

# HEARTFULL FUKUSHIMA

## SUPPLEMENTARY ISSUE

Fukushima Disaster Volunteer Center Magazine

Vol.2 May 2nd, 2011 issue

●About this information leaflet

This (weekly) information leaflet is to be distributed at disaster volunteer centers around the prefecture to provide people with information about the activities run by relief volunteers who are assisting disaster victims and helping with the recovery efforts, as well as providing the reader with immediately useful information and relief coordination. Please send any thoughts or comments to the following address.

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### Volunteer Activities Report Shinchi-machi Health Center Shelter and Soup-run Volunteer

## We made plenty. So, be our guest and eat a lot.



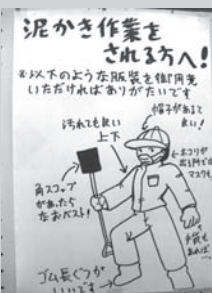
Eating means living. Members of the Sotoshu Fukushima Ward Youth Association organized a soup-run for dinner at the Shinchi-machi Health Center Shelter, to raise the spirits of disaster victims with food. The stew was prepared with lots of meat and vegetables as was requested. The volunteers' kind words, "We made plenty. So, be our guest and eat a lot." put a smile on the faces of people who were waiting in line. It is mothers who usually take turns in preparing meals for around 130 people at the center, but on this day, they were able to have the day off. The mothers were delighted not only by the delicious stew itself but also because they were able to enjoy some much needed personal time. Some were heard saying happily, "I got some time for myself, so I went and enjoyed myself at the public baths." "They cooked dinner and also prepared for tomorrow morning's breakfast. That's so helpful!" (April 13th, 2011, Health Center in Shinchi-machi)



### Volunteer Activities Report

#### Mud Raking Volunteer

Disaster Volunteer Centers in areas that were affected by the tsunami receive a lot of requests for volunteers for the task of "mud raking". At the place where I went to report on this day, a group of 7 volunteers were visiting the residences of elderly people. They were raking out huge amounts of mud from their houses and from their yards, and removing tree branches and furniture using square shovels and carts. A woman living in Souma City who was working as a volunteer for the first time said, "I got myself involved through my wish that as many people as possible can go back home and return to their normal lives." (April 25th, 2011, Souma City)



### Introducing Municipal Disaster Volunteer Centers

#### 28 Soma City Disaster Volunteer Center

The Souma City Disaster Volunteer Center is run jointly by various organizations and people such

as associations and local companies, former city workers, teachers of local high schools, and by workers of the Kanto block Social Welfare Council. The center is led by Dai Konno of the Municipal Social Welfare Council. The center opened on the second floor of the Chamber of Commerce on the 21st of March (Mon), 10 days after the earthquake.

Since the Municipal Social Welfare Council Center itself became a shelter, the whole Welfare Council Center naturally became busy particularly when Mr. Konno was the only staff member who was dedicated to opening and operating the disaster volunteer center. When asked why the center could operate smoothly under such difficult circumstances, Mr. Konno replied, "I guess it's because I enjoy the challenge." For example, he said that he operated under the belief that, "if businesses are not operating, then employees probably have time to help us." He also went on

to say that, "those are probably the ones who know the city inside out."

It was also helpful that the whole staff got together and held long meetings everyday so that ideas and proposals from staff could be raised. Such meetings are a big influence on the overall operation of the center.

At the time of the interview, the center was accepting around 170 (240 on weekends) volunteer candidates and coordinating them to places where they were needed without making them wait. There is also an increase of volunteers coming from outside of the prefecture.

The sticker on the wall said, "The soul of Soma. Let our spirits be united as one to overcome this earthquake disaster." It summarizes the feelings of the whole staff at the center. (April 22nd, 2011)



### Disaster Volunteer Centers Map

Placed at 31 locations, as of April 27th



### ★Fukushima Disaster Volunteer Center ..... TEL:024-522-6540

- North**
- 1 Fukushima City Disaster Volunteer Center
  - 2 Nihonmatsu City Disaster Volunteer Center
  - 3 Date City Disaster Volunteer Center
  - 4 Motomiya City Disaster Volunteer Center
  - 5 Kori-machi Disaster Volunteer Center
  - 6 Kunimi-machi Disaster Volunteer Center
  - 7 Otama-mura Disaster Volunteer Center
- Central**
- 8 Koriyama City Disaster Volunteer Center

- Central**
- 9 Sukagawa City Disaster Volunteer Center
  - 10 Tamura City Disaster Volunteer Center
  - 11 Kagamiishi-machi Disaster Volunteer Center
  - 12 Tamakawa-mura Disaster Volunteer Center
  - 13 Hirata-mura Disaster Volunteer Center
  - 14 Ono-machi Disaster Volunteer Center
- South**
- 15 Shirakawa City Disaster Volunteer Center
  - 16 Nishigo-mura Disaster Volunteer Center

- South**
- 17 Yabuki-machi Disaster Volunteer Center
  - 18 Aizuwakamatsu City Disaster Volunteer Center
  - 19 Kitakata City Disaster Volunteer Center
  - 20 Nishiaizu-machi Disaster Volunteer Center
  - 21 Bandai-machi Disaster Volunteer Center
  - 22 Inawashiro-machi Disaster Volunteer Center
  - 23 Aizubange-machi Disaster Volunteer Center
  - 24 Showa-mura Disaster Volunteer Center

- Aizu**
- 25 Aizumisato-machi Disaster Volunteer Center
- Minami Aizu**
- 26 Shimogo-machi Disaster Volunteer Center
- Soso**
- 27 Shinchi-machi Disaster Volunteer Center
  - 28 Soma City Disaster Volunteer Center
  - 29 Minamisoma City Disaster Volunteer Center, Kashima-ku
  - 30 Minamisoma City Disaster Volunteer Center, Haramachi-ku
- Iwaki**
- 31 Iwaki City Disaster Relief Volunteer Center