



Our journey began when we founded Hope for Tomorrow in May 2011. We submitted the NPO application to the Tokyo Metropolitan Government in June and became an NPO organization in October. With your generous contributions, we were able to provide educational support, language program and international exchange program to help the high school students in the Great East Japan Earthquake affected areas. We would like to report to you our activities for FY 2011.

We have provided financial support of over JPY 740MM (USD 9.25MM\*) to 244 selected students in the 5 schools located in the quake-affected areas of Fukushima, Miyagi and Iwate prefectures. We have started an online international exchange program between volunteers at the Yale University in the United States and high school students in Kesennuma High School in Miyagi prefecture. We have also conducted a home stay program in partnership with The Harvey School in the United States. Intensive English language lessons and presentation training were provided to support the 4 high school students visiting the United States, who presented their earthquake experiences in English during their stay. Their speech deeply moved many people. This was widely reported both in Japan and in the United States.

Through these various activities supported by your goodwill, we were able to expand the cooperation network. We would like to extend our appreciation to everyone who has supported us financially, and through various benevolence; The Harvey School and those who helped us make the exchange program successful, US JET, tutors of our English language programs, those who helped us create our website, and the high school teachers in the quake-affected areas.

Compared to the devastating impact of the earthquake, the scale of our activities may be small. However, we strongly believe that we were able to connect not only the hearts of our generous supporters and the high school students, but others around us. We look forward to another year of activities. We would like to thank you again for your generosity and hope for your continued support in the years to come.

\* USD 1 = JPY 80

Hitoshi Tanaka  
Chairman  
May 2012

---

NPO Hope for Tomorrow  
Tel/Fax +81-3-6407-0936  
info@hope-tomorrow.jp  
<http://hope-tomorrow.jp>

[ Bank Transfer Information ]  
Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation  
SWIFT code: SMBCJPJT  
Branch name: Head Office  
Account number: ordinary 2365928  
Account name: NPO Hope for Tomorrow

## 2011 Activity Report (for the period May 2011 – March 2012)

### I. Educational Support Program

Educational Support 2011	Fukushima		Miyagi		Iwate	
	Total	Haramachi	Ishinomaki	Kesennuma	Ofunato	Takata
Number of students	244	14	19	85	56	70
Amount of grant	¥7,405,000	¥750,000	¥950,000	¥2,000,000	¥1,540,000	¥2,165,000

As part of our support for continuing education through financing of college application fees, and in response to the request by the schools to distribute funding to as many students as possible, a total of 244 students received support in 2011.

Please refer to the separate report for messages from the students and teachers.

### II. International Exchange Support Program

We have planned and executed the international exchange support through video conference with the Yale University students, letter correspondence with the Bernards High School students, and a homestay program with The Harvey School, all in the United States.

#### ① Exchange with Yale University, United States

Since October 2011, students at the Kesennuma High School in Miyagi Prefecture have begun communicating via video conference with students at the Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut. We hope the face-to-face communication in English will enable a deepening of mutual understanding.

In addition, using the bestseller book, “Diary of a Wimpy Kid” as training material, students are exposed to foreign cultures through the everyday life of the main character. We hope these opportunities will enable the students to get to know different values, which will expand their horizons in the future.



The students at Kesennuma High School participating in the video conference



#### ② Letter correspondence with Bernards High School

From December 2011, members of the volunteer group “Key Club” at Bernards High School, Bernardsville, New Jersey, and seven female students at the Kesennuma High School started a letter correspondence. The Key Club members hope to express support and encouragement during difficult times. They look forward to meeting each other one day.



The members of the Bernards High School Key Club with whom they exchange letters

At Kesennuma High School, we have provided training materials and a computer to conduct video conference. In May 2012, we have placed three additional donated computers, which will hopefully further promote the overseas exchange.

### ③ The Harvey School Home Stay Program in United States

Four students participated in the home stay program with The Harvey School, located just outside of New York City, for eleven days beginning March 23, 2012: Kana Fukao and Hazuki Kumagai from Takata High School of Iwate Prefecture, and Chiaki Iimi and Yukako Shimizu from Kesennuma High School of Miyagi Prefecture. The four students stayed at the homes of the students at The Harvey School and participated in various activities including classes, extracurricular activities, visiting Yale University and New York City, and participating in the spring festival at the United Nations International School. They returned home with valuable experience.

