

## Seven months since the Tohoku Earthquake Civic Force activity report

### Seven months since the earthquake, support needed to survive the winter

Seven months have passed since the earthquake on March 11, 2011. In Kesenuma in Miyagi Prefecture, one of the bases for Civic Force's activities, reconstruction initiatives have gradually begun, with the city establishing a place for citizens to discuss future urban development in October.

On the other hand, looking out over the town, a considerable number of places remain untouched since the disaster including leaning houses and submerged areas.

As of the end of September, some areas in the Tohoku region are already experiencing temperatures below freezing in the mornings and evenings and support for disaster victims living in temporary housing developments to survive the winter has become an issue.

### Corporate volunteer projects

Through cooperation with the Tohoku Earthquake Reconstruction Collective Action conducted by the Global Compact Japan Network, Civic Force has implemented an employee volunteer dispatch program on the island of Oshima in Kesenuma since September 4, operating three times a week with stays lasting five nights and six days.



In September, around ten employees from Fuji Xerox, JSR, the Asahi Shimbun and others made use of volunteer holiday systems to participate and work in Oshima.

Specific activities in September included rubble removal and general cleaning as well as cleaning photographs found in the rubble and returning them to

the original owners.

We now plan to increase the number of companies participating, dispatching around 30 employees a week. We are not only working but also seeking to cultivate a deeper understanding of the areas struck by the disaster through observations of the island and listening to local residents and representatives from the Headquarters for Disaster Control. We plan to continue providing support that will be effective in the long term while considering the needs of reconstruction support and consulting the opinions of participants. Civic Force has Oshima coordination staff stay on the island and will continue to conduct activities to provide reconstruction support in cooperation with businesses.



### The Kesenuma car ferry project

Kesenuma's Oshima island in Miyagi Prefecture is one of the largest inhabited islands in the Tohoku region, with a population of over 3,000 people. The 306 ton car ferry *Ferry Kameyama*, which ran aground on Oshima due to the tsunami, has been returned to the ocean. Although the inspections and repairs needed to

return to service will still require a significant amount of time, it serves as the first step towards recovery. Since April of this year, the 397 ton ferry *Dream Noumi* from the city of Etajima in Hiroshima Prefecture has served as the means of transportation for the citizens of Oshima, connecting the isolated island to the mainland.

Through Civic Force's mediation, this ferry, which was just about to be decommissioned, was borrowed by the local ferry company, Oshima Kisen and is operated without charter fees. Before the lease on the ferry ended in October, Etajima was notified of the large role the *Dream Noumi* has been playing in reconstruction efforts, including transporting large vehicles used in rubble removal, and the city decided to extend the period of the lease until March 15 of next year.

As we wait for the return of the *Ferry Kameyama*, the *Dream Noumi* flies the flags of Etajima and Civic Force while making eight round trips per day, carrying approximately 1,100 passengers and 220 vehicles.

### Activity report: Projects conducted in cooperation with partners

Civic Force cooperates with partner organizations that can respond to the diverse needs of areas hit by the disaster using their specialized expertise, providing social services in Iwate Prefecture, Miyagi Prefecture, Fukushima Prefecture and Yamagata Prefecture. When contributions are made, the contributing organizations and the contents of its projects are investigated by outside experts and they are asked to make monthly reports. In addition, Civic Force is also monitoring the local area with outside experts. In Phase I, eight cooperative projects were begun (of which six have ended). In Phase II, seven projects were begun (of which two have ended). In Phase 3, two projects were begun (of which one has ended).

#### — Phase II Operations —

#### ■ Minna no Kotoba + Civic Force

Minna no Kotoba, which conducts programs where listeners can sing and perform along with performers playing four instruments, is delivering live classical

musical concerts to areas struck by the disaster. The NPO plans to visit nursery schools and nursing facilities and hold concerts in the cities of Ishinomaki, Higashimatsushima, Shiogama, Natori, Watari and Soma.

The instruments at a nursery school in Ishinomaki had been washed away by the Tsunami, so Minna no Kotoba plans to obtain 150 new castanets and donate them when at their concert there in October.



#### ■ On the Road + Civic Force

On the Road has conducted a volunteer dispatch program in the city of Ishinomaki since April. Phase 2, which emphasized supporting people in rebuilding their lives, began in July and the NPO provided transportation and support in moving from disaster shelters to temporary housing developments until the end of September.

Also, the NPO provided support to stores that had been struck by the disaster in reopening, separating their assistance in cleaning and renovating store interiors into specialty fields (separate groups for maintenance, cleaning and design).



Further, On the Road created and distributed a free newspaper, the *Ishinomaki Genki Dayori* to provide information on the state of Ishinomaki's recovery and information useful and convenient for daily living.

