

THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNITY BUILDING

Categories: Education Assistance/Emergency Support/Community Building/Community Development

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

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

Education Assistance

“Seminar of Hope” Brings Optimism

In March, JEN began an after-school program titled “Seminar of Hope” with a mission to assist junior-high and high school students in their education following the disaster. As many students were left uncertain about their futures, JEN did not want students giving up and abandoning their education.

Thus, in collaboration with NPO Florence, students now have the opportunity to discuss a variety of topics ranging from exam preparation, potential college studies, and even dreams of future jobs at the HANA community house.

The HANA house encourages children and adults to gather and talk on a regular basis in order to bring about a community spirit and also to allow people to free themselves from seclusion and to spend time with other people especially in time of need. The “Seminar of Hope” for students is to be held every Saturday afternoon for students.

Emergency Support

Efforts to Rebuild Livelihoods

Following the disaster almost a year ago, a majority of businesses fell out of operation in Ishinomaki city. Many had to focus on removing rubble and debris out of their cities as well as on collecting garbage. In fact, JEN conducted an investigation to seek some of the most damaged associations.

JEN found that the most severely damaged company was that of a 120 year old recycling firm in which 10 out of 33 employees perished in the disaster. In such a time of despair, the

reality was that even if I wanted to reconstruct the company, there was nothing – no office, no work,” he said. “However hard I tried it was impossible to rebuild the firm. Is there no choice but to give up?”



Above: Manager of recycling firm and his wife

Yet in his time of need, JEN spoke to him about renting out dump trucks for free in order to help build back up his business. Yet he was not only able to slowly resume work, but employment opportunities were created as well, allowing five of his former employees to return. Furthermore, using the trucks, his company contributed to the community by repairing wharfs damaged by the tsunami. In fact, they are currently repairing an affected plant in Kawaguchi Town.

This project was carried out thanks to JEN’s supporters as well in cooperation with Japan Platform (JPF).

Community Building

Crafts Brings Women Together

On April 28 and 29, nine volunteers from Mitsui & Co., Ltd helped women in temporary housing complexes to make pouches on sewing

COUNTRY: Ishinomaki City, JAPAN

machines at a frequent event titled “Mono Zukuri Ochako.” This is a gathering for people to accomplish a job that is difficult to carry out alone, thus allowing for socialization during an otherwise tedious chore, such as sewing. At HANA house, JEN encourages such activities among community members in order to build trust and reliance.



Above: Pouch making

In fact, Benesse Corporation donated thirteen sewing machines as well as materials to make pouches, hoping for people in disaster-stricken regions to make use of such supplies.

During the course of the gathering, people talked about a variety of topics and complimented one another on their hand-made pouches.

Community Development

Continued Efforts Toward the Recovery of Fisheries

Activities surrounding the efforts in recovering local fisheries in the Ishinomaki area have been continuing since last year. The primary coastal fishing industries under the Ishinomaki branch office of the Japan Fisheries Cooperatives (JF) include fisheries in Sasuhama, Sawada, Ogihama, Samuraihama, Orihama, Hamagurihama, Tsukiura, Momoura, Otakehama, Tashirosima as well as others. Following the disaster, the International Rescue Committee (IRC), an American NGO began supporting such fishing industries along with JEN.

As of February, JEN has been able to provide the damaged fishing industries with necessary equipment such as sky tanks, forklift trucks, palletes, kelp cropping machines, and plastic catch containers.

Further, when JEN paid a visit in mid-April in order to observe how their assistance was being implemented, they were able to see that the equipment were in good hands and that the local people were thankful.

“Since the tsunami swept away everything, we have been at loss what to do next,” one of the women mentioned. “We are so glad to have help from you. Thank you”

Despite the adversity that the local people have been through in the past year, they were still willing to smile even in the time of need, looking ahead with optimism.



The 7 EN's of JEN

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

DONATE NOW AND HELP THE CAUSE!

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