



# CIVIC FORCE

## NEWS LETTER Vol.20

(March, 2020)



High school students in Fukushima are studying online. "For busy, exhausted high school students, school closures due to the coronavirus outbreak may be a chance to have a precious experience. We would like to create an opportunity for the students to have new experiences that they can't have at school or meet adults whom they normally wouldn't," said Mr. Kenichi Bamba, Director of "Bridge for Fukushima," who planned the online course. The online lecture even allows students in remote places or abroad to join in. Students said that the online program inspired them.

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## “Turn Tough Times into Opportunities!” - Nine Years from the Great East Japan Earthquake

Nine years have passed since the Great East Japan Earthquake, which occurred on March 11, 2011. Due to the coronavirus outbreak, the memorial ceremonies and the reconstruction memorial events that were planned to take place at the affected areas are forced to be downscaled or canceled. The children have been resuming their normal lives, but because of the coronavirus, they are now facing similar situations from the past where schools are closed and going out is restricted.

In the midst of the outbreak, Bridge for Fukushima, a partner NPO of Civic Force, declared “Let’s make the best of it,” and “Turn tough times into opportunities!” Bridge for Fukushima organized online courses titled “Ready to Go” for high school students in Fukushima Prefecture. They are giving the students unique participatory classes every day from March 5 – soon after the school closure was announced – inviting “cool” adults from various backgrounds such as a company CEO, nature school director, battlefield journalist and social entrepreneur.

Civic Force began emergency assistance activities to combat the coronavirus at the end of January. In addition to the assistance to China, since February, we have provided 870,000 masks that we had stocked for disaster response to medical, welfare, and nursery facilities. We are receiving many thankful and encouraging messages. We are going to lease our trailers and tents to medical facilities from March and these will be utilized based on the hospital’s needs including outpatient examination room and waiting room.

This newsletter will feature the effort of “New Dream Support × NPO Partner Projects” – an assistance program related to the Great East Japan Earthquake – as well as the development of the disaster response activities as a member of the Airborne Rescue & Relief Operations With Search (ARROWS), which was established in December 2019. It will also provide an update on the current assistance activities for Typhoon No.19 (Hagibis)-affected areas.

# Supporting Disaster Affected

The following articles describe the emergency responses, the aid activities, and the reconstruction efforts that Civic Force has provided in various disaster-affected areas in Japan.

Great East Japan Earthquake

## Depopulation and Aging, Nuclear Power Plant Accident, Fading Memories over Time... To Solve Emerging Challenges of the Disaster-Affected Areas

Nine years have passed since the Great East Japan Earthquake occurred. Civic Force's "New Dream Support x NPO Partner Projects" supports people who deal with challenges that arose in the disaster-affected areas as time passed. As of March 2020, six projects are in progress. The activities shown on this page are the initiatives of four new groups following "Ishinomaki Restoration Support Network" and "Bridge for Fukushima" which were previously reported.

Miyagi

Stage on Earth

### "Memory of Yuriage" as a Memorial for Now and the Future

The Tsunami Recovery Memorial Museum called "Memory of Yuriage" is located in Natori City, Miyagi Prefecture. It has become a valuable site for local residents to gather and remember the deceased in the city where most of the buildings were not designated to be preserved as memorials. In addition, it continues to convey the memory of the earthquake to many people at home and abroad.

Partner Projects will continue supporting this museum so that they can continue the memorial event on March 11 each year.



Fukushima

Full House

### Book Café

#### Reopened after Renovation



Minamisoma City, Fukushima Prefecture was once designated as a "difficult to return" zone. Just after the evacuation order was lifted in July 2016, train operations between Haranomachi and Odaka Stations of the JR Joban Line were restarted. However, the local residents and youths are worried about the many issues they face, including depopulation and the decline in public safety.

This project plans to add a cafe space to the bookshop, "Full House," in front of Odaka Station, which will become an unmanned station from March 2020. The new section will serve as a communication hub for local high school students, citizens and visitors to Minamisoma City. Ms. Miri Yu, a writer and the promoter of this project, relocated to Odaka in 2015 thinking, "I want to be connected with the effort and pride of the residents who supported each person's life, culture and history that existed before the nuclear power plant accident."

