Letter from CEO

Hannah Song

With gratitude,

2020

Thank you for being there through it all, by our side. We are so excited to share with you everything we were able to accomplish in 2020 because of your unwavering support.

In the midst of a year already filled with new and changing needs and came up with different solutions to continue supporting and encouraging this community. We knew we had the absolute best people in our corner. And that we were going to be okay.

Net

**These numbers do not include children born in China

With your support, we launched our network and way of doing things – a route that focused on the safety and dignity of North Korean refugees and making it nearly impossible to escape the country. The North Korean government also followed with the same restrictions and even more extreme measures. There were reports of Chinese government implemented strict lockdowns of its borders and restricted travel within the country. These restrictions, along with lockdown with shuttered support systems. Our post-resettlement team jumped into action recalibrating our programs to accommodate we could reach them. For refugees arriving in South Korea ready to begin new lives, they found themselves isolated in a country-wide

After their dangerous journey to freedom, many North Korean refugees continue to face challenges in their resettlement. Having to supported & empowered 474 resettled North Korean refugees

Changing the Narrative on North Korea

Researching, innovating and incubating new ideas to empower the North Korean people with profound impact that one person can have on so many others. We dedicate this annual report to her and the incredible life she lived. In the midst of a year already

Whatever this past year was for you personally, it was a year where we were all reminded that despite any amount of distance, we are all still deeply connected.

In a year with no in-person events, we brought our North Korean friends together for A Night of movement of supporters from around the world and

In March,
LiNK in the Media

Korean people. Because of Coronavirus, this year's fellows were unable to come to the US as part of the program, but the impact they had was still profound.

Over 4 months, LiNK Advocacy Fellows learned about the issue and how to use their stories to be effective advocates for the North Korean people. Each team came up with creative and new ways to change the narrative.

LiNK's Rescue Team at the University of Michigan raised over $6,000 for A Night of Freedom. Despite the restrictions around in-person events, students still found ways to build community and support for the North Korean people.

Top videos

- Sharing stories about who we are, where we're from, and where we're trying to go is a uniquely human activity. We are designed to influence the way North Korea is reported on, bringing attention to the stories of North Koreans. LiNK Advocacy Fellows pushed the narrative and shared powerful acts that impact the North Korean community.

- 4,325,428 Youtube views
- 10 million people reached
- 800,000 people starting university

Meaningful Milestones

- 2 grants for struggling businesses
- 13 grants provided:
  - 10 for individuals facing wage-reduction or unemployment
  - 4 for participants who already had their own businesses or were interested in starting one
  - 3 core areas focused on becoming self-starting, showing future-thinking, and overcoming barriers

The pilot program was completely virtual (due to the pandemic):

- North Korean refugees choose to go to South Korea
- The pilot program for the 2020-2021 academic year was a 4-month virtual program that focused on business and entrepreneurship basics, and focused on developing an entrepreneurial mindset. After completion of the program, fellows had the opportunity to receive financial support.

We partnered with professors from the Fred Kiesner Center for Entrepreneurship at Loyola Marymount University to develop business and entrepreneurship basics, and focused on developing an entrepreneurial mindset. After completion of the program, fellows had the opportunity to receive financial support.

- 6 participants who already had their own businesses or were interested in starting one
- 3 core areas focused on becoming self-starting, showing future-thinking, and overcoming barriers

We ended the year with our first ever virtual gala, bringing together our entire community of supporters from around the world. A Night of Freedom was an incredible moment that was so inspiring to watch the movement of support for the North Korean people come together and to raise the crucial funds needed to continue doing this important work.

Changing the Narrative

- 4,000+
- 30,000
- 800

Sharing my story wasn't easy- I wanted to give up several times. But, I know this is a powerful act in itself and it weakens the narrative control of the North Korean government.

- Saeyoung, South Korean college student

LiNK's Rescue Teams are LiNK chapters at schools and in communities around the world that are committed to helping us change the narrative. They are an incredible resource not only for North Koreans but also for the North Korean community. Each team had a creative process to its own and had a unique creative resource for North Korean refugees.

- 1,062,498 raised

LiNK's Network of Supporters

- 1,000 new supporters
- 211
- 2
- 7
- 1 volunteer partnership

We ended the year with our first ever virtual gala, bringing together our entire community of supporters from around the world. A Night of Freedom was an incredible moment that was so inspiring to watch the movement of support for the North Korean people come together and to raise the crucial funds needed to continue doing this important work.
South Korea Board of Directors

US Board of Directors

Board of Directors & Partners

needed most. As an unrestricted gift, it will be used where it is needed. If the Vision Fund is spent, the General Fund will be used to cover the costs of any additional supporting services. Donors can also allocate gifts towards other programs.

LiNK’s Vision Donors funded all supporting services while 100% of all other donations went to supporting LiNK’s programs. Moving forward, donors can still choose to contribute towards the Vision Fund, which will pay for non-program expenses. Once every dollar from the Vision Fund is spent, the General Fund will be used to cover the costs of any additional supporting services.

*As of January 1, 2021 LiNK will be moving away from the 100% model. The model was first introduced in 2009 with the goal of securing dedicated funding to cover all non-program expenses.

**George W. Bush Institute Citation**

On September 24, 2020 Liberty in North Korea was awarded the George W. Bush Institute Citation. It was an honor to receive this A Special Honor.

**Labs**

We co-hosted and convened a 2-day closed-door summit of 32 participants including North Korean defectors, researchers, and practitioners from the US, Europe, and Asia. Together we shared, learned, and collaborated on information and technology solutions for the North Korean people.

**Research**

We partnered with the Database Center for North Korean Human Rights (NKDB) on an upcoming research project about communities inside North Korea.

**Events**

We also worked with Outside the Box, an organization that uses the arts to help transform lives, and organized a workshop where participants designed pedal-powered technology solutions for the North Korean people.

**Labs**

Labs is our space to experiment, learn, collaborate, and incubate new initiatives focused on accelerating change in North Korea. We conduct research to help inform our strategies and approaches on the issue. We also collaborate with partners to produce and curate content and share knowledge with our followers.

We believe that if we can help change a single life, our work will have been worth it.

To our North Korean friends, our partners on the ground, fellow activists, and organizations working alongside us on this issue, to our thousands of supporters around the world standing alongside our North Korean friends, investing in their protection and in their future.

Helping North Korean refugees reach freedom is truly a privilege and we are grateful to our North Korean friends for entrusting their lives to us in this work. What we do as an organization would not be possible without their incredible bravery or without the Human Rights Act was signed into law in 2004, opening the door for North Korean refugees to resettle in the United States and begin a new life.

On May 5th, 2020, we lost our beloved friend and dear colleague, Katty Chi. Katty was one of the most passionate advocates for the North Korean people and had dedicated her life to this issue. Growing up, her childhood nickname was “Save the World Katty,” which tells you everything you need to know about her. During her time at LiNK, Katty played a vital role in our refugee work and was part of helping over 800 North Korean refugees reach freedom. It is without a doubt that Katty’s work has not only changed the narrative of one life but of thousands of lives. She will always be remembered for her incredible courage and dedication to Katty.

Thank you, Katty. We miss you so much.