

NATIONAL KOREAN AMERICAN SERVICE & EDUCATION CONSORTIUM

NAKASEC

미주한인봉사교육단체협의회

WE ARE NAKASEC





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WE ARE THE NAKASEC NETWORK



NAKASEC’s history is rooted in the democracy movement of South Korea. In May 1980, the South Korean people rose up in the southern region of Gwangju to resist decades of military dictatorship rule. One of the organizers of this Gwangju People’s Uprising, Han Bong Yoon (“Mr. Yoon”), had no choice but to flee South Korea or be persecuted for his activism. Mr. Yoon, one of the first Koreans to be granted political asylum in the United States, initially founded an early NAKASEC network partner in Los Angeles to build an overseas solidarity movement to support democracy in South Korea. As he mentored and inspired more young leaders, mainly low-income recent Korean immigrant youth in their teens and early twenties, other grassroots organizations sprouted up across the country. Working together as a network, they saw the growing needs of our community in the United States and began organizing towards immigrant justice.

1994

Founded in **1994**, the NAKASEC network is now composed of five grassroots community-based organizations:

- 📍 Hamkae Center (Virginia)
- 📍 HANA Center (Illinois)
- 📍 MinKwon Center for Community Action (New York)
- 📍 Woori Center (Pennsylvania)
- 📍 Woori Juntos (Texas)



As the NAKASEC Network, we:

are...

STAFF 80 FT, 16 PT
VOLUNTEERS 400+
OFFICES 8

have...

COMBINED BUDGET \$9.9M

serve...

55,000 community members and educate **hundreds of thousands** more annually



As a **progressive Asian American network** that serves and organizes the fastest growing racial community and electorate, together, **our vision** is a future in which low and middle income, immigrant, people of color, and marginalized communities work together as change-makers. We will transform cultures, power relationships and systems in the United States, all in a broader global context.



HISTORY



Two wide-reaching events catalyzed the founding of NAKASEC by our local affiliates.

The first was the **Los Angeles Uprising of 1992**, after four white police officers who severely beat Rodney King were acquitted on all charges, and the Black community in Los Angeles rightfully took to the streets to express their outrage and demand justice. During the uprising, roughly 2,200 small businesses in Koreatown, primarily owned by low-income Korean Americans, were destroyed. Instead of responding to the calls for help, the police dispatched officers to the predominately white and wealthy suburbs.

Soon thereafter, **California's Proposition 187** was introduced, barring undocumented immigrants from all public services including public schools. Within this context and the subsequent wave of anti-immigrant sentiment, **Korean American communities realized the need to organize our community and build coalitions with other communities of color with shared values toward collective liberation at the national level.** As a result, NAKASEC was formed in 1994.

COMMUNITY

NAKASEC is a network of local community-based organizations.

Our affiliates meet annually to determine our national agenda and campaigns, ensuring our work and policy agenda always remains rooted in local communities and centers those most impacted by systems of oppression. Over the years, non-Korean Asian Americans started to seek out NAKASEC as a **political home**.

NAKASEC began expanding its base and changed its mission in 2016 to include Asian Americans. As a national organization, we can also engage our Asian American community members in geographies where we do not have affiliates. We also work collaboratively with partner Asian American organizations across the country to have a more powerful impact at the national level.



COLLECTIVE POWER

NAKASEC's work and movement building is guided by **three strategic priorities:**

- 1 To expand Korean and Asian American grassroots and voting power
- 2 To create a pipeline of youth and immigrant leaders
- 3 To become a robust and sustainable movement organization

Through NAKASEC, our affiliates exercise their collective power to affect federal change, cultivate the next generation of leaders, and build a national movement.



WORK

#Citizenship4All

Born from the NAKASEC network’s impacted young people’s leadership, we launched our #Citizenship4All campaign in 2018, which is a battlecry for the larger immigrant justice movement. The campaign has featured creative actions such as a **round-the-clock 22-Day Vigil in front of the White House to protect DACA and TPS** and a **100-day campaign for a pathway to citizenship** to be included in the 2021 budget reconciliation process. Towards #Citizenship4All adoptees, NAKASEC’s project, **Adoptees for Justice (A4J)**, works towards the passage of an inclusive Adoptee Citizenship Act.



