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○ ISSUE 1 | ○ MARCH | ○ 2008

# Korean-American Coalition

# Atlanta

ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF THE KOREAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY OF ATLANTA

[www.kacatl.org](http://www.kacatl.org)

## Newsletter Introduction

The Korean-American Coalition (KAC) is a non-profit, non-partisan, community advocacy organization. Our mission is to facilitate the Korean-American community's participation in civic, legislative, and community affairs, encouraging the community to contribute to and become an integral part of American society. The KAC Atlanta chapter is proud to provide you with this quarterly newsletter to keep you informed about recent and future KAC events, as well any news relevant to the Asian-American community. We hope you find this newsletter useful and if you have any suggestions, please contact the KAC Communications or Marketing Directors: Mike Park or Jinny Yi.

## KAC Membership Pledge

KAC Atlanta held its first 2008 membership pledge during our Happy Hour on February 1, 2008 at Villa Christina. This month long pledge was an effort to increase membership, through which KAC can build a stronger foundation and greater unity amongst Korean-Americans in greater Atlanta.

KAC is proud to announce that the event was hugely successful attracting over 80 interested individuals. Additionally, a total of 32 people signed up to become KAC members: Congratulations and we extend a warm welcome!

Special thanks as well to our welcoming committee for the hard work and the effort put into organizing this successful event. Please visit [www.kacatl.org](http://www.kacatl.org) for continual

updates, including many activities in which members and non-members can partake.

For more information or to become a member, please contact Director of Member Relations Mira Yi at [mira.yi@kacatl.org](mailto:mira.yi@kacatl.org).

Membership dues are only \$30 per year. Benefits included in membership:

- Member only events:
  - Friday Night Jazz @ the High, Château Élan trip, etc...
- Discounts to local businesses:
  - Bakeries, restaurants, etc...
- A means to plug into your community through monthly volunteer events
- Endless network of young professionals in the greater Atlanta area

## Calendar of Events

### MARCH

- 03.07.08 - Happy Hour @ East Andrews 7:00 pm
- 03.22.08 - Tastebuds @ Fuego Spanish Grill 7:30pm
- 03.29.08 - Habitat for Humanity Volunteer event

### APRIL

- 04.04.08 - Happy Hour
- 04.24-27.08 - KAC National Leadership Convention
- TBA - Château Élan - Members only event
- TBA - Volunteer event

### MAY

- 05.02.08 - Happy Hour
- TBA - All members event
- TBA - Volunteer event

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Come join us for our monthly **Happy Hour** at **East Andrews Bar & Grill** on **Friday, March 7th.**

In addition to our happy hour on the first Friday of every month, we also have monthly volunteer events. The next **volunteer opportunity** will be **March 29, 2008** with **Habitat for Humanity Atlanta.**



# KAC Community Service

KAC Atlanta volunteers participated in two volunteer projects since the start of 2008. On January 19, 15 volunteers came out to the Atlanta Project Open Hand campus to dedicate their time to our community. The mission of Atlanta Project Open Hand is to provide freshly cooked meals and nutritional services to homebound seniors and individuals living with symptomatic HIV/AIDS or other critical illness/disabilities. Our volunteers assisted with food packaging, equipment cleaning, as well as several data processing tasks.



KAC volunteers @ Project Open Hand community service event 01.19.2008

In February, KAC Atlanta had their first joint volunteer project with National Association of Asian American Professionals Atlanta (NAAAP). Over 20 volunteers from both organizations came out to Pittman Park enthused and ready to plant with Trees Atlanta. The goal of Trees Atlanta is protecting and improving the urban environment by planting and conserving trees. With spring right around the corner, a nice breezy February day was perfect for some horticulture action at the park. Our volunteers' dedicated labor around the park resulted in 54 newly planted trees. At the end of the day, our volunteers went home with a sense of accomplishment and a new appreciation of environmental responsibility.

Both events were tremendously successful and KAC looks forward to organizing additional service opportunities throughout the year. Please stay tuned for upcoming volunteer adventures; contact our Director of Community Service, Mei Liu at [mei.liu@kacatl.org](mailto:mei.liu@kacatl.org) with any questions.

Looking for a forum to express your political concerns and thoughts? Everyone has an opinion, especially with politics. In the spirit of democracy we invite you to express them here, and continue a healthy exchange of issues that relate to Asian-Americans. Visit [asianamericanpolitics.wordpress.com](http://asianamericanpolitics.wordpress.com)

## S.M.I.L.L.E. (Service, Mentorship, Internship, Leadership, Empowerment)

So what's the S.M.I.L.L.E. program all about?

The Korean-American Coalition plans to kick off S.M.I.L.L.E. as a program that mentors and encourages high school students.

S.M.I.L.L.E. strives to focus on 5 key areas contributing to youth development:

- Service:** educating youth on active community involvement
- Mentorship:** guiding younger generations (personally & professionally)
- Internship:** providing opportunities to gain professional experience
- Leadership:** establishing skills vital to success
- Empowerment:** instilling confidence and belief in their abilities

KAC needs your involvement as mentors! We ask that mentors donate just a few hours of their time monthly. KAC will provide mentor training with the assistance of other partner organizations. A wise man once said, "Each generation is responsible for the next generation's well-being and upbringing". Let's be responsible for the next generation of Korean-Americans and get involved!

Please contact our President David Yang at [david.yang@kacatl.org](mailto:david.yang@kacatl.org) or our S.M.I.L.L.E. Director Tony Chung at [tony.chung@kacatl.org](mailto:tony.chung@kacatl.org) for more information and to get involved.



"A mentor is someone whose hindsight can become your foresight."

- Mahatma Gandhi