The Harvey School reported that “the four students were excellent ambassadors, and their speech at the all-school assembly on their experience with the earthquake was extremely moving.” The Harvey School hoped to provide students from the disaster-stricken areas with a fun experience; however, the students at The Harvey School also gained valuable perspectives through the project, making it meaningful for both parties.

The Harvey School provided the round-trip tickets as well as expenses incurred during the stay, while we financed expenses incurred domestically such as domestic transportation expense, lodging expense as well as other expenses such as overseas travel insurance expense.

The following are the itinerary of the home stay program and the feedback we received from students:

#### 1<sup>st</sup> day

Travel from Ichinoseki station in Iwate Prefecture to Tokyo. At the hotel in Tokyo, students went through orientation followed by rehearsal of their presentation in English. Please refer to the Kahoku Shimpō newspaper article reporting the event on page 5.

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> day

Departure from Narita Airport to New York. The Harvey School and the host families welcomed the students at the airport.



#### 3<sup>rd</sup> day

Spent Sunday with the host families.

With excitement and apprehension, students embark on their first trip → overseas

#### 4<sup>th</sup> ~ 7<sup>th</sup> day

Participated in classes and extracurricular activities with the host sisters.



←Kana Fukao attends class with her host sister

Yukako Shimizu participates in a class at her host sister's yoga club→



←A snapshot in front of the school with Mr. Tim Cornell, a teacher at The Harvey School who teaches Japanese and who took care of the students during their stay



## 5<sup>th</sup> day — Afternoon

Visited Yale University. Yale University students, whom the Kesennuma High School students have spoken via video conference, toured the students around campus.

## 7<sup>th</sup> day

Presented “Through the Disaster on March 11, 2011” in English at the all-school assembly at The Harvey School. Please refer to the newspaper article on The Journal News on page 6 and 7. Visited JAA NY.

Visiting Yale University campus→



← Chiaki Iimi presenting in English in front of a large audience (From The Journal News website)



## 8<sup>th</sup> day

Participated in the spring festival at the United Nations International School. Each student gave a 10-minute presentation of her experience of the earthquake. Visited the residence of the New York Consul afterwards.

← Hazuki Kumagai explaining the situation at the time of the earthquake using slides

The visit to the United Nations International School was broadcasted on Japan Broadcasting Corporation NHK news, on March 31.

## 9<sup>th</sup> day

Last day in the United States.

## 10<sup>th</sup> day

Farewell with the host families and return to Japan.



(From the NHK news site)



## 11<sup>th</sup> day

After arriving at Narita International Airport, return to Iwate Prefecture by the shinkansen.

On April 6<sup>th</sup>, Fuji Television news program FNN Speak broadcasted a special program on the returning students.

(From the FNN news site)

## 《 Feedback from the participants 》

“I was struck by how American students interacted with their teachers, discussed amongst themselves, and asked questions – everyone was lively and enthusiastic. The content of the classes seemed 2 or 3 times more enriching than in Japan. English is not something you can learn passively, waiting to be taught at school. I believe that you have to proactively learn it.” (Chiaki Iimi)

“I was deeply moved when I gave my presentation. I felt a strong sense of unity with the audience and felt happy. It was a moment where there were no national boundaries. It made me feel that I wasn’t the only one trying; I wasn’t alone.” (Yukako Shimizu)

“I saw that American people were proactive and had their own opinions. At the same time, even when I couldn’t speak well, they listened attentively. I was happy to be able to see a new culture with my own eyes.” (Hazuki Kumagai)

“Unlike in Japanese classrooms, teachers did not use the blackboards often, but encouraged lots of discussions and proactive question-asking. Communicating wasn’t always easy because of differences in lifestyle, culture, and language, but I feel that I have become more proactive than before.” (Kana Fukao)

All of the students expressed their desire to make good use of their home stay experiences and to continue to learn English further.

### III. Foreign Language Support Program

Foreign language lessons were provided to The Harvey School homestay program participants through video conference once to twice a week for four months as part of the foreign language support program. In addition to basic day-to-day English, the lessons focused on lifestyle differences in order to prepare them for their homestays. Students also received an intensive training for the English presentation they delivered about the earthquake. These English trainings were given by volunteers with experience living abroad and teaching English.