Value our Families (VoF)

As a co-convenor of Value our Families, we organize and advocate to preserve and strengthen the family-based immigration system.

Building Grassroots Power

To harness the growing power of the Asian American community, NAKASEC intentionally supports the growth of new affiliates in geographies that lack a progressive Asian American immigrant justice organization, such as Pennsylvania and Texas.

NAKASEC Action Fund

NAKASEC’s sister 501(c)4 organization engages community members in organization for progressive systemic change and through robust civic engagement programs and legislative advocacy.



OVERVIEW

STAFF
9 FT, 3 PT
 BOARD
 MEMBERS
14

GEOGRAPHY SERVED NATIONAL

WEBSITE

nakasec.org

SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook, Instagram,
 Twitter, TikTok
 @nakasec

LOCATION

Chicago Office
 NAKASEC c/o HANA Center
 4300 N. California Ave.
 Chicago, IL 60618

PHONE

312-550-4733 (English)
 312-550-9644 (Korean)
 Korean/English Immigration Rapid
 Response Hotline: 1-844-500-3222

E-MAIL

nakasec@nakasec.org



Hamkae Center (formerly NAKASEC VA) | Annandale & Centreville, VA

HISTORY



Hamkae Center, formerly NAKASEC VA, first started working with Korean and Asian American immigrant communities in Northern Virginia in 2012. **Guided by community members, we meet immediate needs, build community power to make long-term systemic changes that address the root causes of these needs, and center human connections.** Hamkae is the Korean word for “together.” This name symbolizes our Korean American roots in the past, our strength as an Asian American community in the present, and our vision for justice and prosperity for all communities of color in the future.

COMMUNITY

Asian Americans are the largest community of color in Northern Virginia, making up 18% of the population. Hamkae Center is a place for all Asian Americans, including undocumented and other non-citizens, working class, LGBTQ+ community members, and youth. **We believe that Virginia should be a just and equitable place for all, and our programs and issue-based campaigns reflect this vision.** With our first office in Annandale, in 2019, we opened a second office in Centreville to work more closely with western Fairfax and Prince William County residents.



THE POWER OF LOCAL

We have steadily built an Asian American base to collectively remedy the social, racial, and economic disparities that directly affect our lives through service provision/referrals, community organizing, grassroots policy advocacy, civic engagement, and leadership development.

- **Expansion of tuition equity to undocumented students (in-state tuition and state financial aid programs (HB1547/SB935, HB2123/SB1387, respectively)):** As co-lead of a state coalition, Virginia is the first state in the South to expand eligibility for undocumented students (beyond those with DACA) to pay in-state tuition rates at public colleges and universities (2020) and apply for state financial aid programs (2021).
- **Language Justice:** We have organized impacted community members to expand Asian language options for the state’s COVID-19 hotline and the unemployment insurance hotline; funding for the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion to commission a study and recommendations for a statewide language policy; and raising public awareness with op-eds and articles. As a result, language justice will be addressed in the 2022 state legislative session.
- **Health Care for All:** Hamkae Center has been a leader in expanding immigrant access to health care with success in grassroots policy advocacy and service provision. In 2020, we successfully repealed a state rule (commonly known as the 40-quarter rule) that finally allows legal permanent residents who are income-eligible to apply for Medicaid after 5 years, as opposed to 10 years. In 2019, we launched services & outreach programs to support linguistically marginalized Asian Americans to apply for public health care programs or be referred to services.

