

## Homeless Danmujis (Zero Hunger)

After winning the semi finals for our project last year, we were asked to submit a final report to update our sustainability. The Korean elderly pension is just \$200 so 40-60% of the elderly live in poverty. Since we started, we have provided 156 hours of service and nearly 24000 meals. These are some of the highlights that came from our project last year:



→ In July 2019, 10 students were awarded Nanumi certificates of service in a public award ceremony where we also had the honour to perform with the Nanumi choir. Our school involvement also featured in the journal of the American Chamber of Commerce Seoul.

→ Our school has pledged to continue sponsoring buses to transport service teams for the 2020/2021 academic year and Nanumi is now a recognised IBDP CAS option.

→ The British school parliament had two fund raising events and Nanumi is a part of the year 8 English curriculum where students research factors leading to poverty in the elderly in Seoul.

→ For “week without walls” 50 year 8s and teachers went to a kimchi farm to cook kimchi and danmujis to serve at Nanumi (feeding over 400 people) and participated in cleaning their sleeping areas.

→ The Nanumi servers were invited to the 5th grade PYP exhibition at a neighbouring elementary school to educate 90 students about service and the UNSDGs. As a result of the presentation, one 5th grader baked muffins during the COVID shutdown to raise \$400 of funding towards food and cleaning supplies.

On March 10th, the Korea Herald reported how COVID was exacerbating hunger amongst the elderly homeless population as feeding schemes no longer had volunteers. Despite the fact that our students could no longer attend, the newspaper reported that we continued to provide meals at 3 times the normal cost. With students in lockdown, parents and teachers were adamant that the feeding would continue. Since 6 February, we have raised nearly \$10 000 for



food and cleaning supplies and honoured every food service at \$1400 per session. Covid can close countries but not hearts of compassion.

Asked how she hasn't collapsed all these years, especially in Covid, Director Kim (the founder of Nanumi) says 'I cannot, because God will not let me. He sends me people like you to keep me going. This is how he loves us.'

How wonderful it is to be a part of that love.

### **Personal Reflection:**

Collaboration, devotion, love and serving. The main aspects and factors that bond our Nanumi community as a whole. As students who have endeavored but also greatly enjoyed these service opportunities, we are extremely proud to help and serve under the needs of others. A little more than a year ago, many of our students (including us) signed up to attend the service spot for the first time. At that time, we were quite new and confused with this Nanumi concept, but in some ways excited and elated. The first steps into the kitchens were cold and bare, however taking glimpses at the hungry homeless made me feel saddened and suddenly motivated. It is now more of an enjoyment and routine to attend each and every service.

Serving food was a first time experience for many of us. We were all new to cleaning and serving large amounts of food and I'm sure many of us were overwhelmed and confused. However, thanks to help from the friendly teachers and staff, we were able to easily adapt into the surroundings of Nanumi. Of course, working at Nanumi never gets easier. After every volunteer session we hear groans and complaints on how our wrists hurt and our back ache. We feel proud of our volunteers for working so hard but most importantly, we feel extreme respect for the people who do this multiple times every day.

To this day, we are still able to happily say that we have continued to attend these services. We are honored to be serving every week, giving help to the ones truly in need of us. Every visit, we are welcomed back with warm smiles of the staff and the homeless, constantly being praised and complimented for our dedication towards this program. Not only has this opportunity given us the chance to commit, but has given inspiration for others in our community to do the same. Through these opportunities of serving, we believe that our Seoul Foreign British School community has proudly engraved our names to service, embodying the true definition behind ***"building character, inspiring excellence"***.