For the support to the Takata High School in Iwate Prefecture, we have provided one computer for video conference and we cover the monthly internet fees.



Learning table manners with the volunteer English teachers at the send-off party

< “Kahoku Shimpō” Tuesday, March 27, 2012 >

## To Convey Gratitude for the Support

### 4 Girls from Kesennuma and Takata High School Leave for the United States

Four students from Kesennuma High School (Kesennuma) and Takata High School (Rikuzen Takada), survivors of the Great East Japan Earthquake, left for the United States on April 24<sup>th</sup>. Supported by “Hope for Tomorrow”, NPO in Tokyo, the girls will interact with local students during their 10 days stay. All four voiced their wishes, “to express our gratitude for the support we’ve received”.

#### Tokyo NPO Bridge the Exchange

Yukako Shimizu (16) and Chiaki Iimi (16), both sophomores of Kesennuma High School, and Hazuki Kumagaya (17), junior, and Kana Fukao (16), sophomore of Takata High School, will stay with local families and attend classes and activities at a High School in the suburbs of New York. They will all be making a speech in English.

Miss Shimizu said that “many volunteers came from overseas, but I found it difficult to communicate” and so hopes to “express gratitude” in her own words. Miss Iimi was eager to report in her speech “the determination to overcome grief and that we are stepping forward to recovery”.

### “Thank You” in My Own Words

### Home Stay and Speech in English

NPO was established by Hitoshi Tanaka, a former Foreign Ministry official. They have supported 244 students from 5 High Schools in Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima Prefectures providing financial support for college entrance exams. They encourage foreign exchange, for example, by connecting Kesennuma High School and university in the United States through video conference on the internet.

Director Rieko Tanaka said, “we wish to assist education and international exchange for the future generation” and “to carry on the responsibility of passing the goodwill that are offered by many people.”

(Translated by Hope for Tomorrow)





# Japanese students give lesson in resilience, spirit



From left, Hazuki Kumagai, Kana Fukao, Chiaki Limi and Yukako Shimizu, high schoolers from Japan whose world was turned upside down by the 2011 tsunami, talk Thursday at The Harvey School in Katonah. JOE LARESE/THE JOURNAL NEWS

*"What we lost we must restore for the sake of the people who died."*

**YUKAKO SHIMIZU,**  
tsunami survivor

## Girls visit Harvey School, share tsunami tragedy

**By Rob Ryser**  
rryser@lohud.com

KATONAH — Yukako Shimizu will never forget the fright of outrunning the tsunami as she watched people who were not as young and not as athletic get washed into the sea.

And local students who got to know the 16-year-old survivor from Japan's northeastern coast where 130-foot waves killed 15,000 people last year may have a better picture of what it means to be no-

ble in grief and what it takes to find peace in brokenness.

At least that is the vision The Harvey School Headmaster Barry Fenstermacher had in inviting Shimizu and three other teen girls from rural Japan to Bedford for a week of cross-cultural exchange.

"What we lost we must restore for the sake of the people who died," Shimizu told 400 students and staff packed into

See SPIRIT, Page 4A



# SPIRIT: Girls share search for meaning

Continued from Page 1A

Harvey's Lasdon Theater on Thursday, the sleeve of her pink sweater wet with tears and held to her mouth against the pain of what she was sharing. "I realize that even though you don't understand the language, you are connected through the heart."

Her speech about the struggle to find meaning in suffering was the most public part of a one-week visit paid for by Hitachi America Ltd. and arranged by a charity in Japan that helps students in the tsunami-ravaged region continue their education.

Each girl stayed with a family of a Harvey School student and followed that student to classes. Activities were coordinated by Tim Cornell, a Japanese-language teacher who met his wife in Japan years ago while he was teaching there.

He said the Japanese girls' visit had as much to do with celebrating the resiliency of the human spirit as it did with easing the girls' burden by showing them that people still care.

Kana Fukao did not cry during her presentation Thursday before the students and staff of Harvey, even if the 16-year-old made others cry when she described the search for her mother.

"She died. She was 43 years old," said Fukao,



Standing in front from left, high schoolers from Japan Kana Fukao, Chiaki Limi, Yukako Shimizu and Hazuki Kumagai pose Thursday with members of their host families and staff at The Harvey School. JOE LARESE/THE JOURNAL NEWS

reading in English from notes while photographs of her flooded city, Rikuzentakata, were projected on a screen behind her.

