

BRINGING BACK SMILES TO TOHOKU

Categories: Community Development/ Volunteer Dispatch/ Psycho-Social Care/ Empowerment

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

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

Psycho-Social Care

Empowerment

Ishinomaki Children Captivate the Audience at their Annual Dance Recital



Above: Children who took monthly dance lessons happily perform in front of family and friends.

On October 11th, the children attending JEN's dance class performed at Watanoha Performing Arts Festival after practicing for a year. The monthly dance classes, which began in October 2012, were taught by Ms. Ryoko Nomura and Ms. Minami Zushi from R2Creative Dance Studio in Tokyo.

The aim of the dance classes was to provide physical and mental exercise for the children as well as an opportunity for them to socialize with other children their age. Through these classes, many students made lots of friends and met many classmates.

Friends, family, and locals were all very impressed by the children's performance! JEN will continue to hold dance classes for the children living in Ishinomaki.

JEN Holds PC Class

One of the residents in Oharahama said, "I want to create brochures for myself to advertise direct selling of sea products." Another said, "I'd like to exchange information with those who came to volunteer to help us after the disaster."

In response to the requests made by the residents in Oharahama, JEN, in cooperation with Tohoku Reconstruction University and Basic Human Needs Association, has opened a "Personal Computer Class for the Use of ICT as Reconstruction Support." On this day, which was the fourth lecture, basics of Microsoft Word and Excel were taught using computers at Oharahama.

Mr. Takahashi, a hog raiser, wants to sell products online and came to learn how to do so. Another resident, who is a restaurant owner, came to the lecture to learn how to make menus and posters using the computer. There has been an increase in the number of Oharahama people using social networking to connect with volunteers and supporters, which has been keeping their spirits up during times of hardship.



Above: A participant learns how to use Facebook.

COUNTRY: Ishinomaki City, JAPAN

Community Development

Hamakon 2013: Matchmaking Event!



Above: Participants got to know each during the two day event.

A matchmaking event was held on September 21st and 22nd in cooperation with Zwei Co., Ltd. and Yahoo Japan Cooperation. This event was held in hopes to populate the rural areas in Oshika Peninsula, which have been experiencing depopulation due to rapid aging of the population and a decrease in birth rates. Because of this, the locals asked JEN to address this issue.

Eighteen males from nine rural areas in Ishinomaki and ten females from in and around Miyagi Prefecture participated in the event. On the first day of the two day event, the participants introduced themselves to each other, conversed freely amongst themselves and enjoyed a BBQ full of local seafood and fireworks. On the second day, the males from Oohara district gave a Shishifuri, lion dance, performance, and other males came dressed in their everyday work attire and explained their jobs as fishermen. At the end of the event, eight couples were made, including a fifty-nine year old, the oldest male out of the participants!



The 7 EN's of JEN

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

Volunteer Dispatch

Furusato Kodomo College in Yagawahama



Left: " I used to go fishing before the disaster, but it's been awhile

JEN held "Furusato Kodomo College in Yagawahama" on October 12th to give children an opportunity to experience fishery. At the event, members of the UNIQLO Employee Reconstruction Support Project volunteered.

Children were able to experience activities, such as fishing, cultivating oysters, removing barnacles from scallops, with fishermen who are members of Yagawahama Fisheries Cooperative's Oyster Group. Due to the conditions after the disaster, children have had fewer chances to go to the sea and enjoy activities.

This event was held to in order to show the children how great of a place Ishinomaki is.



Above: Children learn how to make mother shells to cultivate oysters in the farm.

DONATE NOW AND HELP THE CAUSE!

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