

## **KASF Northeastern Regional Chapter: Paving a path towards our future**

The Northeastern Regional Chapter (NERC) of KASF was launched in 2001 with three Chair Scholarships donated by Patriot Hak Soo Park, Joann Lee & Chong Suk Lee, and Tae Jin Kwon & Min Ok Kwon. Soon after, with the addition of many generous donors, the NERC Board of 28 members was established.



In that first year, the NERC awarded 25 students with \$1,000 scholarships. Over the next 16 years, the NERC has grown in both membership and fundraising capacity. The NERC Board used a variety of fundraising vehicles, such as large-scale classical music concerts and charity golf outings, to raise tens of thousands of dollars for scholarships. Since its inception, the NERC has awarded approximately \$1.6M to 892 students to help them continue their studies in schools located in eight northeastern states (NY, NJ, ME, RI, CT, NH, MA, and VT) and achieve the Korean-American Dream.

This year, the NERC Original Board has 24 members from a variety of backgrounds and with a variety of skills including real estate, business, law, insurance, and media. The Original Board is led by President Joann Lee with Jay Lee, Kyung Hee Park, Sungsu John Kang, Boklim Choi, Si Wha Lee, James, Lee, and HJ Nam leading committees on fundraising, membership, gala, golf outing, scholarship, and other key areas. The Original Board holds successful fundraising events, engages new major donors, and evaluates and selects scholarship recipients. This year, the NERC Board is striving to raise over \$150,000 for 75 scholarship recipients.

In addition to the NERC Original Board, a Young Professionals Board (YPB) was launched in December 2015 with five members: James Chung, Christine Kang, David Kang, Kate Lim Rosenthal, and Amanda Milazzo. The fledgling YPB drew on their experience in the financial, nonprofit, and foreign government fields to engage young professionals and scholarship recipients. The YPB grew in 2016 with the addition of 3 new members - Cathy Choi, Stephanie Lee, and Sunny Lim. With a strong core team in place, the YPB took on the responsibility of planning the 2016 Annual

Gala (led by Cathy Choi), which was held in Manhattan for the first time in the region's history and was a major success. The YPB currently has 15 official and unofficial members that meet biweekly to strategize for the future. With the NERC Original Board focused on fundraising, the YPB is again planning the annual Awards Gala, which will be held on Thursday, September 14, 2017 at the Yale Club of New York City.



The NERC's goal - then and now - is not only to raise funds but to support recipients and build a loving KASF community. With the wisdom and support of the Original Board, and the energy of the YPB, the NERC is excited for the opportunities ahead.