

Moving Forwards

Categories: Community Building/Psycho-Social Care/Agricultural Assistance

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

Community Building

“Ojakko Nomi” A Success!

As JEN’s aid distribution projects are slowly coming to an end, our upcoming mission is to provide research and assistance regarding specific needs within the Tohoku region and to continue to develop long term support-based activities.

One such activity is “Ojakko Nomi,” an event held recently in a number of temporary housing complexes throughout Oshika Peninsula, which allows people to come together and talk about their lives over tea and sweets.

Participants often come from different districts, and primarily consist of elderly women. Although it has been over a month since people have moved from evacuation shelters and into temporary housing, many people are still living with memories from the not-too-distant earthquake, and often avoid talking about their experiences. However, “Ojakko Nomi” puts them at ease and in positive mindsets to allow them to freely talk amongst one another. A few of the women even sang and danced with each other!



tents and talked to one another and catching up on how life has been recently.

There were two types of hotpots that were prepared for Imonikai: miso-based hotpot, which is popular in Miyagi Prefecture, and soy cause-based hotpot, which is popular in Yamagata Prefecture.

Once the meal was prepared, the event participants sat around the park eating, talking, and smiling all day long.

Psycho-Social Care

Pupils Uplift Local Spirit

On October 22, a “Show and Tell” event took place at Ogihama Primary School in Ojika Peninsula, where a number of JEN staff and volunteers joined in as audience members.

The JEN volunteers were familiar with the residents of the area, including students and teachers, for they had visited multiple times. In fact, the tsunami had swept over the school playground as well as a nearby stream, thus the JEN volunteers had participated in the removal of the sludge from the area. However, just as they were done with the sludge removal process, a massive typhoon caused a landslide, or *yama-*

Community Building

Hot Pot Event Held for Locals

On October 9, a party to celebrate the fall harvest season took place in Kazuma-Nishi Park. The local people had the opportunity to enjoy traditional Japanese hotpot at Imonikai, or “hotpot party.”

While the hotpot was being prepared, children participated in various activities such as soccer, painting, and drawing, while the elderly sat in

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tsunami (“tsunami from the mountain”), which undid all of their work. Yet JEN volunteers still continued their efforts.

At Ogihama Primary School, the number of students had gradually dropped to nine due to numerous transfers. However, the students still enthusiastically danced “The Soran,” a traditional Japanese dance about fishing. It proved to be a very uplifting performance for the audience, who were encouraged to speak out: “Whatever happened, this is our hometown,” they said, and proceeded to sing “Furusato,” or “My Hometown” together.

JEN will continue to help rebuild the lives of people through sharing a common spirit of optimism.



Above: A large audience gathers to watch the “Show and Tell” performed by students

Agricultural Assistance

Land Development Efforts in Onagawa

On October 23, JEN helped to transport fertile soil to a farm land in Kojohama in Onagawa. The owner of the plot of land, who was partially blind, had opted to offer part of his land for those living in temporary housing complexes nearby. In fact, he allowed for the construction of makeshift housing for 31 families.

After the Misato Social Welfare Conference (MSWC) talked another farmer into letting JEN use his fertile soil five trucks were used to pick up the soil. However, due to heavy rainfall the previous night, loading the moist and heavy soil onto all of the trucks proved to be a difficult task and took much longer than expected.

The soil was then carried to Kojohama, where two students from Koushida Agricultural High School, one student from Sendai Ikuei Gakuen School, and ten local volunteers were waiting. They managed to level the soil onto the farm land, make ridges, and sow seeds.

In cooperation with Japan Platform, MSWC and the farmer who offered his land, JEN was able to see success for the local people.



Above: Local volunteers working on farm land



The 7 EN’s of JEN

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

DONATE NOW AND HELP THE CAUSE!

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