



Students making an emergency stretcher using ropes. They learned how to work together and about self-help and mutual help. (Yoshida Junior High School in Ureshino City, Saga Prefecture)

Creating an Emergency Preparedness Mechanism

Preparing for the Next Major Disaster

Due to climate change, rainfall patterns have been shifting in recent years, resulting in an increase in the number of short-term and extended heavy rains, intensification of typhoons, etc. Civic Force has received increased calls for emergency response mobilization and felt the effects of global warming firsthand. Although various measures are being taken around the world to achieve the greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction targets, the number of disasters remain unfazed. However, Civic Force believes it is possible to protect the people important to us, our assets, and to minimize damage to our communities through disaster preparedness.

We are now focusing our efforts on the “Preparedness in Non-emergency Times” initiative. In March and May 2022, in collaboration with the Japan Professional Baseball Players Association, Civic Force held a hands-on disaster preparedness event “Minna de Bosai” in the disaster-prone Kyushu area. In June, we held a lecture entitled “Let’s Be Prepared for Disasters to Survive” at Yoshida Junior High School in Ureshino City, Saga Prefecture. About 60 people including students participated in the event. We gave a talk on Civic Force’s relief activities along with some quizzes and held a workshop that included a demonstration of how to utilize drones during disasters and evacuation/rescue drills using ropes.

As a part of these activities for “Preparedness in Non-emergency Times,” Civic Force launched “Good Links” on July 1, a matching platform that connects companies’ goods and services with aid organizations. In this newsletter, we explain how Good Links was developed and how it works. We also report on the current situation of the areas affected by the Atami Landslide Disaster and the Saga Heavy Rain Disaster, one year after they occurred in the summer of 2021.

“I want to become a person who can help other people.”

Civic Force received a lot of encouraging messages from the students of Yoshida Junior High School who participated in the lecture:

“After hearing that 70 to 80% of the people were saved by their neighbors in disasters, I learned how important it is for everyone to work together.”

“I’ve learned that one rope can save a life.”

“I want to be able to protect the lives of local people.”

“I’d like to share today’s lesson with my family and be prepared for disasters together.”

“My dream is to become a firefighter.”

“I was touched by the phrase: All people on the earth are living together by supporting each other.”

Civic Force holds visiting lectures and disaster preparedness events to teach people about emergency relief activities in times of disaster and to convey the importance of self-help and mutual help.



Drone image of the area around Yoshida Junior High School

Civic Force launches “Good Links”

Digital Platform, Connecting Companies with Aid Organizations!

One Year from That Summer

Mudslide Disaster in Atami, Shizuoka Prefecture
/Heavy Rain in Kyushu Region

On July 1, 2022, Civic Force launched “Good Links” digital platform, connecting companies with aid organizations.

Good Links



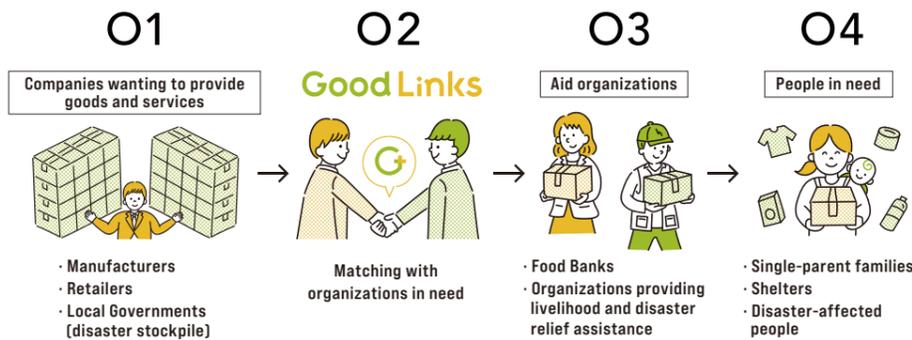
What is Good Links?



Good Links is a digital platform that connects goods and services that companies can provide with aid organizations that are working to solving social issues. On the Web, companies can register information about the goods and services they can provide, and aid organizations can apply for items they want to receive, all free of charge. Furthermore, aid organizations can also register what they need and companies wishing to help can cooperate with them. New participants can interact with these companies and organizations without worry as membership is invitation-only.

