

# East Japan Disaster Relief Projects Report



June 2013

All dressed up for Halloween

## Creating Memories for the Children who survived

~ The Sasakko program at the Sasayashiki Community Center ~



The summer school at Sasaya.



Trick or treating at neighbors on Halloween.

“The impact of the disaster continues,” says the principal of the Arahama Elementary school which was severely damaged by the tsunami and which continues to operate in a nearby facility in Sendai. The children who managed to escape to the safety of the school’s roof when the tsunami crested watched their own homes being engulfed by the waves and saw those who were too late in their attempts to escape being swallowed up in the devastation. The wounds those students received on that day will be with them the rest of their lives. And thus the impact continues.

I created the Sasakko Club program near Arahama in the Sasayashiki neighborhood because I wanted to create memories that would bring a measure of joy and happiness to the youngsters who have gone through this.

Although many in from the neighborhood continue to need to live in temporary housing, some have returned to their homes. However, they are not able to play after school as they did prior to the disaster. This is why Emmaus began this program so that once again these children can have a time and place where they can play freely.

There are monthly gatherings at the Sasayashiki Community Center where the children can play with volunteers from Emmaus as well as special sessions for learning during school vacations. Also there are special monthly events like the Halloween Party. It is my hope as a volunteer who has been touched by this program that it will continue to be able to reach out to the needs of the youth of this neighborhood.

(Kenichi Tanaka, Emmaus Staff)

## Total Domestic Giving

(through April 16, 2013)

¥ 544,608,078

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