OVERVIEW

GEOGRAPHY SERVED

VIRGINIA Fairfax County, Loudoun County, Prince William County, City of Fairfax, City of Manassas, Henrico County, City of Richmond

MARYLAND Montgomery County, Howard County, Prince George’s County

STAFF
13 FT, 2 PT
BOARD MEMBERS
5

Estimated number of community members engaged annually:

10K

WEBSITE
hamkaecenter.org

SOCIAL MEDIA
Facebook, Instagram,
Twitter, TikTok
@HamkaeCenter

LOCATION
Annandale Office
6715 Little River Turnpike, Ste 207
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hello@hamkaecenter.org



HANA Center | Chicago, IL

HISTORY



HANA Center is a merger of two Korean American organizations in greater Chicago in 2017. HANA means “one” in Korean, symbolizing unity and wholeness. Our mission is to build the power of Korean American and multi-ethnic immigrant communities through social services, education, culture, and community organizing to advance human rights. HANA Center leads with the Citizenship for All framework that envisions a state of immigrants in which they can thrive as full citizens of our society, without fear of being deported or separated from family and loved ones.

COMMUNITY

HANA works with intergenerational members of the Korean American and larger immigrant communities of greater Chicago including women, youth, People of Color, undocumented, low-income, older adults, LGBTQ+ folx, and adoptees. As our community continues to grow and stabilize, we shift with it, providing relevant resources for people beyond basic needs while organizing for systemic change toward achieving equity and justice for all.



THE POWER OF LOCAL

HANA Center responds to the critical needs of our community through social services, engages in powerful community organizing, advocacy, and civic engagement, and celebrates our cultural heritage.

- **Health Care For All (HB2499/SA2):** As a member of its Steering Committee, HANA Center led the Healthy Illinois coalition to pass healthcare coverage for 55-64 year old Illinois residents through the Budget Implementation Plan. This legislation made Illinois the first state in the United States to provide state-funded medical insurance to income-eligible Illinois seniors regardless of their immigration status.
- **TEAACH Act (HB376/SB648):** HANA Center’s youth provided critical leadership in the TEAACH Coalition to pass the Teaching Equitable Asian American Community History (TEAACH) Act, making Illinois the first state in the nation to mandate the teaching of Asian American history in all K-12 public schools in Illinois. Our youth leaders ensured that youth voices were at the center of the campaign by organizing a youth coalition and testifying at legislative sessions, giving media interviews, writing op-eds, and mor
- **Welcoming City Ordinance (Chicago) (CHAPTER 2-173):** As a member of the Chicago Immigration Working Group, HANA Center played a key role in winning a five-year campaign to ensure the Chicago Welcoming City ordinance protects all immigrants, including those with criminal legal system interactions. In the course of this campaign, we helped build a strong, cross-city movement to reframe the narrative around public safety and the role of ICE in our communities.

OVERVIEW

STAFF **33 FT, 4 PT**
BOARD MEMBERS **12**

GEOGRAPHY SERVED
ILLINOIS Cook, Will,
Lake Counties

Estimated number of community members engaged annually:

15K

WEBSITE

hanacenter.org

SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook, Instagram,

Twitter, TikTok

@HANACenter

LOCATION

Chicago Office

4300 N. California Ave.

Chicago, IL 60618

Northwest Suburban Office

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info@hanacenter.org



MinKwon Center for Community Action | New York, NY & Palisades Park, NJ

HISTORY



Founded in 1984 as the Young Korean American Service and Education Center, we became MinKwon Center for Community Action in 2009. Our new name, which means “civil rights” in Korean, more closely reflects our history of service and organizing by and for the community. MinKwon’s mission is to empower the Korean American community and work with the wider Asian American and immigrant communities to achieve economic and social justice for all. We envision a more engaged, informed, and empowered community in the Flushing area.

COMMUNITY

Based in the Flushing neighborhood of New York City, MinKwon serves the highest concentration of Asian residents in New York. We recently established a second office in Palisades Park, New Jersey. We focus our efforts on the most marginalized members of our Korean and wider Asian American immigrant communities including the low-income, recent immigrant, limited English proficient, undocumented, women, seniors, young people and LGBTQ+ community members.



THE POWER OF LOCAL

Our programs have focused on Advocacy, Community Organizing, Civic Participation, Social Services, and Youth Empowerment. Since resources have not historically been allocated to our community, we are working to build it ourselves.

Green Light Bill (S1747B): MinKwon played a critical role in passing the Green Light Bill, ensuring access to drivers licenses regardless of citizenship status. This was a hard-won victory that involved changing the landscape through relationship building and direct action. In addition to protecting people from deportation and providing a legal means for students to drive to school, the bill helps to address transportation deserts, which have an outsized impact on low-income and undocumented people.