For the development of this platform, Civic Force partnered with the Microsoft Corporation and utilized their “Microsoft Power Platform” technology. This made it possible to keep the development cost low and the development time short. Everyone can see the contents of a storehouse and those in need can request what they need with companies continuously supplying goods and services.

Flow of Our Service



Background

Links in non-emergency times are helpful in times of disaster. “We want to deliver relief supplies more smoothly to the affected areas when a disaster occurs.” This desire was the starting point of the development of Good Links. Since 2009, Civic Force has been engaged in emergency relief activities in times of disaster. In order to deliver relief supplies and services speedily and accurately, it is important to work in cooperation and maintain connections with various companies and aid organizations. In recent years, while the serious problem of poverty is widely talked about as a social issue, the issue of surplus goods in a mass-production and consumption society is becoming apparent. Being aware of these issues, Civic Force launched “Good Links” to be available not only in times of disaster but also in non-emergency times. By using this service, aid organizations, local organizations, and companies wishing to have their products used for solving social issues can help people who are in social/economic hardship. Companies can also promote their social contribution activities.

We welcome inquiries from companies and aid organizations.

Civic Force warmly welcomes companies wanting to utilize their goods and services for social benefits or those with a surplus of quality products. We seek aid organizations engaged in solving various social issues such as poverty and isolation.

Please contact
gl@civic-force.org

In July 2021, a massive mudslide occurred in Izusan District of Atami City, Shizuoka Prefecture, and in August, torrential rains hit the Kyushu Region. Here are some comments from our NPO Partners working hard for the restoration and reconstruction of the two devastated areas.

Atami Kicollys “Jizo (Buddhist Saint)” Statues Return to Temple Hall

Since the partially destroyed Aizome Jizo Hall was restored, we placed the “Jizo” back to the main hall. In July, events at the hall will be resumed. Everyone is looking forward to gathering here again.



Atami Tenkarasen “Aizome Coffee Shop” Has Opened.

In April 2022, we opened a community cafe in the affected Izusan District. We named it “Aizome Coffee Shop,” after the Aizome Bridge, a popular meeting point for local people.



Atami Megumi Group Back to the Former Workplace!

The damaged office of the job assistance facility was fully restored, so we have resumed working as we did before. It is fun to chat with others at the rest area beside the office.



Atami NPO Kusunoki Continuing Cat Adoption Events

After the mudslide, we have been taking care of the pets of animal guardians who became evacuees. It helps to alleviate their worries during evacuation. Please support the animals through cat adoption events and assistance for medical expenses.



Scan to Donate

Saga Galapagos Kids Are Doing Well!

We reopened the child support facility damaged by the flood, which helped children become energetic again. The vehicle we borrowed from Civic Force is playing a significant role as transportation for children.



Crucial Stage of Reconstruction

In Atami City, even after one year from the outbreak, there are sites and untouched buildings still remaining in the caution zones and the search for missing people continues. The real challenges of reconstruction are yet to come for both Atami City and Saga Prefecture. We ask for your continued support!



Reina Inoue
PIC of “NPO Partner Projects”
Civic Force

Pick Up! Disaster Assistance Partnership Project No.2 : Japan Professional Baseball Players Association x Civic Force

Hands-on Event “Minna de Bosai (Disaster Prevention Together)”

“Let’s learn about disaster preparedness and emergency response and be prepared to protect ourselves and the people important to us in the event of a disaster!”

To raise awareness for disaster preparedness among children and their families, Civic Force and the Japan Professional Baseball Association (BPA), which signed a disaster assistance partnership agreement in 2021, co-hosted an event titled “Minna de Bosai (Disaster Prevention Together) x BPA Fund” at the “Catch Ball Classic” held in Kitakyushu City, Fukuoka Prefecture on May 8.

The next event will be held in Beppu City in Oita Prefecture on Sunday, August 21!

At this event, Civic Force set up six mission booths on disaster preparedness and disaster response in cooperation with companies. Children went around the booths and could win a prize for participation if they completed their mission. The event was designed to raise awareness for disaster preparedness and mitigation among children and learn about self-help and mutual help while having fun.

