



THANK YOU ALL!

This year's Vision Trip was supported by so many generous and thoughtful people. From the host families who provided cozy homes and delicious dinners, to the friends and family who brought fruit and dessert to the Welcome Dinner, to the volunteers who showcased the best of Los Angeles to the kids, to the sponsors who spent precious quality time with their child, to the carefully chosen and wrapped gifts given to the kids as they were leaving... thank you from the bottom of our hearts for pouring your love into our SLIK kids. Your love will have a lasting impact as they revisit their memories and photos from this trip for the rest of their lives.

Special shout-outs to:

Volunteers: Aiden, Alex, Ed, Eddie, Inji, Jake, Joyce, Justin, Kaylee, Marcus, Samuel,, Shine,

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Ava with Yunji, Wooram, and Gwanggyu at the welcome dinner

Sharing Love, Finding Family

From Ava Villa

When I was around 8 years old, my mom came up to me one day and told me that she wanted me to start writing letters in Korean for a boy named Wooram. She told me that Wooram lived in South Korea at a group home. At the time, I didn't entirely understand what that meant. I thought that meant he had a huge family and lived inside of a lavish house with all of his siblings and relatives. Until I grew older and continued to write him more letters, I realized the life I imagined he had was very different from the one he was currently living.

When I began writing him letters, I would tell him about my day, any upcoming holidays, my family, and any exciting plans I had going on. My mom would also send him gifts and toys, letting

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Welcome Dinner at Ann Lee's residence with our volunteers, sponsors, donors, and supporters.

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Host families:

Pastor Ban's family, including Tristan, Christian, and Sophia; Ann Lee; Chris & Judy Jeong;
Chang & Elaine Lee; Sonah Lim, including Jake and Shine

Sponsors:

Hyunah Suh & Ava Villa

Donors:

Helen K. Lee, Dr. Susan Chung, MD, Jenny Yoon (Hills Beauty), Joseph & Angela Lee,
Kay Chun, Jon & Yunjung Lee, Yoonhee Dokko, Kay Jin, Anna Cheong

Welcome Dinner gifts & help:

Noah Lee - horchata
Ann's mom - kimchi
Sonah Lim - macarons
Jennifer Chung - homemade cookies
Janice & Reymon - Vietnamese egg rolls
Jon & Yunjung Lee - fruit
Jimmy & Lyna Chai - fruit
Sokki Hong - 85 Degrees Bakery cake
Chang & Elaine Lee - baked goods
Ann Lee - ("hostess with the mostess") watermelon

✨ Special thanks to Jon, Yunjung, & Lyna for beautifully preparing the fruit!

“Faith, Friendship, and Shared Stories: A Summer Vision Trip to Remember”

From Kaylee Kim

For this year's Summer Vision Trip, I had the opportunity to spend time with Gwanggyu, Wooram, and Yunji. At first, I would say it felt pretty awkward and we were all a bit shy, but thankfully we were able to break the ice quickly! We had an amazing time visiting the Venice Google office, UCLA, Universal Studios, and KCON together. All of these experiences gave us plenty of time to joke with each other, find similar interests, and take pictures, but what meant the most to me was when they opened up about their lives back at Sinaewon and Chun Yang Won, and how the stories shared by some of the past Vision Trip participants had left an impact on them. It really made me realize how important and meaningful these trips are for them.

In the midst of these fun activities and the time we spent together, I was able to see God moving in these students. From the very start, it felt like this meeting was a God-given opportunity, and I am grateful I got to be part of it. Seeing their joy and persistence truly inspired me, and I will continue to keep them in my prayers as they return to Korea and adjust back into their daily lives. I am forever thankful to have been a small part of their journey here in America!

올 여름 저는 광규, 우람, 윤지와 함께 시간을 보낼 수 있는 귀한 경험을 했습니다. 처음에는 서로 조금 어색하고 수줍어했지만, 다행히도 금세 친해질 수 있었습니다! 저희는 베니스 구글 사무실, UCLA, 유니버설 스튜디오, 그리고 KCON을 함께 방문하며 즐거운 시간을 보냈습니다. 이러한 활동들을 통해 서로 농담도 주고받고, 공통 관심사를 찾으며 사진도 찍는 등 많은 추억을 쌓을 수 있었지만, 그중 가장 의미 있었던 순간은 학생들이 시내원과 춘양원에서의 생활을 이야기하고, 이전 비전트립 참가자들의 이야기가 자신들에게 어떤 영향을 주었는지 나눴을 때였습니다. 이 여행이 학생들에게 얼마



Kaylee (right) shares time with students while Marcus (left) guides the visit at Google. (Photo by Eddie Kang)

나 소중한고 의미 있는지 다시 느낄 수 있었습니다.

