

20th Volunteer Activity Supporting Restoration and Recovery



Date	Thursday, September 13 through Friday, September 14, 2012
Activity site	Otsuchi-cho, Kamihei-gun, Iwate
Participants	16 (12 men, 2 women, 2 administration office staff)

● Activity Details



On the first day, we went to a public park in the Sakuragi-cho district on the outskirts of the town of Otsuchi to level the ground.

In contrast to the center of the town that had sustained considerable damage in the earthquake and tsunami, the park in the Sakuragi-cho district had remained relatively unscathed. As a result, the town had decided to have a festival there. We volunteers were asked to level the uneven ground to rid the park of the water puddles that would form whenever it rained.



The gravel for leveling the ground had been prepared at a location some distance away. So the volunteers split into two teams: one to shovel the gravel from mounds and load it onto trucks, and the other to unload the trucks and level the ground with the gravel. We worked in silent determination to grant the townspeople their wish of holding their festival.

After we finished the work, we received thanks from people of the town hall of Otsuchi for enabling them to hold their festival.

On the second day, we went to the Kirikiri district of Otsuchi to do some beach cleaning.

The district wanted the beach cleaned so that the children could play barefoot once again. Approximately 150 volunteers gathered to make this wish come true. The volunteers split into a team for clearing rubble from the beach and another for sifting stones from the sand, which we joined.

Our work was slow and backbreaking. It involved working down in a trench 1.5 meters deep that had been dug into the beach. We moved this trench forward by sifting the sand in front of the trench and using the sifted sand we cleaned to fill in the back.

The volunteers in our team worked in very hard circumstances as the weather was hot on top of the exhausting labor we had to perform.