The children proclaimed, “It was fun!” and “It gave me an opportunity to think about disaster while playing.”



Children learning cardio-pulmonary resuscitation
Vehicle with power supply functions that can be useful during power failure

Hometown Tax Payment Project

Closing date: October 12, 2022
“Let’s be Prepared for Disasters!”
Together with Professional Baseball Players
www.furusato-tax.jp/gcf/1775



Scan for details on support activities in 2022 for heavy rain

<https://www.civic-force.org/activities/index.html>





Online Study Session for NPOs to be Held on September 1 (Thu.)

An online study session on cooperation between companies and NPOs titled, "The Roles Required for NPOs Now," will be held on September 1. Guests from L'Occitane Foundation and Value Books "Charibon" will participate. The session is mainly for NPOs interested in collaborating with companies, but anyone can join.

Scan for details



Disaster Symposium



On June 7, the disaster symposium on "Providing Optimal Support to Disaster-Affected Areas by Collaboration among Businesses, Governments, and CSOs" was held in Saga City, Saga Prefecture.

Certificate of Appreciation from Minamisanriku Town



Civic Force received a certificate of appreciation from Mr. Jin Sato, the mayor of Minamisanriku Town, Miyagi Prefecture, for our assistance activities for the Great East Japan Earthquake. His lesson learned is, "Preparation/planning are crucial to enhance the administration's ability to receive external support."

Nebama "Hamanasu (Ramanas Rose)" Project Now Showing on YouTube

This spring, "hamanasu," the symbol flower of the area was sown in front of Nebama Seaside, Unosumai Town, Kamaishi City, Iwate Prefecture. Civic Force is supporting this project of planting seeds collected from "hamanasu."

Scan for details



Media Coverage

<https://www.civic-force.org/activities/higashinohon/index.html>

Media Coverage

- 6/29/22 **WEB** **The Asahi Shimbun Digital**
"Launched 'Good Links,' the digital warehouse which links supplies and people who need them."
- 6/14/22 **NEWSPAPER** **The Saga Shimbun**
"Enhance collaboration for optimal support-Saga Disaster Symposium. Activity reports from governments, businesses, and CSOs."
- 4/16/22 **WEB** **Iwate Broadcasting/Yahoo! News**
"To revitalize 'hamanasu' lost by tsunami"
Citizens sowed "hamanasu" with hopes of reconstruction (Kamaishi City, Iwate Prefecture).

Support Our Activities Easily

General Donations

Hometown tax payment program

<https://www.furusato-tax.jp/city/product/41001/107>

Value Books: "Charibon"

<http://www.charibon.jp>

Heads: "Charity Happiness Shopping Bags"

<https://www.e-heads.co.jp/products/detail2/3219>

SUNNAP (sales limited in ASKUL)

"Phase-free Certified Paper Cup with Measurement"

<https://askul.disclosure.site/ja/themes/103>

Hondana-Otasuke-Tai: "Donation by Selling Second-Hand Books"

<https://hondana.biz/charity-application/>

EC Navi: "Smile Project"

https://ecnavi.jp/smile_project/

COVID-19 Emergency Assistance

BEAMS "BEAMS Mask"

<https://www.beams.co.jp/brand/901658/>

Yahoo! Net Donation

● NPO Partner Projects -Until the end of September-
<http://donation.yahoo.co.jp/detail/3747017>

GlobalGiving

<https://www.globalgiving.org/projects/coronavirus-relief-aid-distribution/>

Great East Japan Earthquake

Yahoo! Net Donation

<http://donation.yahoo.co.jp/detail/3747011>

Start Your Support with Only 33 Yen per Day

In order to be better prepared for future disasters, we need your support. Become a monthly supporter and you can donate a fixed amount each month (in 1,000 yen units) and help prepare for future large-scale disasters.

● Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation :

Aoyama Branch Account No. 6953964

● Japan Post Bank : 00140-6-361805

(Account holder's name of the above banks is "Civic Force")

● Credit card : Please check the "Donate Now!" section of the Civic Force website below

<https://bokinchan3.com/civicforce/donation/bokin/page1.php>

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