

Projects Promote Hope

Categories: Community Building/Community Development/Self-Reliance Assistance

BE A PART OF THE PROJECT: PARTNER WITH JEN AND CONTRIBUTE

<http://www.jen-npo.org/en/contribute>

Community Building

Art School Held for Children



***Above:** Children and volunteers working on art projects together*

In November, JEN held an art school for the children at a community space called “Nakayashiki Kissa” with the help from a team of volunteers from Studio Ai.

Despite the heavy rain, many children showed up to the event. While the children were very nervous and hesitant at first, seeing the volunteers drawing pictures eased them of their anxiousness. Soon, all of the children joined in and were creating their own individual artworks. Many girls created colorful images and boys constructed insects and animals with origami paper.

When closing time came, the children were in fact hesitant to leave, but JEN hosted the same event the next day as well. It is within JEN’s mission to help build a strong group of children

to lead the next generation in rebuilding regions such as Nakayashiki.

Community Development

Temporary Shopping Street opens in Oshika

On November 18, a temporary “Oshika Shopping Street” was formally opened in Ayukawahama, Oshika. The street itself consists of approximately sixteen shops, including those for food, beverage, fish, liquor, fruits, vegetables, souvenirs, electronic devices, and even a beauty salon.

In fact, JEN’s support for the restoration of shops and materialization was in collaboration with Hilfe zur Selbsthilfe e.V (HELP), a German non-profit relief organization, whom they also collaborated with in their assistance for refugees in the former Yugoslavia eighteen years ago.

In the opening ceremony, the Chairman of Oshika Inai Chamber of Commerce provided a speech along with other guest speakers before the opening of the shopping street. Once the ribbon was cut, the local people were able to enjoy food such as ramen, sushi, and soft serve ice cream, foods that they had not been able to eat since the initial disaster. Furthermore, many people encountered friends and neighbors for the first time in months.

Despite its size, the Oshika shopping street is a symbol of reconstruction. It is a place full of life and energy, and people are able to socialize here and remain in contact with one another, sharing thoughts and ideas. JEN will stand alongside the people of Ayukawahama, Oshika, in the rebuilding process – no matter how long it may take.

COUNTRY: Ishinomaki City, JAPAN

Community Building

Christmas Party Held at HANA House

On December 18, a Christmas party was held at HANA house in Kitsuma-Minami district in collaboration with NIHON L'OREAL Ltd., who helped JEN to prepare for the party. The party itself was a success with a huge turnout, and included people of all ages from children to adults.

The event allowed those who had not seen each other since the disaster to reunite and also gave the local people the opportunity to socialize and exchange information. Furthermore, people were able to participate in wreath crafting, which they were able to take home. In fact, there were just as many men as there were women! People were also waited in line to receive massage services from the L'OREAL staff members. Moreover, children were able to join in on the fun as well, having the opportunity to participate in craft projects.

At the very end, all participants were given 'goodie bags' – adults received bags with make-up and children received bags with candy. The event itself not only allowed for the local people to have fun, but also gave them the opportunity to socialize with other community members who have essentially all been experiencing similar fates following the disaster a few months prior.

Self-Reliance Assistance

Reconstructing an Independent Community

At the end of March, JEN began a meal service for those living in temporary housing following the disaster earlier that month. In fact, this marked the first step toward establishing community cafes throughout the region.

In June, the local people had begun to assist JEN volunteers who were working with meal services. Thus, a form of collaboration began between the local people and volunteers in the rebuilding process. Furthermore, in addition to meal services, various activities such as soccer school for children, exchanges with volunteers and locals over coffee, and the participation of volunteers who offered haircuts for locals began.

In July, JEN decided to halt the meal service

program, as it was leaning towards a form of emergency assistance. This essentially marked a turning point towards local independence, allowing for the local people to run the activities originally implemented by JEN. In fact, three community cafes are currently being run by locals as opposed to JEN staff members or volunteers. We eventually hope to see the rise of self-reliant communities throughout the region – those who do not solely depend on outside support in order to rebuild their homes and communities.



Above: Volunteers and locals at a community cafe



The 7 EN's of JEN

- Engage
- Entrust
- Encourage
- Endeavor
- Enjoy
- Encounter
- Enable

DONATE NOW AND HELP THE CAUSE!

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