함께한 시간 속에서 저는 하나님께서 이 학생들을 통해 역사하시는 모습을 볼 수 있었습니다. 이번 만남이 하나님의 뜻으로 주어진 귀한 기회라는 생각이 들었고, 제가 그 일부가 될 수 있어 감사했습니다. 학생들의 기쁨과 끈기를 보며 큰 감동을 받았고, 한국으로 돌아가 일상생활에 다시 적응하는 동안에도 계속해서 그들을 위해 기도할 것입니다. 미국에서 그들의 여정의 작은 부분이 될 수 있었음에 늘 감사한 마음입니다.

Journey Highlights

From Awkward Hellos to Bright Smiles



UCLA quickly became the students' favorite campus.



They volunteered at the Union Rescue Mission, serving meals and caring for the homeless community.



A special visit to the LAPD Olympic Division gave them the chance to meet Commander Captain Rachel Rodriguez.



At KCON, they were amazed to see just how big the K-Pop wave truly is.



First-time thrills in the U.S. – the students took the wheel and battled it out in laser tag, guided by Jake and Shine.

Journey Highlights

Exploring, Laughing, and Making Memories Together



Of all the places they visited, Grand Canyon left the deepest impression. Sharing the golden glow of sunset with the Jeong family made the experience even more meaningful, a memory the students will carry with them for years to come.



A day of laughter and fun at Universal Studios with our volunteer students – even a photo op with Dracula!



On their last day at the Lim family's home, the students – led by Wooram – made homemade 레몬청 (lemon syrup) as a heartfelt gift for their homestay families and volunteers.

20,000 Steps, Countless Memories through the Summer Vision Trip

Dear friends, family, and supporters of SL!K,

I hope you are all doing well.

Many of you may already know me but for those who don't, I would like to formally introduce myself. My name is Edward Kang and I am a longtime volunteer and supporter of Sharing Love In Korea (SL!K). I have had the honor and privilege to serve as a chaperone for the Vision Trip since its second iteration and this year, I was able to take the kids to visit Venice Beach, UCLA, and the LA Convention Center for KCON 2025.

Although it was only for such a short time, I feel like I quickly connected with the kids and really got to know them on a personal level. I still vividly remember their ambitious faces as I dragged them through a 20,000-step day—and them insisting, with complete straight faces, that they weren't even tired. It was a remarkable sight, and the exact moment I realized I was not in as good of shape as I thought I was.

Jokes aside, I feel genuinely blessed to have met such a wonderful group of kids—so bright, happy, and deeply appreciative of everyone around them and even the smallest moments.

As many of you already know, most of these kids have experienced difficult upbringings and come

from disadvantaged family circumstances. The love and encouragement you've shown them during their time in America has made a lasting difference—one they will carry with them for the rest of their lives. For those of you who haven't yet had the chance to connect with the kids on a personal level, I strongly



Eddie (left) pictured with Gwanggyu, Wooram, Yunji, and volunteers Jake and Shine.

encourage you to reach out to the Board and ask for that opportunity. It has been a blessing experience for me as well and one that I would like everyone to experience.

Thank you for your continued support of SL!K and I look forward to connecting with more of you as we continue this great work together.

With warmest regards,

From Edward "Eddie" Kang

Join us in making the next Summer Vision Trip possible!
You can give through via Venmo(@sharingloveinkorea), PayPal, or by Check.
Learn more at www.sharingloveinkorea.org

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him know that there is a mother and daughter on the other side of the world who care about him. Wooram would also send me letters, pictures of himself, drawings, and small gifts. Receiving all these trinkets and letters made me realize that not all children my age have the same privileges and chances as others in life.

After several years of writing letters back and forth, we finally had the opportunity to see Wooram. We met up with him as well as the other kids and adults at USC. My mom invited her friend Liz to help with translating his Korean to English for us to understand. My mom was excited to see Wooram for the first time, and I was nervous to see someone I had only been sending letters to for a number of years.

