



## NEWS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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#### **AKASF ANNOUNCES LAUNCH OF NEW MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM**

*New Membership Benefits will better serve the Greater Adoptee Community and Their Families*

San Francisco, CA – February 4, 2011 – The Association of Korean Adoptees - San Francisco (AKASF) announces official re-launch of its nonprofit organization – *Campaign for Unity 2011: Korean Adoptees with a Common Bond for a Common Cause* which includes a new membership program. Since 1997, AKASF has served as the only adult Korean Adoptee group supporting the needs of other adult Korean Adoptees in the San Francisco Bay area through community outreach, cultural enrichment, and social gatherings. AKASF president Holly Choon Hyang Bachman said “With new and energized leadership, we will be shifting our focus by establishing a comprehensive membership program that will be open to everyone. It will include new member benefits as well as shared partner programs and services that will better serve the adoptee community.

AKASF will be aligning with the local Korean American community including the Consulate General of Korea – San Francisco. Consul General Jeong-Gwan Lee stated, “We will be working closely with AKASF, so we can ensure meaningful activities will be planned to help members connect with their own Korean culture and language.”

In addition, AKASF will be joining forces with KoreAm Journal, a Korean American monthly publication based in Los Angeles, CA to offer an exclusive member benefit by including an annual subscription of KoreAm in every membership. KoreAm Publisher James Ryu expressed, “I am very excited to further connect with fellow members of the Korean Adoptee community. I believe this partnership will help reach even more adoptees to connect with the broader Korean American community. I hope it can create a stronger connection to everyone.” AKASF will also offer a member-only discount by Korean Quarterly, a non-profit quarterly newspaper publication based in Minnesota. “We are confident this partnership will further our mission to represent adopted Koreans as an integral part of the diverse Korean American community,” said editor and adoptive parent Martha Vickery. Both member benefits will also be extended to the larger adoptee community through AKASF’s shared membership program.

In offering shared partner programs and services, AKASF will initially collaborate with adoptee organizations Global Overseas Adoptees’ Link (G.O.A.’L) based in Korea and the U.S. and AdopSource in Minnesota. Yoo Shin Kim, Secretary General of G.O.A.’L added, “We look forward to this new partnership to build a stronger community, support new leaders, and help develop real programs and services.” Ami Nafzger, Executive Director of AdopSource further added, “AKASF will become a driving force within our adoptee community, not just in California, but will play a very important role nationwide. We look forward to being a collaborative partner with AKASF.”

“Our new membership program is on-going and will continue to grow as we establish more community partners,” stated AKASF vice president Pam Benson. Bachman added, “We hope the collaboration of all of our community partners especially with other adoptee organizations will bring a message of unity, so that other organizations will join and everyone will have an opportunity to share resources and accomplish more together for a common cause.”

To become a member of AKASF or to learn more about its partners, programs or services, please call 800.450.7896, email [info@akasf.org](mailto:info@akasf.org), or visit [www.akasf.org](http://www.akasf.org).

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