

34th Volunteer Activity for Passing on Hope for the Future



Date	Friday, March 27 through Saturday, March 28
Activity site	Ofunato-shi, Iwate
Participants	21 (17 men, 2women, 2administration office staff)

● Activity Details



We worked in collaboration with an NPO named ARTS for HOPE at the Miyata temporary housing complex in their Art Renovation Project, painting the outer walls of the assembly hall in pastel colors.

We were divided into four groups, with each group being responsible for one wall at a time. First, we worked at thoroughly curing the walls at places where we weren't going to paint. Sometimes we had to use stepladders in this curing work, which the volunteers carried out while paying particular attention to safety. Next, we added color to the walls, painting them in pastel colors in line with the prepared designs. We knew that many places would look uneven with only one coat of paint, so forgoing our lunch break we added one or two more coats of paint until we were satisfied our painting work was completed. After that, we had a talk from the head of the local residents' association about the current situation regarding temporary housing. All the volunteers listened eagerly and attentively.



The following day we stripped off the places we had cured and did the restoration work of painting any remaining unpainted or uneven places. At the same time, we followed through with our plans to get the children living in the temporary housing involved with enjoying painting: we got them happily painting whatever they wanted on the sides of the NPO's station wagon. We then had lunch together with some local people, both celebrating our completed work and deepening our relationship with them by having a barbecue.



Later, many of the volunteers made such comments as, "It was very good that I could have the opportunity to meet people in the disaster-affected area and so get to know directly what it's like there now," "I think that the JX Group should get more publicity and raise its profile," and "The smiling faces of the happy children really comforted me.