**■The Japan Association for Refugees + Civic Force**

Focusing on the city of Rikuzentakata in Iwate, the Japan Association for Refugees dispatches refugee volunteers and provides support to women, foreigners



and other groups that may find themselves in a vulnerable position. Among the increasing number of volunteers since the summer holidays, the number of refugees participating has increased (approximately 30%), as has the number of countries volunteers come from. The community is also coming to deeply trust the organization thanks to their continuous dispatch of a set number of volunteers. The NPO is also supporting the residents in organizing so that the distribution of 'woman kits' may be taken over by the local community.

**■The Disaster Nursing Support Organization + Civic Force**

With the goal of providing psychological and physical health maintenance, the Disaster Nursing Support Organization has dispatched specialists in disaster nursing to evacuation shelters, temporary housing developments and facilities for the handicapped, providing medical, nursing and psychological care and



daily life support since May. Through 174 specialists, overnight stays by nurses and events by the conclusion of dispatch activities at the end of September, the organization had created relationships with disaster victims where they could discuss any and all of their concerns. As an example of their activities, the organization held a workshop on nursing for victims

that require assistance during disasters at Hamanasu Gakuen, a facility for the mentally handicapped.

**—Phase III Operations—**

**■SONERS + Civic Force**

Over three days from September 23 to 25, SONERS gave a Survival Self Rescue (SSR) class to 107 participants including 21 elementary and junior high school students from Kesennuma at Oiso Long Beach in Kanagawa Prefecture.



SSR is a method of preserving one's own life and avoiding the worst situations when facing a flood. Centering on Civic Force's partner NPO, Mori wa Umi no Koibito, training on swimming while fully clothed, avoiding obstacles and basic rescue methods was conducted and



participants acquired knowledge of basic level SSR techniques through practice. Local Oiso government staff was also invited to observe and the understanding of the importance of disaster initiatives was deepened.

**■Kesennuma Reconstruction Association (KRA) + Civic Force**

The KRA watches over the approximately 50 temporary housing developments in Kesennuma with the goal of local community building that prevents isolation and promotes independence.

The staff of the KRA, who are disaster victims themselves, hold tea parties and assist residents in operating events of their own design in each of the



housing developments. By rebuilding the bonds between disaster victims through sharing disaster experiences and hopes for the future as well as supporting new local community development, the association seeks to promote the fastest recovery possible for Kesenuma.

## Execution of donated funds and donation execution plans

At the end of September we had received approximately ¥1 billion 109million in total.

The following is a report of the executed account as of the end of September. The amount is a preliminary figure.

Project	Amount
Provision and delivery of emergency support goods	¥229,360,000
Construction of baths to improve daily life	¥18,790,000
Operation of a car ferries to isolated islands	¥19,190,000
Cooperative projects with partners	¥108,290,000
Provision of multi-purpose, multi-operation bases	¥65,380,000
Reconstruction support projects	¥22,160,000
Tents for receiving volunteers	¥36,880,000
Shared miscellaneous project expenses*	¥44,590,000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>¥544,640,000</b>

\*Includes costs associated with fundraising

In addition to the execution of donations being approved by the board of directors each time, an auditor confirms that reasonable decision making and accounting are occurring.

## Announcement: Start of Monthly Supporter fund raising program

Civic Force would like to make use of its experience with the Tohoku Earthquake to create a support network with even greater mobility.

It is necessary to conduct energetic discussion and advance preparations not only with governments but also major domestic companies and NGOs with specialized expertise to be ready for the next disaster. From this most recent earthquake, we have again learned the large influence regular preparations can have on the speed, scale and quality of disaster relief.

We ask for citizens to also assist us (and, like our namesake, become a civic force) in preparing outside of the times that disasters strike. We ask you to help us as a Monthly Supporter through monthly fixed donations, assisting us with the expenses needed to prepare for large-scale disasters.

It is impossible to predict when disasters, particularly earthquakes, are going to strike. We are asking for your cooperation so that we can prepare for the next disaster and so that we can develop even more effective and efficient methods of providing relief no matter where in Japan the next earthquake hits.

We have begun our Monthly Supporter fundraising program. Please support our disaster preparation activities through monthly donations.



※Please visit the Civic Force homepage (<http://www.civic-force.org>) and click on “Civic Force Online Donation” to donate within Japan (Japanese only) or visit our English page

※You can view our monthly reports, released each month around the 11<sup>th</sup>, at <http://civic-force.org/english/monthly/>. We report the latest information about our activities and the current state of local areas on our homepage and through Twitter. We also deliver special videos through YouTube and English information through facebook.



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