

JETAA Presentation 7/15/11
Taylor Anderson Memorial Gift Fund

<http://www.st.catherines.org/tayloranderson>

- **Who established it and when** – Taylor’s family established it along with St. Catherine’s because St. Catherine’s had the legal and administrative structure necessary and Taylor is a 2004 St. Catherine’s graduate. It was established the week of March 21st when we learned of her death.
- **The main purposes of the Fund** – to help students, schools and families in the Ishinomaki area recover from the earthquake and tsunami.
- **How much money has been donated to date?** As of July 15, 2011 - Over \$125,000 plus 500,000 yen from Osaka International Cultural Association and the Tokyo American Club will be donating 4,000,000 yen directly from their “Jammin in Japan” fundraiser held May 20th for Taylor Anderson Reading Corners. The Japan Virginia Society (<http://www.japan-virginia.org/>), click on [Remittance of the Fund to Japan](#) raised almost \$30,000 and sent the money directly to Taylor’s schools.
- **How will the donations will be used? Specific projects?**
 - Governor Murai of Miyagi sent us a letter to tell us that Miyagi will work with the **Ishinomaki Board of Education (BOE)** to ensure the best use of funds in Taylor’s honor for Ishinomaki schools. They appointed Cameron Peek of the International Affairs Division of Miyagi to work with the Ishinomaki BOE and us. I had met Cameron when I visited Sendai and Ishinomaki March 22-24 to attend to Taylor's affairs and we were pleased with his appointment.
 - Taylor loved to read which lead to the idea of "Taylor Anderson Reading Corners" for the seven schools in which she worked. Cameron brought the idea to the BOE for their consideration. We also asked the BOE to tell us other ways we could help and suggested some ideas we had gathered from Taylor's fellow JET teachers. Some of the ideas include a park, playground equipment, toys, art supplies, and computer equipment to help with English lessons. Ishinomaki Mayor Kameyama also wrote us a letter confirming their commitment to determining the best uses of the funds donated in Taylor's honor. The “Taylor Anderson Reading Corners” project was started on July 11th, 2011 with the first one expected to be completed in early September. The city has also started an “Education Support Fund” for funds not dedicated to the reading corners.
 - We are also working with **Smiles and Dreams: Tohoku Kids Project** <http://www.smilekidsjapan.org/lang/en/2011/03/30/smiles-dreams-the-tohoku-kids-project/> to determine how Taylor's fund can provide long term support to orphans. Taylor’s fund will support the Asahigaoku Gakuen orphanage in Kessenuma and initial support has been started by Smile Kids with a delivery of toys, Wii’s, educational materials. Summer camp will be provided for some of the children this year.
 - Taylor's fund has begun donating to **The Fruit Tree Project** (<http://volunteerakita.org/> and <http://search.japantimes.co.jp/cgi-bin/fl20110611a2.html>).

Paul Yoo and Minami Ishikawa organized the Fruit Tree Project to take fresh fruit to shelters which has been not only nutritionally helpful, but has lifted the spirits of all those they have helped. The fruit they provide is a good supplement to the rice and miso soup provided at the shelters. The Volunteer Akita volunteers also help with clean up projects after they finish delivering fruit. They have also started to combine their efforts with an NPO currently being formed called HEAL Action (linkjapan.wordpress.com). They combine different volunteer group efforts into "LOVE Kogenahama" events near the Mangokuura schools where Taylor taught in Ishinomaki. The July 4th LOVE Kogenahama event was shown on the July 4, 2011 NBC Nightly News (www.msnbc.msn.com/id/21134540/vp/43634474#43634474).

- It is very important to Taylor's family, friends and donors (thousands when you consider many checks are a total from small donations made to a school, church group, etc.) that **100% of the funds raised will be used for the benefit of the schools, students and families in Taylor's area.** We are blessed that Taylor's high school, St. Catherine's in Richmond, VA is donating all of their time and services to administer the fund. Ishinomaki BOE, Smile Kids Japan, and the Fruit Tree Project contribute 100% of what they receive to the projects we identify with them. We think Taylor would be very proud of this and her spirit encourages us and give us strength every day to do our best in her honor. That keeps her spirit alive in all of us.
- **Who are involved in those projects?** Answered above plus in addition we are coordinating future support for Tohoku with Barbara Hancock of Tokyo American Club, have just started to work with David Satterwhite of the Fullbright Japan and Lori Henderson of the British Chamber of Commerce. The British Chamber of Commerce has set up a website <http://www.wecarejapan.org/#!en> requests for and offers of assistance can be made.
- **Who is the main contact on the Japan side?** Cameron Peek for coordination with Ishinomaki Board of Education, Michael Maher King with Smile Kids Japan, Paul Yoo with the Fruit Tree Project and Junko Kim with HEAL Action.

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