

Global Overseas Adoptees' Link

2025 Annual Report



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A Message from the Secretary General



Dear G.O.A.'L. Members and Supporters,

2025 was an extraordinary year—one that challenged us, strengthened us, and ultimately showcased what we can achieve together. It was a year of meaningful progress and standout successes, making it one of our most impactful and rewarding years yet.

As we step into 2026, G.O.A.'L. moves forward with renewed purpose shaped by the voices, experiences, and strength of our community. Our work remains firmly grounded in connection: between intercountry adoptees and Korea, between past and present, and, above all, with one another. This vision reflects the heart of our mission—to support and empower adoptees by fostering a safe, inclusive, and community-centered environment rooted in dignity, belonging, and mutual respect.

We will continue to stand beside adoptees through compassionate birth family search services, visa and dual citizenship support, and post-adoption resources—meeting each person where they are in their journey. We will deepen community through gatherings, workshops, and peer-led programs that nurture belonging, healing, and lasting relationships. Through new initiatives and meaningful collaborations, we will also open more pathways for connection across generations and lived experiences.

G.O.A.'L. exists because of you. We are honored to move forward together and to continue building a future rooted in connection, purpose, and community.

Warmly,

Louise Lindberg

Secretary General, Global Overseas Adoptees' Link

Organization Information

Global Overseas Adoptees' Link (G.O.A.'L.)

Organization Name:

Global Overseas Adoptees' Link
(사)해외입양인연대

Date of Incorporation:

March, 5 1998

Location:

#806, 81 Sambong-ro Jongno-gu, Seoul, South Korea
서울시 종로구 삼봉로 81, 806호

Current Staff:

- Dr. JaeHoon Yoo | Chairman, Korea
- Louise Lindberg | Secretary General, Sweden (Adoptee)
- Imshil You | Korean Integration Coordinator, Korea
- Kyeong Mi Paek | Birth Family Search, Korea
- Yeo Kyeong Wie | Birth Family Search / KARE Program, Korea
- Anna Visel | Community Relations, Germany (Adoptee)
- Jennifer DeMarco | Community Relations / KARE Program, USA (Adoptee)
- BR Chin | Office Manager, Korea

Current Membership:

1,338 current members



Our Fiscal Year

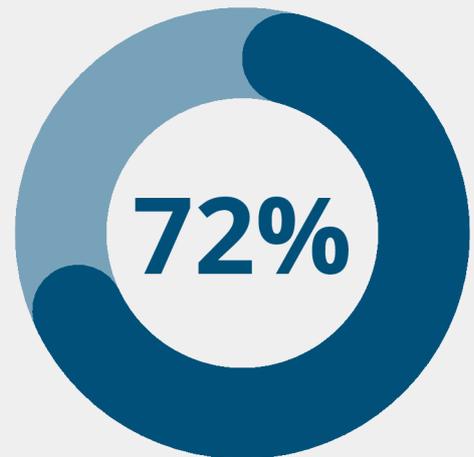
	Amount	Source
2025 Operational Budget		
Integrated Services for Adoptees Subject to Protection (KARE Program)	150,000,000 KRW ~\$105,600	<i>National Center for the Rights of the Child (NCRC)</i> 아동권리보장원
Motherland Tour (Sotdae 2025)	71,000,000 KRW ~\$50,000	<i>National Center for the Rights of the Child (NCRC)</i> 아동권리보장원
Post-Adoption Services (Living in Korea)	52,000,000 KRW ~\$36,600	<i>National Center for the Rights of the Child (NCRC)</i> 아동권리보장원
Part-time BFS Staff (G.O.A.'L.)	24,000,000 KRW ~\$16,900	<i>Private Donor</i>
Part-time BFS Staff (Adoptee Hub)	28,950,000 KRW ~\$20,400	<i>Private Donor</i>
PACK'D (Meals for Adoptees in Need Living in Korea)	10,000,000 KRW ~\$7,040	<i>Community Chest of Korea</i> 사회복지공동모금회 (수출입은행)
Membership & Board Member Fees	159,788,000 KRW ~\$112,600	<i>Yearly fees</i>
TOTAL	495,738,000 KRW ~\$348,200 USD	

Our Members

In 2025, we experienced some of our strongest membership growth to date—both in retention and new enrollments. As we close out the year, here's a snapshot of our **1,338** members.