On March 22, book reciting, music performance and a panel discussion will take place in the drama studio (attached to the book store) during the reopening of the new Full House book cafe.

Fukushima

Minamisoma & Sugunami Friendship Project

### Stages which Build Bonds Among Children

Since 2013, children of Minamisoma City and of Sugunami Ward in Tokyo have been participating in a project in which they perform musicals. In addition to the joint performances held in Fukushima and in Tokyo every year, they have performed at "Soma Nomaio Festival," an event representative of Minamisoma, "Suginami Festa" and welfare facilities. Having performed more than 100 times in the past seven years, they continue to show that there are many cheerful children in Fukushima even after the earthquake disaster.

With the spread of the novel coronavirus, the performances that were planned for February 23 and 24 this year have been postponed. New dates will be decided after the situation settles down. Civic Force not only supports interactive children's activities, but also assists the project's administration as it aims to produce professional artists in the future.



Nationwide 311ukeire

### Supporting "Hoyō (Recuperation)" to Protect Health of Children

The 311 Japan Nuclear Disaster Aid Association was set up in 2012 to broadly connect and support evacuee-acceptance activities which started nationwide after the nuclear power plant accident. As of January 2020, the association consists of 62 groups and continues to hold prior consultation meetings in Fukushima regarding recuperation programs for children. These programs are conducted in various locations across Japan using long vacations. Civic Force's Partner Projects supports this association with the operating budget of the recuperation programs held during summer vacation by member groups. In response to the needs for recuperation that still exist, Civic Force provides assistance to support the physical and mental health of children.

Typhoon  
No. 19  
(Hagibis)

## Reconstruction Efforts for Affected Areas -NPO Partner Projects

Civic Force has implemented the NPO Partner Projects to support the restoration efforts of the areas stricken by Typhoon No. 19 (Hagibis) since October 2019. We have so far supported nine assistance projects in six prefectures. ◦

### The NGO Collaboration Center

### Personal Visits and Workshops for Aid Workers

Typhoon No. 19 wreaked havoc over various areas. In Tochigi Prefecture, where assistance activities were particularly scarce, the NGO Collaboration Center has been visiting individual households to listen to the affected people and holding workshops for aid workers. The staff participated as a commentator in the “Dialogue Session on Flood Disasters” held in Tochigi City this February. They elicited the genuine feelings of the affected people about their challenging situations, making use of their experiences in disaster assistance activities.



### The NPO Nagano Sports Community Club Tohoku

### Preparing for Reconstruction Sports Events



The NPO Nagano Sports Community Club Tohoku promotes sports in local communities. Even though their own office in Nagano City was damaged by the typhoon, they are holding sports events for children and creating opportunities for local people to exercise. In cooperation with Civic Force, they have implemented support projects such as holding reconstruction-aid sports events and assisting in making Naganuma official uniforms until the damaged gymnasium is restored.

### Hope Apple- Hoyasu Disaster Victim Assistance Team

### Organizing Community Salon

The Nagano City-based volunteer team has been providing hot meals and relief items to home evacuees, affected people living like evacuees at home. The team is currently hosting a salon called “Charity Meals” once a week in public halls in three affected communities – Hoyasu, Tsuno, and Akanuma across Nagano City. This support program creates relaxing places for the local people who have become isolated due to the disaster. They are also coordinating external aid workers and holding workshops on house maintenance with experts.



### ADRA JAPAN

### Providing Heaters to Home Evacuees

Although their houses were damaged from the typhoon, some evacuees are not entitled to receive public aid other than what was provided from the emergency home repair program. ADRA Japan has been providing assistance activities in Minamimori Town, Miyagi Prefecture. They distributed heating equipment such as oil heaters and kotatsu (Japanese table with a heater underneath) to 660 households who were less likely to receive public assistance during the harsh winter.



