

ROAD TO RECOVERY

Earthquake Updates by JWCU Japan Workers' Co-operative Union April 26, 2011

Over a month after the earthquake and tsunami, we are receiving more information on the damage. In this issue, we have sad news about several JWCU members who have lost their lives.

In the meantime, we are also seeing a growing circle of support. Not only worker-members but also children and people in the communities are giving whatever they have to support worker coops in Tohoku region.

We are truly grateful for all the kindness!

From the Frontline

Damage Is Not Just in Tohoku: Liquefaction in Urayasu City (next to Tokyo)

The earthquake on March 11 hit not only Tohoku region but also other parts of the country. In Urayasu City, Chiba Prefecture (very close to Tokyo Disney Land), after-school clubs run by JWCU members have been forced to close due to liquefaction. Among the 4 clubs, the one at Meikai District was damaged the most. Part of its building sank, cracks



appeared in the ground, water pipes broke, and a manhole in front of the building popped up from the ground (please see the picture above).

Thanks to the assistance by neighboring clubs and the city, the Meikai Club restarted its service on March 28th at a different building.

Human and Property Damages Found in Onagawa Members (Miyagi Prefecture)

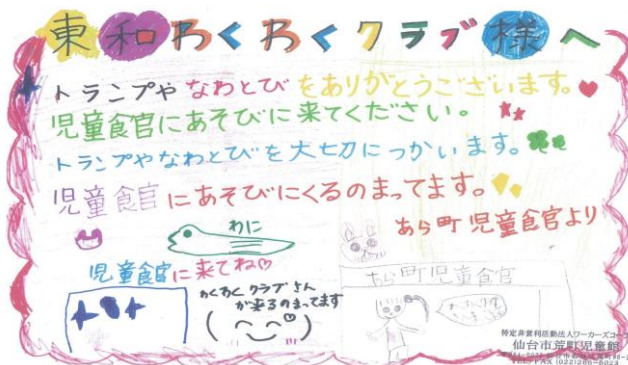
While there had been no report of casualties among the members, JWCU's mutual aide department recently received a report from Bihoro in Onagawa City (Miyagi Prefecture) and found that 3 of its members have been killed due to the earthquake and tsunami. Five of its members have lost their families, 12 members' houses were fully destroyed, and 7 houses were partially destroyed.

Thank You from Tohoku: Messages from Children's Halls in Sendai

JWUC members run children's halls throughout the country. In order to support the friends in Tohoku, members at a children's hall in Tokyo (Towa Wakuwaku Club) sent toys and clothing, which had been donated by the children's parents and people in the community, to 2 children's halls in Sendai (Miyagi Prefecture) run by other JWCU members.

A few weeks later, the members in Tokyo received a letter from Sendai. Inside of the envelope was a thank you card from the children and members at 1 of the 2 children's halls (Please see below for the thank you card and its translation).

Through this tragedy, children in Tokyo are learning to care about other people. They say, "I'm glad that other kids were happy to receive my clothes," and "I want to send some of my savings to Sendai." They are now volunteering to write letters and send toys to Sendai, and this could be the start of wonderful friendship between children in the 2 regions.



"Dear Towa Wakuwaku Club,
Thank you very much for the playing cards and jumping ropes. We will cherish these gifts. Please come and visit our Children's Hall.
From Aramachi Children's Hall"

Nationwide Support

Charity Bazaar in Tokyo

On April 17th, JWCU members who run a children's hall in Fussa City (western part of Tokyo) held Charity Bazaar so that residents in the community can support people in Tohoku region through contributing and purchasing goods.

People of all ages played key roles to make this event successful. For example, elementary school children at the hall made



posters for the event, middle-school students donated their toys and comics, and an elderly person brought a bottle filled with coins for donation.

The total of 13,685 yens was raised, and all will be sent to people in Tohoku. This may not be much, but their compassion is priceless.

Relief Fund Updates

As of April 22nd, over 14 million yens have been donated to the JWCU relief fund from individuals and organizations to support reconstruction efforts. Additional 90 million yens are to be raised through each worker-member's donation of the end-of-year surplus distribution.

In order to provide direct support for our members who have suffered the loss and to create jobs to reconstruct communities in Tohoku region, JWCU will continue our efforts to raise 1 billion yens in 3 years through a long-term campaign.