

Moon-Chul (19) suffered from frostbite on his feet. There was no place where he could receive medical care so he had to cut his own three frostbitten toes off. Despite his difficulty walking due to his injuries and all that he suffered, he always had a kind heart which led him to take care of the younger kkotjebbis and give them food that was found first. Because of Moon-Chul's kindness in caring for Ryu Kwong-Hyuk, who was much weaker, Kwong Hyuk survived.

Baek Young-Won (18) Upon hearing his mother's dying wish that he find her relatives in South Korea, Young-won and a friend risked their lives to cross the Yalu River and escape North Korea. His friend sadly died in the river. Young-won became more determined to make it to South Korea and hoped most of all to one day meet his relatives in South Korea. He was the newest child to come to the shelter but got along well with the other children.

Jung Kwong-Young (18) When Kwong-Young defected and was in China, he was so hungry that he tried to steal a dog to eat. He was caught and beaten severely. Kwong-Young would be described as a people person – he loves meeting people and wants to travel the world. He is a very bright young man. He likes to be stylish and you can tell he has a wonderful smile.

Ryu Kwong-Hyuk (17) This young man was unable to beg or steal for food because he felt great shame for his condition. When Moon-Chul found him he was nearly starved to death, but Moon-Chul kept Kwong-Hyuk alive making sure he had food. Kwong-Hyuk's dream is to get an education and one day serve the poor.

Lee Kwong-Hyuk (17) Kwong-Hyuk is a very wise young man who hopes to receive a good education in South Korea. He felt angry and frustrated that he was not able to receive education as a child in North Korea. Kwong-Hyuk felt a great deal of resentment for having had to live as a kkotjebbi and have no education.

Park Kwong-Hyuk (17) Kwong-Hyuk always missed having a family and wanted to experience the love of being part of one. He considered MJ and his wife to be his parents and didn't want to be separated from them. As a result, he ended up living with them for three (3) years. More than a safe place, Kwong-hyuk needed a family. He had a great passion for learning and always had lots of questions.

Ryu Chul-Ryoung (16) When Chul-Ryoung first arrived at MJ's home, he was so small for his age that he was able to pass himself off as a seven-year-old. Chul-Ryoung had been living on the streets with his father as a kkotjebi, but when his father kept drinking and beating Chul-Ryoung and not providing food, Chul-Ryoung had no choice but to run away and flee to China.

Chang Gook-Wha (15) Gook Wha has a beautiful singing voice and always sang along with South Korean singers on TV. She worked as a cook at a detention center for kkotjebbis in Shangmu. Learning about South Korea she would compare her life with South Korean teenagers. She asked herself: How could it be that every day she faced hardship and physical abuse but South Korean teenagers lived so much better lives.

Noh Yea Ji (14) Yea-Ji survived in North Korea by begging and was eventually sold to Chinese people to work on a farm. The hardship was unbearable for her which led her to escape and was repatriated back to North Korea. Yae-Ji was sold to China and repatriated in this manner two more times and eventually MJ and his wife rescued her. She would say to us many times "I'm only fourteen-years-old but life is too hard for me to bear." Yea-Ji wanted to go to South Korea very badly and wanted to live a normal life like other kids her age.