



Sharing Love in Korea board members visit Sinaewon in October 2024, capturing a heartfelt moment with the children during their visit.



SHARING LOVE
IN KOREA



Cha Seoungcho, the first child Ann Lee met at Sinaewon in 2014, (small photo), reunites with her in October 2024.



As I think back and recollect on the last ten years of Sharing Love in Korea, I can't stop thinking of the first time I stepped foot inside Sinaewon Children's Home. I can still clearly see the faces of the young children I met that day in November of 2014.

Among the children I met, was a little boy named Seoungcho. Seoungcho was the first child I interacted with at Sinaewon. As soon as he saw me, he asked me to pick him up and hold him. I did as he asked and then I got down on my knees to face him, eye to eye. We played around for awhile until I had to leave, at which

point he wouldn't let go of me. I finally ended up leaving, but with his arms outstretched, reaching for me.

When I returned to the U.S. I couldn't stop thinking about Seoungho and his outstretched arms. I had moments where I imagined adopting him. But who would let a single female adopt a little boy with special needs? Instead, I reached out to Yonah, who visited Sinaewon with me. And from our meeting, Sharing Love in Korea was born. So, in essence, Sharing Love in Korea owes its beginning to a little boy named Seoungho.

This fall, I visited Sinaewon again and had the chance to see Seoungho. He's grown so much. The old adage that children grow up fast comes to mind. Well, that couldn't be more true than these past ten years. The children I first met in 2014, who were in elementary school, are now in high school; children I met when they were six years old are now sixteen years old. As they grow older, so too do we all. The sad part of these ten years were the three pandemic years. Three years to older folks is but a blink in our eyes, yet to these young children, three years is a lifetime. The good news is, the young children I first met, are now eligible for our Summer Vision Trip program. In fact, last year, one of the first young girls I met in 2014, Siyeon, came to the U.S. on our Summer Vision Trip program.

Next year, we are going to see even more of the young children we first met in 2014. I can't wait, and I hope you can't either. So come join us while we usher in the next ten years!

Happy New Year!

Ann Lee, Co-founder



Lee Uram, first met in 2014, is now a high school student.



Ann Lee with her sponsored child, Hayeon, at Sinaewon, October 2024.