Just a few feet before Fukao in the front row, Patricia Lambert of Cortlandt could not hold back tears.

As one of the host families, the Lamberts did everything they could to make Fukao feel comfortable during her stay with them, including cooking her favorite food — pasta. But it was the young ambassador who wound up comforting the Lamberts.

"I cried a lot when she told me about everything, and she would hold me and say, 'Don't worry. I'm OK. And my mom is OK,'" said Lambert, whose daughter Karina and son Keith go to Harvey. "She

lost everything, but she said, 'I'm OK.' She probably got that strength from her mother."

For Harvey student Emily Silk of Greenwich, Conn., the experience of having Shimizu stay with her has grown much larger in perspective than a one-week visit might suggest.

"We like so many of the same things," said Silk, a sophomore and a member of Harvey's Japanese Language Club. "But when she told me how she was running up to safety and she saw a woman being swept away by the tsunami, I can't even imagine what that would be like."

Shimizu and the three other teens from Japan fly back to Tohoku on Sunday.

As hard as it was for

the girls to stand before a crowd and speak in a second language about the tragedy, they are stronger for it, said Hiroki Tsukimori, a senior vice president at Hitachi, based in Tarrytown.

"Of course they remember the tragedy, but they are going forward to build their own lives," Tsukimori said.

Cornell said he hoped that point resonates with Harvey students.

"The girls' cheerfulness and their attitudes are amazing considering what they went through," he said. "Hopefully it will make our students appreciate what they have here in the United States and help them see that whatever life throws at them, they can overcome."

Non-Profit Organization Hope for Tomorrow  
Statement of Activities

For the Period from October 12, 2011 to March 31, 2012

(unit : Yen)

Account	Amount		
I Current Revenues			
1 Revenues from Direct Public Support			
Supports College Entrance Exams	2,873,430		
Supports International Exchange etc.	80,000		
Supports both of above activities	2,403,960	5,357,390	
2 Revenues from Contribution			
Contribution from Officers	300,000		
Donation	202,770	502,770	
3 Other Revenues			
Interest Income	500		
Transfer from the former organization (5/1~10/11/12)			
Revenue from Direct Public Support			
Supports College Entrance Exams	1,853,000		
Supports International Exchange etc.	120,000		
Supports both of above activities	3,794,000		
Revenue from Contribution			
Contribution from Officers	110,000		
Interest Income	9	5,877,509	
Total Current Revenues			11,737,669
II Current Expenses			
1 Program Services Expenses			
(1) Grant Funding for College Entrance Exam.			
Bank Transfer (5 schools)	7,405,000		
Transfer Service Charge	74,980		
(2) International Exchange & Learning English			
PC 2 sets	117,050		
Internet Connection Fees	8,188		
English Learning Materials	10,582		
Visiting US High School Program (4 students)			
Local Transportation & accomodation	202,576		
Travel Insurance	40,800		
Self Completed Medical Records	3,996	7,863,172	
2 Operations Expenses			
Postage & Telephone	29,379		
Travel & Transportation	172,945		
Office Supplies	35,083		
Service Charge	12,260		
Books	20,900		
Conference Expenses	12,784		
Tax	2,100		
Insurance	5,400		
Miscellaneous	67,064	357,915	
Total Current Expenses			8,221,087
Difference between Revenues & Expenses			
Appropriation for Program Services for 2012			3,261,727
Appropriation for Operation Expense for 2012			254,855
			3,516,582
Current Net Assets			3,516,582



## 【 Messages from the students 】

All of 244 students who received grant in 2011 submitted essays. Here are a few messages from the students and teachers of each school.



