

RECOVERY AND REVITALIZATION IN TOHOKU

Categories: Community Building/ Volunteer Dispatch/ Psychosocial Care/ Empowerment

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

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

PsychoSocial Care

A Soccer Tournament for Boys and Girls by Meiji University



Above: Children happily play soccer with each other.

On January 13 and 14, the Ishinomaki Nichi Nichi Shinbun (Newspaper) Soccer Cup for Boys and Girls took place. This tournament was co-hosted by Meiji University, which is affiliated with Meiji High School, Ishinomaki Nichi Nichi Shinbun, and the Ishinomaki Football Association. Fourteen teams from various parts of Ishinomaki City participated in the two day event. JEN helped with the preparation and logistics of the event.

Volunteers from the Meiji High School soccer cup ran the event and served as referees, time keepers and score keepers. Students from other clubs volunteered to cook “imoni” which is a hotpot with taro, vegetables and meat. The students, along with JEN staff members, served 700 people during the two day event. One student said, “I’m looking forward to next year’s event. I want to stay involved with the activity.” This event is planned to continue for the next five years.

Volunteer Dispatch

2013’s Very First Volunteers Include Students from the Harvard Business School

JEN’s Ishinomaki staff members organized 2013’s very first volunteer activity, which took place on January 12th. This day attracted 37 volunteers including students from the Harvard Business School.

Volunteers took part in cleaning side ditches next to a greenhouse, which was reconstructed by a farmer last fall. He says that he plans on growing cucumbers in the greenhouses this spring. After a tiresome morning, the volunteers participated in mochi pounding and were welcomed by oyster soup from the Higashihama fishermen. Higashihama, located in Oshika Peninsula, was also devastated by the tsunami and earthquake. JEN’s Ishinomaki branch will continue organizing volunteer activities, which allow volunteers and locals to interact.



Above: All 37 volunteers take a photo at the end of the day.

COUNTRY: Ishinomaki City, JAPAN

Community Building

The Start of the Kadonowaki Flower Garden Movement



Above: Together, students plant flowers to contribute to the restoration of their town.

First-year students at Kadonowaki Junior High School planted a flower garden near their elementary school after learning of activities that could lead to the restoration of Ishinomaki during their integrated learning class. An idea that was brought up by a student was creating a flower garden in their schoolyard, but the plan was moved to a vacant lot near their elementary school because their school was scheduled to be knocked down. The soil was mixed with debris, metal, and glass pieces so the JEN staff members and teachers decided to replace the soil.

After speaking with the Misatomachi Social Welfare Council, we were introduced to a farmer in Higashimatsushima who generously donated soil, and a truck to carry the soil was donated by a truck owner who assisted in removing debris last year. This project was supported by the Miyagi Commission for Restoration of Life with Flower and Greenery 3.11, which donated wood, flower seedlings, tulip bulbs and compost. A local flower shop also donated flower bulbs to the project. It was apparent that the entire community wanted to see the students' project succeed.

Despite the chilly and windy weather on November 28th, the students successfully planted the flowers designed as a heart. One student said, "Thanks to everybody, we were able to complete the flower garden more beautifully than we expected. We want to contribute to the restoration of our town as much as possible by planting flowers throughout our town."

Empowerment

Watatsumi Jewellery Officially for Sale!

The Association of Miyagi Fisheries Cooperative's Women's Group (FCWG) has been making "Watatsumi" jewelry which is made from abalone shells, and they have officially begun selling them. Since spring 2012 JEN has been helping FCWG, an organization that promotes local consumption, provides nutrition education to children, assistance to children of marine accidents, and lifejacket promotion, with their activities. Unfortunately due to the earthquake, many members had to flee, and the organization lacked financial aid and persons.

Each Watatsumi accessory is unique because they are handcrafted. At first, they were only sold at events, but now they are sold regularly at "Roman Kaiyuu 21", which is by the Ishinomaki Station and can be made to order through fax. The members use the money towards their organization's activities. JEN asked Mr. Yusuke Honda a metalworking artist from Higashimatsushima, where he runs his studio called POPPO, to teach the members how to design and make fashion accessories. The female members decided to name their product after the god of the sea, Watatsumi, from Japanese mythology in memory of the tsunami victims.



Above: Each Watatsumi jewelry is handcrafted and unique.

DONATE NOW AND HELP THE CAUSE!

NGO JEN (Japan Emergency NGO)

7/F, Daini Tobundo Bldg, Ageba-cho, Shinjuku,
Tokyo, JAPAN 162-0826

Phone: (81) 3-5225-9352 / Fax: (81) 3-5225-9357

Email: info@jen-npo.org / web: www.jen-npo.org

©JEN, All Rights Reserved.