APA Complete Count Committee & APA VOICE Redistricting Task Force: As the founder and co-lead of the APA Complete Count Committee, we provided and facilitated trainings, including a convention attended by over 200 AAPI community leaders. We developed strategies to meaningfully engage our communities, such as pledge card reminder mailers and neighbor-to-neighbor engagement (“talk to both your neighbors”). MinKwon’s work co-leading the NYC Korean American Census Task Force played a key role in our community’s response rates being the highest in the city, above the overall city average. These strategies were so successful, the City of New York replicated both of them in their city-wide campaign.

COVID-19 Relief: Much of our recent work has focused on providing COVID-19 relief. When the local food pantry La Jornada faced overwhelming demand, MinKwon was critical in increasing the amount of food available by five-fold, and helped La Jornada find its new location after it was kicked out of a local church. We also created various community driven support programs and fundraisers, including the Flushing Mutual Aid Network, a series of fundraising videos for a local Korean American shelter for undocumented male seniors, and our youth-led Flushing Community Refrigerator project. MinKwon raised \$1.4 million for direct cash assistance in 2020 for undocumented Korean Americans, serving as a clearing house to connect resources to the most at-risk immigrants.

OVERVIEW

STAFF **20 FT, 4 PT**
BOARD MEMBERS **12**

GEOGRAPHY SERVED
**New York, Long Island,
Upstate New York,
New Jersey**

Estimated number of community members engaged annually: **15K**

WEBSITE

minkwon.org

LOCATION

Flushing Office

14543 Willets Point Blvd Suite #202
Flushing, NY 11357

PHONE

718-460-5600

SOCIAL MEDIA

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Twitter, TikTok**

@minkwoncenter

Facebook, Instagram

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Palisades Park Office

316 Broad Ave. 2nd Fl.
Palisades Park, NJ 07650

E-MAIL

minkwon@minkwon.org



Woori Center | Lansdale, PA

HISTORY



Woori (우리) means “us” or “we” in Korean, reflecting our work to uplift the whole community--the whole of us. We aim to empower Korean and Asian American communities in Greater Philadelphia, particularly the low-income, limited English-proficient, and undocumented through our five key program areas: community organizing and advocacy, civic engagement, youth leadership development, immigrant services, and arts and culture. With roots in the 1990s and founded in 2018, our vision of success is a society where everyone thrives together based on mutual understanding and respect.

COMMUNITY

Woori Center engages Korean and Asian Americans in the five collar counties surrounding Philadelphia including Montgomery, Bucks, Delaware, Chester and Philadelphia Counties. Of the roughly 41,000 Korean Americans in Pennsylvania, the majority live in the greater Philadelphia area. Approximately two-thirds of Korean Americans in greater Philadelphia are foreign born and 69% speak Korean as their first language, creating significant barriers for participation in economic, educational, and political institutions.



THE POWER OF LOCAL

Woori Center launched our work with year-round civic engagement campaigns that focused on limited English proficient community members and young Asian Americans. We now engage in local and state based community organizing, advocacy and offer social services and cultural programs.

- **Immigrant Justice:** Woori Center participates in the Driving PA Forward (DPF) coalition to win drivers license access for all, regardless of immigration status. Woori Center led a 40-day action, facilitating trainings on the importance of drivers licenses for undocumented and working-class people as well as leading phone banking efforts aimed at Pennsylvania legislators.
- **Civic Engagement:** Woori Center leads year-round civic engagement efforts to empower Korean and Asian Americans across the state of Pennsylvania, including linguistically and culturally competent voter registration, education and turnout programs. In 2020, Woori Center attempted 190,000 phone calls, sent 75,960 text messages, and distributed more than 38,000 copies of election materials and mailers. During the 2021 municipal election, Woori Center continued its civic engagement efforts attempting 26,000 calls, sent 18,000 texts, and distributed 13,000 copies of election materials and mailers.
- **Community Service & Culture:** Woori Center facilitated two rounds of COVID-19 relief emergency cash assistance for 24 undocumented families, and distributed PPE and vaccine information at Asian grocery stores and service centers. Given the need for community care, we hosted a mental wellness webinar series designed for Korean Americans. Woori Center organized a virtual concert for Seolnal, the Korean Lunar New Year, featuring two Korean artists playing traditional music as well as a clinical psychologist to help make the connection between music and wellness.

