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# EAST JAPAN SUPPORT PROJECT NEWSLETTER ('EJ News')

No. 1 (March 11, 2013)

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

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Today, the entire country of Japan is filled with sad pictures and memories of the events that took place just two years ago. Across the country, quiet prayers are offered in memory of the East Japan Tsunami and Radiation Disaster that left nearly 20,000 dead or lost. Along approximately 500 kilometers of the coastal area that was destroyed by the tsunami, very little has been rebuilt and it remains mostly uninhabitable. Nearly 150,000 people are still living away from their own homes due to radiation pollution from the nuclear power plant. Small children are prohibited from playing outdoors and there are ongoing risks to their physical development as well as mental trauma.



This is the beginning of 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 sessions 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.



During the 2012 fiscal year (April 2012-March 2013), we held 4 public meetings (332 people attended), 2 training meetings (43 participants) and we made 3 group visits (11 organizations participated), in addition to field surveys and other meetings. As a result, we have established a local strategic base in Morioka City (pop: 200,000) in Iwate Prefecture, with the Ishinomaki Nursery School - the first to adopt Second Step. A second base is now being established in Fukushima Prefecture with the Bandai Second Elementary School, where they are also now using Second Step. In the 2013 fiscal year (April 2013-March 2014), we are starting a new cycle of public meetings, training meetings and group visits in Sendai City (pop: 1,064,000) in addition to Morioka and Fukushima.



We plan to send you this 'EJ News' twice a year in March and September to report back to you about our project. We thank you for your continued support and concern. From April the new Secretary-General is Masuo Watanabe. He is from Miyagi Prefecture, one of the prefectures affected by the disaster, so our project will continue in full swing.

(by Shun-ichi J. Watanabe, CFCJ President)



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Total Amount of Donation (As of March 8, 2013): JPY3,454,660.- (USD 35,990.-; EUR 27,440.-)

"CFCJ East Japan Support Fund."

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