

# Children's Bridge

INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION CONSULTANTS



making families happen

## Culture Together - London, Ontario

By Audra Bowlus

Culture Together, a program for Korean adoptee families in the London and Southwestern Ontario area, is sponsored and run by the London Korean Christian Church (LKCC). The program started with the objective to help parents help their children maintain ties and learn about their home country. Over the years it has come to be much more than that to the participants.

With help from Korean adult and high school volunteers, the program focuses on fellowship, fun, and most importantly a sharing of our Korean and Canadian cultures. It runs for five to six weeks every fall and spring and meets in the LKCC gym and classrooms. It has both an adult and a child component. During the adult component the parents interact with the adult volunteers learning

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how to cook traditional Korean dishes, listening to guest speakers who have gone through the adoption experience either as parents or as adoptees, and watching films related to Korean traditions and adoption. During this time, our children have their own interactive time with the high school volunteers learning Korean games, making Korean crafts and learning about Korean traditions. They often are able to bring something home from those activities. The volunteers also organize evenings of family fun where we run relay races or compete against each other in traditional Korean games and occasionally there are special performances put on by the volunteers such as K-Pop dances.

Following the activities, we all give thanks for our time together and then eat dinner together. For many this is the best part of the evening. Sometimes we eat what we cooked during the adult session; sometimes the adult volunteers cook dinner at the table Korean bbq style; but most often we enjoy a scrumptious Korean dinner prepared by the volunteers in the kitchen.

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It's amazing how food can bring people together and  
how it can connect people to a culture.  
Our children, many of whom came to Canada before  
starting solid foods, have amazing appetites  
for Korean cuisine.  
They love kimchi, mandu, bulgogi and kimbap.

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While the activities are important and help the families to maintain a Korean cultural presence in their household even when Culture Together is not in session, it is the fellowship that we treasure most. We have met the most amazing and generous people at LKCC. We have come to learn how much they care for our children and our families, and we have come to value and love them in return. We know who we can turn to when we need help. We are given a space to talk about our children's struggles as adoptees in Canada at school, at home and with their peers. Our children have been given the chance to make life-long friends with children who are 'just like them' and have been given wonderful role models through the high school volunteers.

The program is always looking for new families.

If your family  
would benefit from this program,  
please contact Audra Bowlus ([audraj@rogers.com](mailto:audraj@rogers.com))  
for more information.





# Welcome

## Waiting Children Program CHINA

Welcome home to Quinn Hong  
(Gansu Province), son of  
Peter and Andy of Ottawa,  
Ontario

Welcome home to Jacob  
(Yunnan Province), son of  
Ian and Cyndy of Victoria,  
British Columbia

Welcome home to Emmett  
(Fujan Province), son of  
Chris and Kathryn of  
Union, Ontario

## SOUTH KOREA

Welcome home to Felix  
Yeonu born October 25,  
2015, son of Chris and  
Kheng of Ottawa.

## THAILAND

*Arrived April 3, 2017 from  
the Thai Red Cross  
Children's Home:*

Karittha, born November 7,  
2013, daughter to Jonathan  
and Allison and sister to  
Tyler (from Newmarket,  
Ontario).

## USA

Congratulations to Michael  
and Lisa who welcome baby  
Bahia from Florida, USA.



*Children's Bridge*