OVERVIEW

STAFF **3 FT, 2 PT**
BOARD MEMBERS **10**

GEOGRAPHY SERVED
Greater Philadelphia, PA

Estimated number of community members engaged annually:

5 K

WEBSITE
wooricenterpa.org

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info@wooricenterpa.org



Woori Juntos | Houston, TX

HISTORY



Woori Juntos was officially founded in June 2021, but our story began years ago through our members long-time community based work. Our name, Woori Juntos, reflects the founding of our organization, as one that values solidarity, inclusion, and collaboration. Our name, **Woori Juntos**, combines the Korean word- woori, meaning “us” and the Spanish word- juntos, meaning together, to mean **“we rise together.”** Woori Juntos’ mission to achieve social, economic, and racial justice for Asians, immigrants, and all Texans.

COMMUNITY

As the fastest growing immigrant and racial community and electorate, Texas now boasts the third largest Asian American population in the country at 1.5 million. Over the last decade, Texas added 883,000 Asian Americans to its population, notably surpassing New York’s growth. Harris County, where Woori Juntos is based, has the largest Asian American population in the state. Founded by first generation Korean American women, Woori Juntos serves the Korean community of greater Houston. Our civic engagement program outreaches to Korean Americans statewide and young Asian Americans in certain geographies.



THE POWER OF LOCAL

Woori Juntos approaches our community holistically by offering critical social services, educating on important issues, engaging in community organizing and advocacy, and preserving our culture.

- **COVID-19 Relief:** Woori Juntos worked with the Chinese Community Center and Memorial Assistance Ministries to distribute between \$500 to \$850 in cash assistance to 70 families in the Houston area, 20% of whom were undocumented. Woori Juntos also organized volunteers to make and distribute masks to community members, and partnered with the Spring Branch Community Health Center to organize vaccine drives. We helped more than 200 Korean seniors get vaccinated in our early drives, and by the second half of the year, assisted a total of 300 community members.
- **Civic Engagement:** During the 2020 Texas elections, Woori Juntos members outreached to 2,000 Korean American voters in Harris and Fort Bend Counties. To encourage participation, we organized a series of op-eds written by second-generation Korean Americans to shed light on the importance of civic engagement. We also organized an absentee ballot assistance center, an election hotline, two early voting days for Korean and Asian Americans in Fort Bend County and Harris County, and several news conferences with ethnic media outlets.
- **CENSUS 2020:** In 2020, Woori Juntos conducted outreach and provided education for the Census. We leveraged existing relationships with church communities, and though the work was slowed due to restrictions on gatherings during the COVID-19 pandemic, Woori Juntos employed creative ways to engage with the community and conducted one-on-one outreach.

OVERVIEW

STAFF **2 FT, 1 PT**
BOARD MEMBERS **2**

GEOGRAPHY SERVED
**Greater Houston, Harris,
and Fort Bend Counties**

Estimated number of community members engaged annually:

10K

WEBSITE
woorijuntos.org

SOCIAL MEDIA
Facebook
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Instagram
@woorijuntostx

LOCATION
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1809 Hollister St,
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LIVE RIGHT, KNOW YOUR ROOTS, LIVE STRONG, LIVE TOGETHER



FIND US ONLINE AT:

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HAMKAE CENTER

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HANA CENTER

hanacenter.org, [@HANACenter](https://www.instagram.com/HANACenter)

MINKWON CENTER

minkwon.org, [@minkwoncenter](https://www.instagram.com/minkwoncenter), [@apavoicenewyork](https://www.instagram.com/apavoicenewyork)

WOORI CENTER

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WOORI JUNTOS

woorijuntos.org, [@Woorijuntos](https://www.instagram.com/Woorijuntos), [@woorijuntostx](https://www.instagram.com/woorijuntostx)