We were getting to know him on the car ride to our destination for dinner. Liz was doing most of the talking while my mom and I tried to have a normal conversation with him using our broken Korean. I also invited my friends Natalie and Samuel to tag along and make Wooram feel more comfortable and also try talking to him with their limited Korean speaking skills.

We ate at Din Tai Fung where we learned about Wooram's interests and what he hopes to pursue in the future. We finished our dinner and walked around the mall to buy him anything he wanted and to get to know him a little better. Around this time, I started to use Google Translate to help communicate with him.

After dinner and hanging out at the mall, we drove him to the residence he was staying at where we met a few of the founders of Sharing Love in Korea. We were informed about the rest of Wooram's stay in the U.S and the upcoming dinner for all the sponsors and people involved with SLIK.

We attended the dinner a couple days

later, where it was being held at Ann's house, one of the founders. At the party, my mom and I were asked to give a speech about our experience as sponsors. At first, I was reluctant to speak in front of a handful of people, until Ann told me, "Just speak from the heart. These people aren't expecting a perfect speech. As long as you speak from the heart, that's all that matters."

At first, the three kids, Wooram, Gwanggyu, and Ynji were introducing themselves in Korean and a younger gentleman was translating what they were saying to English. After they were done introducing themselves, Yonah, one of the founders, gave my mom the mic to speak about being Wooram's sponsor. My mom started to get emotional while talking about the struggles Wooram faces with the cards he was dealt in life and how he truly has changed our lives for the better. Everyone was emotional and there was not a dry eye in the house.

Then, it was my turn to speak. I walked up to the middle of the backyard and I was handed the same mic. Initially, I began talking about what it was like



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being 8 years old and trying to write letters in Korean with the help of my Grandmother. As I started talking about the toys and trinkets my mom would send along with the letters, I also got emotional.

I said to the audience, "It wasn't the toys, the trinkets, or the countless letters we would send him that made such a huge difference. Sure, the letters let him know there was another child across the world that he could talk to, but it was the fact that all he needed was a friend. Knowing that this friendship would continue for a long time was all that he really needed."

I told the audience that Wooram has forever changed our lives for good. Meeting Wooram after so long made me realize how important being there for someone is. It made me realize how crucial friendship is and how the time you spend doing what you love is so significant. My mom and I are forever thankful for the founders of Sharing Love in Korea and all that they continue to do. We are forever thankful for them bringing Wooram into our lives and giving us the opportunity for Wooram to be able to call us his family. ❤️



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Letter from Korea: "We returned home safely"

From Yunji - Before leaving, I was filled with both nervousness and anticipation, but throughout the trip those feelings turned into joy and gratitude.

At the party with many sponsors and volunteers, I deeply felt the warmth of their welcome and love. Even though I was meeting many of them for the first time, they greeted me like family I had known for a long time. Sharing stories, laughing together, and enjoying that time felt so precious. Through that experience, I was able to grow closer to the older brothers and sisters, and I realized how powerful sincere sharing between people can be.

When we visited the Grand Canyon, I was left speechless before the grandeur and beauty of nature. Seeing it in person was so much more breathtaking than the photos and videos I had seen before coming to the U.S., and watching the sunset there was incredible. As I looked at the scenery, I felt a strong desire to see more of life's wonders and a greater motivation to reach out toward a bigger world. ❤️

From Wooram - I am so thankful for the many diverse and meaningful experiences I was able to have in the U.S. After 10 years, I was finally able to meet my sponsor, Ms. Hyunah Suh, and also Ava, and I am so grateful for the wonderful time we spent together. I also deeply appreciate the constant prayers and encouragement offered for me. During the party, I was especially moved by the speeches given by Ms. Hyunah and Ava. Although I wished we could have spent more time together, I was left with such fond memories. Above all, I thank God for protecting us throughout the Vision Trip and allowing us to spend this time safely without any accidents. ❤️

From Gwanggyu - In the U.S., I noticed how often people express even small things by saying "thank you" and "sorry," and it made me want to become someone who does the same. This was my very first time traveling abroad and now I understand why people say we should travel. I used to wonder what it meant when people said travel broadens your perspective, but now I think I finally understand.

I will never forget this grace, and I will carry it with me as a source of strength in my life, working hard as I move forward... Thank you always, and I will continue to pray every day. ❤️



Gwanggyu, Wooram, and Yunji express love with their hands.