## COVID-19 Emergency Assistance

### “We’ ll keep fighting on”

### – Offering 870,000 Stockpiled Masks to Medical or Welfare Facilities

In response to frequently occurring disasters in recent years, Civic Force launched “ARROWS” (Airborne Rescue & Relief Operations With Search) with two NPOs based in Saga and Hiroshima prefectures in December 2019. This new team will allow us to quickly dispatch to large-scale, disaster-affected areas, to operate more rescue and lifesaving activities than before. <https://arrows.red/>

Just one month after launch, ARROWS’ first emergency mission surfaced – infection control activities against the outbreak of the novel coronavirus. Since late January, medical materials and equipment, as well as approximately 870,000 stockpiled masks, have been delivered to hospitals in China and medical, welfare and nursery facilities across Japan. Hospital staff offered encouraging messages to the ARROWS team. “We were thinking about reducing medical services due to a lack of masks but we can now keep fighting on thanks to the masks you kindly offered to us.” Another hospital said, “The masks gave us the courage to persevere through scary and tense situations.”

Furthermore, ARROWS leased a trailer to a hospital this March. We will continue to provide assistance to medical facilities and other services in need. These activities are supported by your donations. We appreciate your continuous support.



### Donate Now!

■ Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation  
Aoyama Branch Account  
No. 7027390

■ Japan Post Bank  
Account No. 00140-6-361805  
\*Please write “COVID-19 emergency support” on  
the message section on payment slip.  
Account holder: Civic Force

■ Credit card or electronic money  
[https://bokinchan3.com/civicforce/  
donation/bokin/page1.php](https://bokinchan3.com/civicforce/donation/bokin/page1.php)

\*Fifteen percent of donations will be used for our  
operating expenses, which allows us to provide  
various assistance to people in need of help.

# Creating an Emergency Preparedness

We are undertaking various efforts to develop our emergency preparedness mechanism in the face of disasters. This page introduces media coverage of our activity and information associated with our partner organizations.



## Media

### Featured in NHK and the Asahi Shimbun- COVID-19 Emergency Assistance

ARROWS (Airborne Rescue & Relief Operations With Search) was launched in December 2019. The launch and assistance activities for the coronavirus infection were featured in several media outlets. We would like to express our gratitude to the media who publicized our medical mask distribution.

-TV Stations: NHK (Japan Broadcasting Corporation) and Kyushu Asahi Broadcasting Co., Ltd.

-Newspapers: The Asahi Shimbun, The Mainichi Newspapers, Saga Shimbun, The Chugoku Shimbun and The Japan Times

-Online site providers: Yahoo! News, BIGLOBE News, 47NEWS, News site "WorkMaster" and "M3.com" - a medical expertise website.

## Emergency Preparedness Mechanism

### "ARROWS" Launch Ceremony

Three NPOs including Civic Force launched a new project centered on providing medical assistance called "ARROWS" (Airborne Rescue & Relief Operations With Search). In commemoration of kicking off the project, a ceremony was held in Tokyo in December 2019. Leaders across various fields such as business, politics and healthcare also participated in this project as advisory board members. ARROWS will provide optimum assistance at disaster sites including medical treatment, search and rescue, supply distribution and evacuation center management in cooperation with local governments, hospitals, NPOs and the military. Utilizing all available resources to save as many people as possible is the goal of ARROWS.

## Emergency Preparedness Mechanism

### Support our Activities Easily!

#### 《General Donations》

- 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://www.askul.co.jp/p/P678379/>
- Value Books "Charibon"  
<https://www.charibon.jp/partner/cf/>
- Hondana-Otasuke-Tai  
"Donation by Selling Second-Hand Books"  
<https://hondana.biz/second-hand-books-selling-for-charity/charityhtml>
- EC Navi "Smile Project"  
[https://ecnavi.jp/smile\\_project/](https://ecnavi.jp/smile_project/)



#### 《Typhoon No. 19》

- BEAMS "Charity T-shirt"  
<https://www.beams.co.jp/item/beamst/t-shirt/71080007591/>
- Yahoo Net Donation (T Points Accepted) \*until April 13  
<https://donation.yahoo.co.jp/detail/3747015>

#### 《COVID-19 Emergency Assistance》

- GlobalGiving (English site)  
<https://www.globalgiving.org/projects/coronavirus-relief-aid-distribution/>

#### 《Great East Japan Earthquake》

- Value Books "Books for Japan"  
<http://www.booksforjapan.jp/action/>

## Emergency Preparedness Mechanism

### 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. Payments can be made through bank transfers to Civic Force:

•Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation:  
Aoyama Branch Account No. 6953964

•Japan Post Bank  
Account No. 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>

