WE ARE NAKASEC
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.

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.
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.
#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-convener 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.
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.

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.
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.

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**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

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**OVERVIEW**

**STAFF** 13 FT, 2 PT

**BOARD MEMBERS** 5

**WEBSITE** hamkaecenter.org

**SOCIAL MEDIA**

Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, TikTok
@HamkaeCenter

**LOCATION**

**Annandale Office**
6715 Little River Turnpike, Ste 207
Annandale, VA 22003

**Centreville Office**
13890 Braddock Road, Ste 309
Centerville, VA 20121

**PHONE**
703-256-2208

**E-MAIL**
hello@hamkaecenter.org

**Estimated number of community members engaged annually:** 10K
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.

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.
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 more.

- **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.
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.

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.
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.

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

Estimated number of community members engaged annually: 15K

**WEBSITE** minkwon.org

**SOCIAL MEDIA**
Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, TikTok
@minkwoncenter
Facebook, Instagram
@apavoicenewyork

**LOCATION**
**Flushing Office**
14543 Willets Point Blvd Suite #202
Flushing, NY 11357

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

**PHONE** 718-460-5600

**E-MAIL** minkwon@minkwon.org
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.

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.
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.
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.

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.
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.
LIVE RIGHT, KNOW YOUR ROOTS,
LIVE STRONG, LIVE TOGETHER

FIND US ONLINE AT:

NAKASEC
nakasec.org, @nakasec

HAMKAE CENTER
hamkaecenter.org, @HamkaeCenter

HANA CENTER
hanacenter.org, @HANAcenter

MINKWON CENTER
minkwon.org, @minkwoncenter, @apavoicenewyork

WOORI CENTER
wooricenterpa.org, @wooricenter

WOORI JUNTOS
woorijuntos.org, @Woorijuntos, @woorijuntostx