
EAST JAPAN SUPPORT PROJECT NEWSLETTER ('EJ News')

No. 2 (September 11, 2013)

NPO Committee for Children Japan (<http://www.cfc-j.org/> / Mailing address: renraku@cfc-j.org)



Many fallen and new gravestones



Buses to temporary housing



Vacant playground



Mrs. Watanabe's practice

Two and half years have passed since the Great North East Japan Earthquake occurred. Approximately 470,000 people were evacuated three days after the disaster, and approximately 290,000 people still live in temporary housing. The people who moved to temporary housing from refuge facilities are approximately 109,000 people. As for them, weakening and isolation of community ties have become a problem. The government cannot carry out enough measures to care for their mental health. Particularly, many small children are in stressful situations, and a concrete program for trauma prevention is necessary.

We are in the second year of our East Japan Support Project offering emotional support to these children through Second Step. Our approach combines (1) speaking at public meetings where we emphasize the need to pay attention to children's emotional well-being and share the effects of Second Step, (2) training meetings for promising organizations (where they receive free Second Step materials), and (3) follow-up group visits by our Master Trainers for demonstration and continued support.

In June and July 2013, we held two training meetings in Morioka City and Sendai City. 48 people participated in these training meetings. In July, President and Mrs. Watanabe and Mr. M. Watanabe (Secretary General) visited Asahigaoka Nursery School in Koriyama City, where they are now using Second Step. Children of the nursery school there cannot play now in its outdoor playground due to the ongoing radiation pollution from the nuclear power plant accident. We also visited two elementary schools which sheltered children from the radiation-polluted Okuma Town to Aizu Wakamatsu City (80 kilometer west) and talked with two principals.

In August, President and Mrs. Watanabe visited a nursing home of Sendai City, confirming the practice situation of Second Step and also visited a nursery school of Ishinomaki City, where a training meeting is being planned in October. There were a lot of children who had lost their parent(s), and the teachers were looking forward to the training meetings of Second Step. In December, we are planning the second training meeting in Koriyama City, following the one held in February, 2013. We intend to invite teachers of elementary schools of sheltering children suffering after the nuclear plant accident at no expense to them and give them free Second Step materials.

Shun-ichi J. Watanabe, CFCJ President

Total Amount of Donations (As of September 4, 2013): JPY3,938,631 (USD 39,552.00; EUR 30,056.00)

"CFCJ East Japan Support Fund."

- Bank Name: The Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ, Ltd.
 - SWIFT CODE/ BIC: BOTKJPJT
 - Branch Name: Higashi-Matsubara Branch
 - Account Number: 319-0020935
 - Beneficiary's Name: CFCJ East Japan Support Fund
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