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Dear friends of *Sup sogŭi Hosu*:

We have just wrapped up *Sup sogŭi Hosu*'s 27th summer of programming! This year was the longest and most robustly programmed summer in our history, with day camp, one-week residential and two-week residential sessions, along with our flagship four-week high school credit session. Now that we can operate in our very own dedicated space, we are experimenting with new programs so that we can offer our experience to more learners.

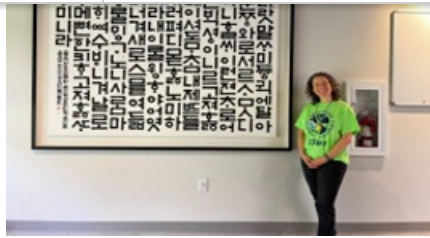
Every year we like to balance "classic" program favorites with new ideas. Our villagers can always count on there being a casino night, street food night and talent show. This summer, villagers also participated in our own version of the Squid Games; took a deep dive into multiculturalism in Korea; celebrated modern Korean art; and participated in a fashion show utilizing recycled materials. We always try to make connections between current events and language learning, and this year some of our villagers learned about the recent Nobel Prize winner Han Kang, experienced a major life-cycle celebration of Chef Les's 60th birthday, and learned about the Korean-Chinese diaspora. Some villagers even practiced Korean slang as well as learned some basic Chinese characters that are part of Koreans' everyday literacy.

The classes, activities and the program as a whole are brought to life by my stellar team of counselors, teachers and support staff, who are as diverse as they are talented. This summer, the staff of *Sup sogŭi Hosu* came from Korea, Canada and across the U.S., with backgrounds in linguistics, drama, engineering, human biology, and elementary education, among others.

Our only challenge this summer was a significant wind storm in late June that impacted the greater Bemidji, Minnesota, area, but there was no physical damage to any of the buildings at the Korean Language Village nor across Concordia Language Villages. And while it forced us to delay the opening of one of our sessions by one day, we were rewarded with 10 glorious days of the best of northern Minnesota weather—cool and pleasant!

Village Construction Updates

Thanks to a generous donation from the D. K. Kim Foundation, we have made enough progress in our fundraising this past year to allow



of the village will incorporate wooden walking paths, raised wooden flatbeds for villagers to congregate and an open-air amphitheater. We also have an exciting addition in our dining hall: a framed work of calligraphy from artist

Kim Taekjung, dedicated to our village, of the introduction to King Sejong's promulgation of the Korean alphabet in 1446.

Also, we hope to soon begin fundraising for Phase 2 construction of our culturally authentic village site, adding space for activities, classes and residences.

Thank you all for your support of our program and for another fabulous year. We hope you will come visit us in summer 2026!

Yours,

Dr. Dafna Zur

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