



Participants arrive at Momonoyu Hot Springs Spa.

## Healing of the Hearts Heartful Tono Autumn Tour



The stage show following dinner included both traditional dance and enka singing..



Enjoying the autumn scenery from inside the bus.

On November 11, 2013 twenty three residents from four temporary housing complexes in Kamaishi, Iwate Prefecture went on an “Autumn Foliage, Live Theatre and Hot Springs Tour.” This was the sixth event of its kind since April 2012.

From the windows of the bus they could see all the beautiful color of the autumn leaves during the two and half hour trip to Momonoyu Natural Hot Springs Spa in Yamazakara. Upon arrival they bathed in the hot spring bath and then feasted at the all-you-can eat buffet. The food was delicious, to say the least, and all left the table with full stomachs and empty plates. The meal was followed by a stage show of drama and dance. The performance elicited laughter and tears. Time flew quickly and when the show came to end some asked if they could stay another day for more.

Although on the outside many of the residents appear to be joyful and optimistic, listening to the conversations on the bus made it clear that the reality is that most of them are confronted with many difficulties and frustrations of daily life in the slow progressing recovery effort. “The feeling of the natural hot springs for the moment allowed me to completely forget my troubles for a moment as I bathed in its warmth,” said one of the participants.

The chronic hardships and for people in the recovery remain. The Heartful Tono tours give this people much needed respite.

(Mutsuko Sasaki, Heartful Tono - staff)

Total Domestic Giving  
(through Nov. 25, 2013)

¥ 626,525,281

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