

26th Volunteer Activity Supporting Restoration and Recovery



Date	Thursday, August 8 through Friday, August 9 , 2013
Activity site	Iwaki-shi, Fukushima
Participants	12 (4 men, 5 women, 3 administration office staff)

● Activity Details



In the morning of the first day, the volunteers held a children's fair at a community hall within an apartment complex rented by Iwaki City for city residents affected by the disaster.

That morning, the volunteer staff arranged yo-yo balloon fishing, ring toss and other games and activities for the children. The volunteers spent time playing with children who steadily gathered at the community hall. The fair proved to be a highly festive event for all.



In the afternoon, the volunteers took a bus tour of the disaster-stricken areas within Iwaki City. Next, the volunteers participated in "Iwaki Odori," an annual traditional dance event held in Iwaki City at this time of year.

In this event, the volunteers formed a team with seniors and local NGO staff and danced together with their teams members wearing the same special event T-shirts. Afterwards, all team members attended a party to celebrate the event's success, where the volunteers deepened their friendship with residents of the disaster-hit areas.

On the second day, the volunteers held another children's fair at foster home in Iwaki City. The fair proved to be another extremely festive event, attended by children from the surrounding neighborhood as well as children from the facility.

The volunteers received the following comments from the foster home staff: "We greatly appreciate what you have done for us, as we have never held an event like this before," and "We are delighted with this event, because it provides a place for the facility's children to interact with other children in the neighborhood."

These activities were highly physically demanding for the volunteers given that the weather was extremely hot on both days, and there were no air conditioning facilities at both of the children's fair venues. Also, at the "Iwaki Odori" event, the volunteers danced continuously for a long period. However, the volunteers found the activities to be very fulfilling. Some of the volunteers said, "The activities were excellent." and "We would like to conduct volunteer activities in Iwaki again next year."