a significant toll on our collective mental health, and many are struggling to access the resources they need to cope with ongoing challenges. By providing funding for initiatives that prioritize access, we can break down barriers and ensure that everyone has the support they need to thrive.

AACI
Korean Information and Wellness Initiative (KIWI)

AACI’s KIWI program addresses the behavioral health needs of the Korean community through outreach and education to decrease stigma, as well as providing an innovative model of affordable behavioral health treatment.

KCCEB
Mental Health Asian Pipeline Program (MHAP)

MHAP seeks to increase access to mental health support for our Korean population with limited English proficiency by increasing the pool of culturally competent mental health professionals.

NAMI Santa Clara
FaithNet

FaithNet creates a supportive environment for mental health patients and their families within the faith community. By providing faith leaders an understanding of mental health issues, the program reduces social stigma and encourages advocacy.
SENIOR CARE & WELLBEING

“We must open the senior center no matter what because without socialization, our seniors are so isolated particularly in language and they can easily become depressed.”

Joanna Kim-Selby, Volunteer Executive Director of the East Bay Korean American Senior Services Center

Due to the language barrier and limited access to community resources, Korean seniors are vulnerable to poverty, depression and isolation. This year, KACF-SF is proud to support two senior centers in Santa Clara and Oakland with their general operations, as well as various programs providing essential services.

A new grantee partner this year, GYOPO, continued their intergenerational community program called SSI YA GI where Korean-American seniors tell their stories by harnessing their memory of food. The project manifested in gardens using traditional techniques to grow and ferment Korean vegetables and herbs, which were then served at a meal featuring the food from the seniors’ stories, in partnership with other communities, including the Ohlone tribe in Berkeley, CA.
COMMUNITY GRANTS COMMITTEE
Our participatory grantmaking process builds a network of engaged community members who better understand the work of KACF-SF and our grantee partners. CGC teams review grant applications, attend site visits alongside staff, and provide input on our community investments: the dollars that fund programs and services for underserved Korean Americans.

BAY AREA K-COALITION
Coming out of a difficult past few years, the Bay Area K-Coalition came together to strengthen our collaborations to address the needs of the Korean American community. In March, a nationwide rally was held in SF to remember and honor the victims, survivors and families of Atlanta Spa Shooting. It was a remarkable moment to break silence, voice stories, and show solidarity. In October, nearly 50 leaders representing 24 Korean American organizations came together for a Town Hall. The Town Hall featured speakers who spoke about their work in public service.
INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

KAREN HA SCHOLARSHIP
Since 2019, the Karen Ha Scholarship program has provided financial assistance and mentorship opportunities to talented and under-resourced Korean American students. This year, the recipients of the scholarship were Jake Kim (UC Davis, 2016) and Timothy Jung (UC Berkeley, 2026).

EVENT SPONSORSHIP
KACF-SF believes in building partnerships across Korean and AAPI organizations to work together around priority issues. By investing in their community gatherings, we help to address current issues affecting our community. In 2022, we were proud to support events such as the annual Bay Area Chuseok Festival, a film screening and Q&A with the director of the documentary Chosen, and a hate-crime workshop held in LA, which educated Korean seniors on their rights and how to speak up if they fall victim to a crime.
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