1,338 total members
in 2025

**72% of which
were returning
members**



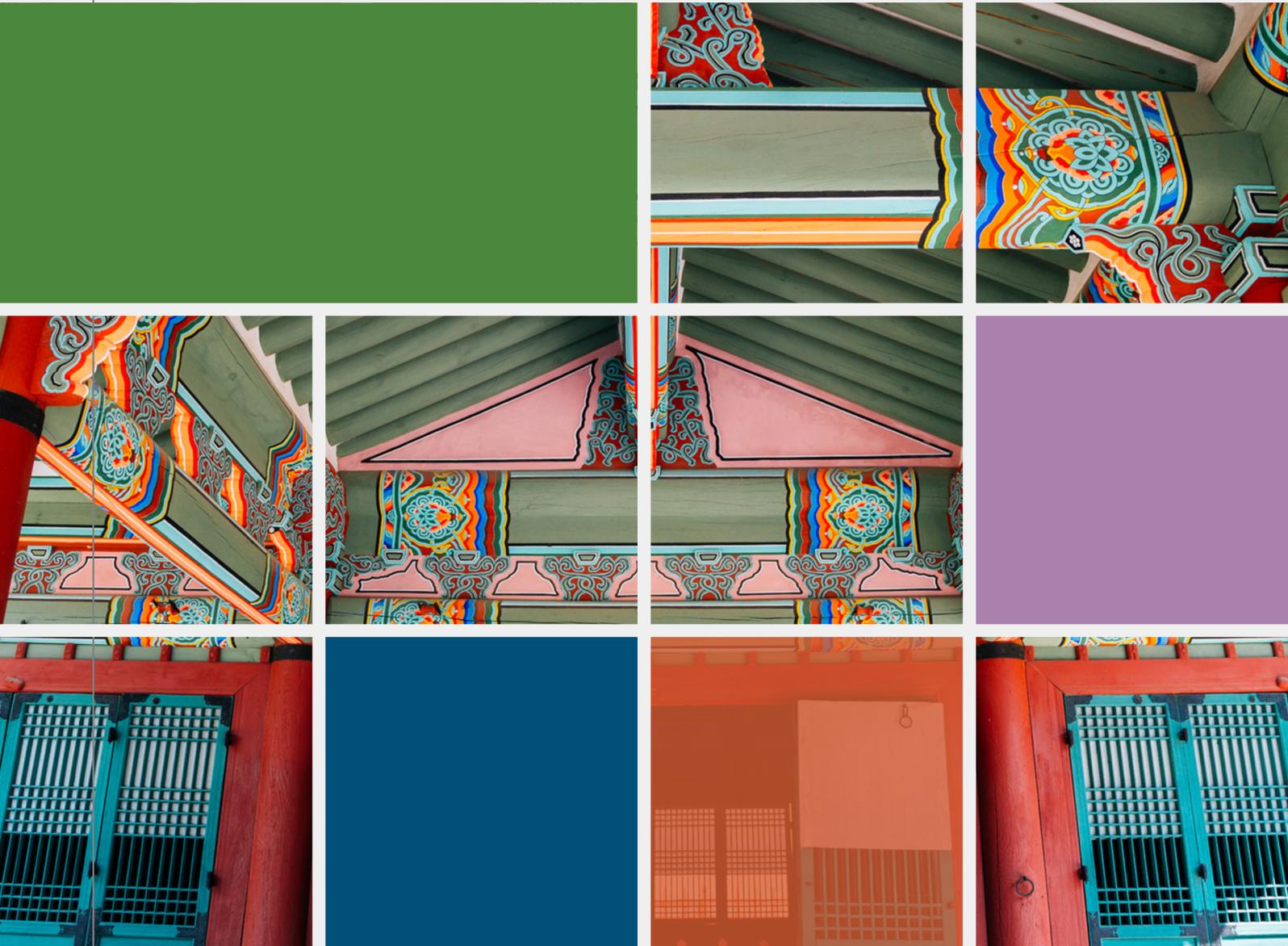
**Constituting a
37% increase in:**

- *Total membership*
- *New membership*
- *Member retention*

2025 Services & Programs - by the Numbers

This year, we served more members of our community than ever before. With regular programming, an incredible staff, and a vibrant, engaged community, we're excited to share a snapshot of 2025 through the people we reached.

