

# JETAA ALASKA LIFE UP NORTH

Mari Rueter

A series of several parallel white lines of varying lengths, slanted diagonally from the bottom left towards the top right, located in the right half of the image.

- ▶ For the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary after the Tohoku Earthquake, we had a screening of **“Tohoku Tomo”**, in order to make people in Anchorage more aware of the volunteer efforts and the new friendships that were formed.
- ▶ We had over 100 people in attendance. **Wesley Julian** (Director/Producer) and **Daniel Martin** (Producer) gave a brief presentation and Q&A session about their project. **Shelley Fredrickson** (sister of Monty Dickson) gave a presentation about her brother and his passion as an ALT.
- ▶ We had support from **CLAIR**, the **Consular Office of Japan in Anchorage** and the **Japanese Society of Alaska** for this event. Look for a good venue (ours could seat a large amount of people and was FREE)

# TOHOKU TOMO SCREENING



- ▶ For the past two years, JETAA Alaska members have volunteered at the **Japanese Society of Alaska's (JSA) Natsu Matsuri** (AKA Summer Festival). The event is a way to introduce locals to Japanese culture and some of their summer traditions. With how small our chapter is, our goal is to team up with JSA for events to continue and strengthen our ties to Japan.
- ▶ **Chris Vaughan** (JETAA AK President) and I recruited volunteers as we were also officers of JSA during this event. We helped with food preparation, JSA membership sign up, advertising, etc. There were martial arts and flower arrangement demonstrations, Japanese food, traditional dance and music, as well as a sumo tournament to name a few things from our program.
- ▶ Team up with other organizations involving relations to Japan!  
Social media is a great way to advertise.  
Look for sponsors!  
Appeal to different types of people.

# JSA NATSU MATSURI



- ▶ This past year, I got to work as an events coordinator for the **Monty Dickson Center** with **Dr. Hiroko Harada** (Director). The center was created to honor the memory of **Monty Dickson**, a participant of the JET Program who perished during the Tohoku Earthquake of 2011. "The Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership supports various activities at the University of Alaska Anchorage with the intent to enhance future generation's understanding of Japan."



- ▶ This year, we had a tea ceremony (one of Monty's favorite hobbies) and a lecture series about robot technology in Japan. **Dr. Takanori Shibata** is the creator of Paro (a registered medical device disguised as a seal) and gave a keynote speech about robot technology and the effectiveness of Paro with people of various psychological conditions.



- ▶ JETAA AK plans to collaborate more with the Monty Dickson Center on future events. Another great organization to work with on events relating to Japan.

# MONTY DICKSON CENTER

