

Protect Fukushima Kids campaign



Protect Fukushima Kids

How it started:

The Tsunami that hit Japan's east coast and subsequent accident at Fukushima Nuclear power plant has resulted in many families being left homeless and they have been forced to evacuate the Fukushima area to temporary shelters and some families have considered leaving Tohoku areas to Hokkaido and other areas in Japan.

Ms. Sachiko Yanai, who relocated from Fukushima to Sapporo at the end of March, received a lot of consultation calls and the voices of parents worrying about their children's health and welfare in the wake of the disaster. Ms. Yanai consulted with a eager to help network of friends and professionals in Sapporo and came to a conclusion to start a group called 'Protect Fukushima Kids Hokkaido'.

First Project

The first project was to give opportunities for parents and children in Fukushima, to relocate temporarily for the summer holidays and spend time in fresh air and comfortable accommodation..

Period of stay: July 25th – August 22nd

Places to stay: Jyozankei Hot Spring, Niseko and Sapporo

Numbers of participants: about 50 (parents and children)

'Protect Fukushima Kids Hokkaido'

Representatives: Ms. Sachiko Yanai (from Fukushima)

Mr. Yorifumi Yaguchi (professor emeriti at Hokkai Gakuen University)

Ms. Kaori Izumi (Hokkaido Red Ribbon Africa Support Group)

Secretary General: Ms. Taka Yamaguchi

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Fukushima kids and families enjoy summer in Hokkaido

On July 25, 12 groups of children and families from Fukushima came over to Hokkaido to have a 30 days summer vacation. The total numbers of participants were 62. Free from the radiation and Tsunami affected area.,

The groups traveled around the central Hokkaido and stayed at Jyozankei spa, Takino Youth Lodge in Sapporo, and facilities in Niseko.

There were many events and activities the kids attended included; an Ainu celebration party, visiting the zoo, watching a baseball game at the Sapporo Dome. In Niseko, camping and BBQs as well as nature experience and enjoyed the fresh Hokkaido produce and peaceful sleep.

This is what one mother tells; "It is a relief to see my kids allowed to sit outside on a ground, touch flowers and leaves" Also a representative of "Protect Fukushima kids" says, "Conditions of the kids have totally changed. They had a pale faces at first but now they have got sun tans and look like healthy and stress free.

Thanks to the support of private and corporate sponsors we were able to achieve the following;

Total numbers of donators are 78 organizations and 400 individuals.

Rankoshi Town, Sapporo City Government Mutual Aid Association, Hokkaido Coca-cora Bottling, Co., Sapporo Breweries, some farms and shops are included.



'Camping in Hokkaido!'

Proposed Future plans for Protect Fukushima Kids

1) Relocation

We have approached schools in Niseko and Sapporo areas to accommodate children temporarily until the affected area rebuild is complete and radiation concerns are no longer an issue. Schools expected to receive children are Kabayama Elementary School in Kutchan and three specially approved schools in Sapporo.

2) Winter /Spring program (DETAILS TO BE CONFIRMED)

Transport and accommodate children and parents from affected areas to Hokkaido for short term stays this autumn and the upcoming winter.