### Fukushima Prefectural Haramachi High School

- Now that the entrance exam is over, I have mixed feelings for my new life beginning in April. At university, I will major civil and environment engineering. I want to learn coexistence of people and nature to create towns well protected against natural disasters. I am determined that someday I will take part in rebuilding my hometown, Fukushima and Minami Soma City.
- I didn't make any progress in my study by changing my living condition after the disaster. However, I did my best under the circumstances and got admission by my first choice of university. Through the experience, I learned that to achieve academic goal, we need not only studying with books but also focusing and staying calm. I appreciate those who helped us.
- Before 3.11, I easily gave up things. For the past year, I have never given up my dream and kept making efforts. I am proud of what I have done in the past year. Keeping in mind this experience, I want to be a nurse who is brave and focused.
- ✧ As a class teacher of seniors, the support by the organization was very helpful. (Mr. Watanabe)

### Miyagi-ken Ishinomaki High School

- I couldn't have imagined how to accomplish the entrance exam under such difficult circumstances in the post-quake period. However, now after all the tests, I feel full of appreciation to all the teachers, supporters and my parents. I am looking forward to studying what I want to learn at college and acquire professional knowledge and skills for the future.
- When I visited Tokyo and Yokohama to take the exam, I was shocked to see that these cities and people seemed to be peaceful and ordinary unlike my hometown where everything has changed since the disaster. I had been studying hard to prepare tests so far, but I felt so anxious about the gap of the environmental conditions between other examinees and myself. In college life, I am going to do my best without losing my initial enthusiasm for the future.
- Thanks to your support, I stayed at a hotel the day before an entrance examination so that I could take the exam calmly and steadily. I feel satisfied with myself because I did my best during the examination. I am going to study harder at college, being conscious of my own line as a member of society in the future.
- ✧ We have received tremendous support so far from you. We deeply appreciate your thoughtful consideration in view of the circumstances in school, such as making procedure easy and simple and dealing flexibly with our requests. Your support is truly the one appreciated by students and the parents. (Mr. Sasaki)

### Miyagi-ken Kesenuma High School

- I believe that my experience suffered from the disaster will be valuable in passing on the knowledge and memories to the next generation. That's why I want to be a social studies teacher at high school in

the future. I am expecting to experience a lot in college life and prepare to become a good teacher.

- I had believed that I could pass the test with all the power of supporters including teachers, friends, parents and the people who had backed up to me so far. I am looking forward to studying languages and tourism at college and I would like to be involved in the reconstruction of my town by developing the tourism industry.
- Thanks to various supports, I could keep studying and didn't give up going to college. I will study marine environment at college, and I would like to contribute myself to the development of the local fishery in the future. I am going to try many things and experience a lot in school life with the deep gratitude to the people who had supported me.
- ✧ More students than usual were offered the opportunities to take entrance examinations so that all the students could do their bests to accomplish their dreams. We would like to thank you all for your kindness and support. (Mr. Shirahata)

#### Iwate Prefectural Ofunato High School

- 2 years ago, I had a thought that I would be admitted by university without lots of efforts. When I thought of those who didn't even have textbooks or desks to study by the disaster, I got ashamed of myself. Since then, I did my best on everything and I learned a great deal from exam study. It was a turning point for me to be a "man".
- By preparing for entrance exams, I learned the importance of keeping trying and appreciation for those who had supported us. They are quite important for life. I swear that I will be a nurse who stands by patients. I live on my life with thinking the importance of each one's life.
- I once gave up going into university because I thought it would be burden for my parents. However, I couldn't give it up and I decided going for it. By studying and learning a lot at university, I will prove them that it was worth supporting us.
- ✧ Thank you for helping many students. But still many families are undergoing recovery and need economical support. I would really appreciate if you could support us continuously. (Mr. Kirita)

#### Iwate Prefectural Takata Senior High School

- In college life, I'm going to work part-time during the daytime and study at night school in order to help pay my own expenses such as school fees. I would like to enjoy my school life and make many good friends who share the same dream of becoming a nursery school teacher and encourage each other.
- I was told by an interviewer at an entrance examination that "You have done good job for test so far under such a surprisingly difficult condition." And I realized then what we had been through and how many people have involved in supporting us. I had to start to study from buying a pencil and an eraser because my house and school were totally destroyed. We've received many support goods sent to school and financial support, so that I could concentrate on studying hard.
- I passed the entrance examinations and could step forward for my dream of becoming a midwife so as to contribute in the local medical care. I would like to save and take care of every precious life. To achieve my dream, I am going to study hard at school and get a nurse's license at first.
- ✧ We are grateful from the bottom of our hearts for the support to as many as seventy students. I'm glad to say that students have been offered opportunities to seek higher education through simple application procedure. (Ms. Takikawa)