



East Japan Disaster Relief Projects Report

August 2013

Rev. Yanagiya whose parsonage was destroyed by the tsunami is a resident of temporary housing who attends Ochakko.

Ochakko: A Refuge for Healing

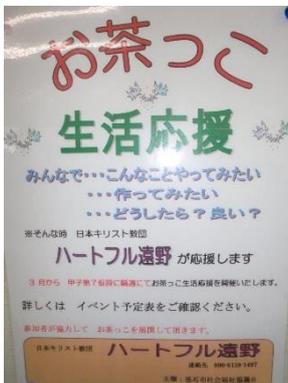
~ UCCJ Heartful Tono -- Kamaishi ~

Nearly one and half years have passed since the Ochakko Tea Salon ministry began serving residents of the temporary housing in Kamaishi. When it began it was operating out of four locations and after one year's time expanded to seven locations. Since June it has now grown to nine locations.

This past March 11 marked the two year anniversary of the tragedy. Many relief organizations came in with a limited time commitment for their disaster relief efforts and with the beginning of the third year since the tragedy most other groups have already brought their work to a close and the remaining organizations have been scaling back their efforts. However, the Ochakko ministry has instead been expanding. The reason for the expansion of the program at this time has much to do with the spiritual needs of the residents of the temporary housing. They suffer emotional exhaustion as there seems to be no end in sight from living out their lives in the cramped quarters which have been provided for them. The Ochakko ministry provides a healing environment as they continue to recover from the wounds suffered by the disaster itself and along with ongoing difficulties of their current situation.

Through May of this year 3,727 residents of the temporary housing have participated in the Ochakko ministry. Since June the Ochakko ministry has been in operation four days a week - Monday through Friday. Among the ten agencies working in cooperation with the Kamaishi Department of Welfare there is no other group offer such an extensive program. The Ochakko addresses a critical need during a critical period of time.

(Mutsuko Sasaki, Heartful Tono staff worker)



A poster advertising Heartful Tono's Ochakko.



Mutsuko Sasaki teaching crafts at Ochakko

Total Domestic Giving

(through June 17, 2013)

¥ 565,475,951

Donations can be sent to our account at Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC) (SWIFT:SMBC JP JT) Takadanobaba Branch(273) 2471703, for US dollars 3291280, for other currencies