Thank you for making 2025 such a meaningful and impactful year!



977 INDIVIDUALS SERVICED

182

Citizenship & Visa Inquires

32 Dual Citizenship Applications

36 F-4 Visa Applications

112

KAD Konnect Activity Participants

6 Diverse Cultural Programs

10+ Nationalities brought together

228

KADTalks Participants

4 Unique Adoptee Stories

3 expert talks

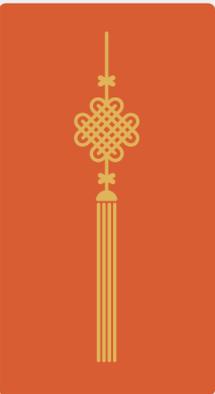
178

In-person Birth Family Searches

20 First Reunions

40

Adoptees for Koreapedia with SNU



13

Adoptees for Let's Geoje! trip

112

KAD Konnect Activities

39

Scholarship Recipients

15

Adoptees at STAY

29

Sotdae Tour Participants

11

Adoptees Receiving Mental Health Services

11 PACK'D Recipients (270 Deliveries)

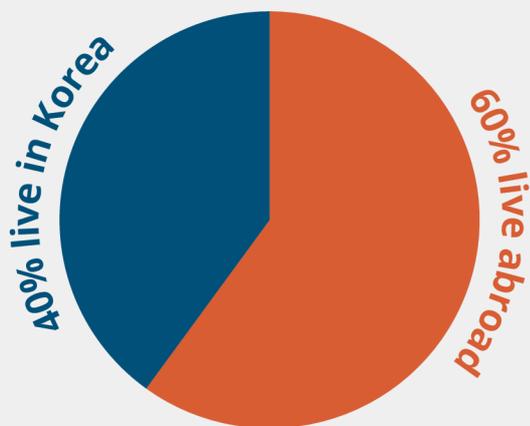
7 KARE Adoptees Served

11 Adoptees Receiving Mental Health Services

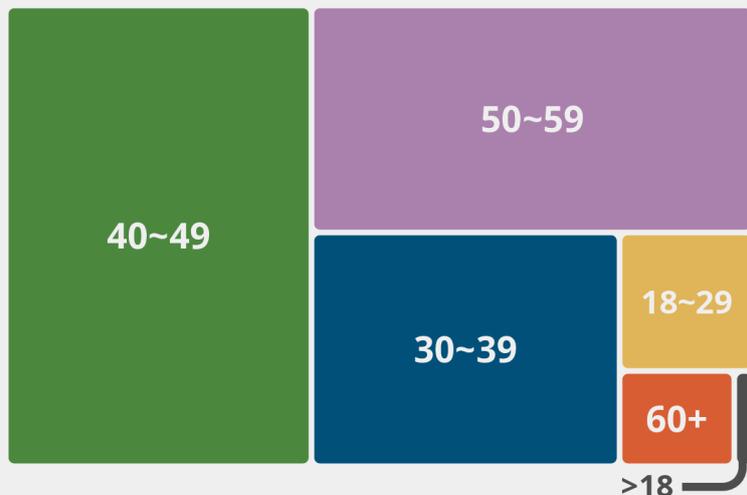
Programming



By Living Status



By Age



By Adoptive Country

51% from North America

31% from Europe

16% Dual Citizenship

2% from Australia



*in person attendees

Additional Programming

In addition to our regular, open programming, G.O.A.'L. also offers additional programming and support to those most at the margins of our community through the KARE program. We wanted to take a moment to highlight this program, and the ways in which it has impacted our community.

