



# East Japan Disaster Relief Projects Report

## July 2013

A variety of activities at the *Ochakko*.



Neighbors join with residents of during the *Ochakko*.



People of a variety of ages absorbed in craft making.

### Total Domestic Giving

(through May 20, 2013)

¥557,113,187

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

### The Happiness of Choice for Temporary Housing Residents

~ Emmaus Ishinomaki -- UCCJ Tohoku Disaster Victims Relief Center ~

Currently Emmaus Ishinomaki is working with residents at four temporary housing complexes in the city of Ishinomaki. Each of these house ten to fifteen families. Although initially the *Ochakko* – teatime ministry was confined to cramped spaces, the bi-monthly meetings are now able to rent out space from quarters which have been vacated by those who have moved out of the temporary housing.

With the help from many members for local church congregations there are a variety of activities at these *Ochakko* gatherings from knitting to card games to tea and conversation. The reality is that life for these residents is made up of limited choices. Our hope is to help facilitate the creation of the happiness of choice in their lives.

The volunteers who come to do relief work at Emmaus Ishinomaki are invited to participate in these *Ochakko* gatherings. For those who are unable to attend are encourage to participate in making handmade sweets and snacks which are distributed at the *Ochakko*.

Through the presence of the volunteers involved with the *Ochakko*, the residents are given encouragement through the assurance that their plight has not been forgotten As the staff of the program our task is to create an inviting environment for the residents and a place in which volunteers and residents of the temporary housing can experience fellowship.

Above all else, what makes this ministry so important is that it creates a trust relationship between the staff and the residents so that when they find themselves in a time of need, they have no hesitation to approach us with requests for assistance.

Our work is made possible through the continued prayers and support for which we are so very grateful. (Hitomi Takei, Emmaus Staff)