Engaging our communities

Our Angel campaign and volunteer organization has led our community service initiatives since 2006. The organization gives our employees and their families practical opportunities to donate their money, time, and talents to make a difference in local communities. The Angel campaign encourages employees to donate a small portion of their paychecks to benefit worthy charities and those in need such as low-income households, the disabled, and the elderly. Totaling KRW 166,253,000 in 2018, these donations were matched by the company based on the participation rate at each worksite.

Angel volunteers—both employees and their families—also spent over 3,684 hours lending a helping hand in their local communities during the year. They delivered rice to families in need and served meals to seniors. They planted tree saplings for the next generation to enjoy. They delivered seasonal essentials to make winter more comfortable for live-alone seniors and needy families. They also helped individuals with disabilities enjoy outings to local cultural attractions and participate in fun runs and sporting events.

In November 2018, we launched a month-long service campaign to celebrate our 59th anniversary. In addition to traditional year-end service activities such as participation in Save the Children’s “Knit One, Save One” cap knitting campaign to improve infant mortality in less-developed countries, we assembled and sent 400 solar lanterns to children in Laos and Malawi to make it easier to study and travel safely at night.

Brightening the future

Since 2011, we have donated and installed 5 kW solar PV systems at a total of 269 primary schools across Korea through our Solar School project. Beyond the practical benefit of generating a portion of each school’s power needs, the project aims to increase student interest in renewable energy and inspire the next generation of creative engineers and scientists.

In 2018, we donated a 15 kW solar PV system to Ronald McDonald House Charities Korea. The system will be installed at Korea’s first Ronald McDonald House on the campus of Pusan National University Yangsan Hospital. The house will provide a place for up to 10 families to call home while their children receive cancer treatment at the hospital.

Training the next generation

The Songam Foundation—our charitable foundation focused on supporting scholarships and the arts—has operated two scholarship programs since 2011 to help worthy students pursue their educational dreams.

In 2018, the Songam Foundation Scholarship presented awards to 36 middle school, 10 high school, and 103 university students selected for their outstanding academic performance. The Songam Multi-Cultural Family Scholarship separately presented awards to 4 university students from low-income, multi-cultural families during the year. Overall, the foundation has awarded scholarships totaling more than KRW 2.6 billion to date.

Beyond the scholarship programs of the Songam Foundation, we also support Songdo Academy—operator of Songdo High School and Songdo Middle School in Incheon, Korea—as part of our mission to help educate tomorrow’s talent.

Bringing modern art to life

The Songam Foundation also operates the OCI Museum of Art. Opened in 2010, the museum organizes and hosts exhibitions of established and up-and-coming Korean contemporary artists throughout the year. The museum also operates two major programs—OCI Young Creatives and the OCI Residency Studio—to promote the arts.

The OCI Young Creatives program launched in 2010 helps rising artists reach a wider audience, awarding grants of KRW 10 million and the opportunity for a solo exhibition at the museum. The OCI Residency Studio program launched in 2011 runs from April to the following March, providing studio and living space to eight talented artists each year. Since 2014, the museum has also run OCI Residency 1211, an international artist-in-residence exchange program. For more information on the museum and exhibitions, please visit OCIMuseum.org.

We believe we have a unique opportunity and responsibility to make a difference in our local communities and beyond. In 2018, we invested over KRW 490 million in community service and welfare projects, education and scholarships, and the arts to bring new hope and inspiration to life.