The KARE Program

The KARE Program is under the National Center for the Rights of the Child (NCRC). G.O.A.'L. came on in 2021 to help support the management of this program. The KARE Program aims to provide integrated support services to help adoptees who have returned to Korea reintegrate and lead stable lives amidst crisis-level circumstances. Under this program, we are able to provide such support to the following beneficiaries:

- **Deported adoptees:** adoptees who were deported from their adoptive country due to having not required citizenship from that country
- **Adoptees in crisis:** adoptees who came back to Korea due to racism, child abuse, identity crisis, or emotional instability or adoptees who desperately need immediate help due to financial or mental instabilities in Korea.

In addition to financial support, the KARE program also aims to address the many unique challenges when navigating life in Korea as an adoptee amidst crisis-level circumstances through wrap-around services and programs. These include, but are not limited to, mental health support, coaching, culture workshops, job training, language support, on-site monitoring, and much more.

G.O.A.'L. has been able to provide essential support to **10 deported adoptees** and **12 adoptees in crisis** under the KARE program and currently supports 7 total adoptees as of December, 2025.



2025 - in Photos and Words

Our work is about people, moments, and memories—not figures on a page. As 2025 comes to a close, we celebrate the incredible faces and unforgettable experiences that made this year so special!

Let's Geoje!



“Learning about our history as adoptees, and seeing how it has evolved into present day.”

~Let's Geoje Participant

“Spending some time and connecting with Aigwangwon's residents and staff is an experience that I will treasure forever. Aigwangwon founder's life story is truly remarkable: she gave it all to help the less fortunate ones becoming a bright source of inspiration for many.”

~Let's Geoje Participant

“When I signed up I imagined Koreapedia would include more language learning. But I was not at all disappointed by my experience. It actually surpassed my expectations because I made friends. Through this course, which ended in early December, the other participants and I have been regularly video chatting (which we did after each class ended). Signing up for Koreapedia was the best thing I did for myself all of last year. It was perhaps slightly life changing. It is really my first time participating in a group that is geared to adoptees.”

~Koreapedia Participant

“This was a great program. It was nice to learn more about Korean culture and recent history from a native Korean perspective.”

~Koreapedia Participant



KAD Konnect



Birth Family Search

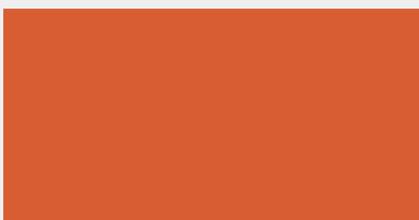
"I see my identity as an adoptee stronger as a part of me."



I feel much more at peace with different aspects of my adoption, and I feel like Korea is not this far away place that I'm disconnected from. I was always scared to go back to Korea, but I'm so glad I got the opportunity to go with GOAL."



"I connected with the adoptee community, searched for my birthfamily, and connected with my birthplace."



“I really enjoyed being part of a small cohort, which was one of the main reasons I applied. The smaller group made it easier to form genuine connections with other participants, and I felt safe and seen rather than lost in the crowd. The warmth, openness, and personal engagement of the staff and volunteers also made a big difference creating an environment where it felt possible to be vulnerable without losing dignity or autonomy.”



“I loved getting to experience Korea with a small group of similarly aged adoptees, and getting to talk with all the volunteers and staff about their experiences living in Korea. The Korean adoptee volunteers who donated so much of their time and energy to showing us Seoul and talking with us about anything and everything were amazing! Also my birth search volunteer was so great and I think it was special to get to connect with not just adoptees but also Korean people who live and grew up in Korea.”

Sotdae



"I enjoyed the program overall, and especially the get to know group and G.O.A'.L staff, and the individual support of my kind and very helpful volunteers."



“I greatly appreciated the opportunity to connect with Korean adoptees and to explore my heritage through the birth family search. It was a meaningful experience, and I am very thankful for the support of Sotdae and the encouragement to connect with my birthplace, identity, and community..”



“It is a wonderful experience and meaningful. I would encourage others to explore their roots through this program, if they would like to.”



“The connections that were made were wonderful. I liked that we were close in age.”



Thank You!

Thank you for being part of 2025.
We can't wait to create more memories together in 2026!

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