

A group of young adults in Kawauchi-mura performed fieldwork to reexamine their region and conducted surveys of local junior high school students. After much consideration, the group created a website that showcases information on the attractions and current status of Kawauchi-mura from the viewpoint of young people<sup>2</sup>, and proposed a plan for creating playgrounds and places to stay for children that young people think would be ideal for the municipality.



The details of each workshop and hands-on activity can be seen on the Fukushima Prefecture website.<sup>3</sup>



### 3. Symbol of Local Reconstruction “Ishinomaki City Children’s Center,” Full of Children’s Thoughts – Ishinomaki City, Miyagi Prefecture –

The Ishinomaki City Children’s Center was opened in Ishinomaki City, Miyagi Prefecture in January 2014. This is a children’s center that was planned and designed mainly by elementary school students, junior high school students, and high school students to rejuvenate Ishinomaki, and children are also deeply involved in its operation.

Elementary school students, junior high school students, and high school students living in Ishinomaki City and participating in “Ishinomaki City Children’s Community Building Club – THE Rolling Stones ~We call it ROCK~”<sup>4</sup> played a central role in the establishment of the center. The establishment and operation of the center were planned in order to realize the “Dream Town Plan,” which was formed by members of the “Children’s Community Building Club,” and preparations started in 2011.

Children of the club visited other children in the region and conducted an interview survey about what kind of center they wanted to build. They interviewed as many as 100 children in total.



Source: Save the Children Japan



Source: Save the Children Japan

2 Website that showcases the attractions of Kawauchi-mura <http://www.furusato.fukushima.jp/kawauchi/>



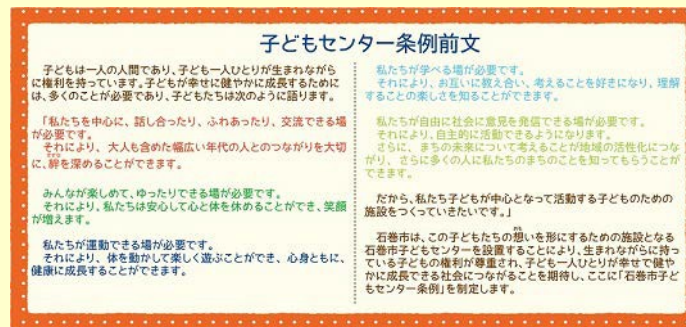
3 <http://wwwcms.pref.fukushima.jp/>

4 Children’s Community Building Clubs are an effort in support of reconstruction being undertaken by the public interest incorporated association, Save the Children Japan. Activities are being conducted in Ishinomaki City, Miyagi Prefecture and Yamada-machi and Rikuzentakata City, Iwate Prefecture.

Furthermore, activity report meetings were regularly held, to which officials and citizens were invited. Preparations were made involving adults in the region and opinions were exchanged many times. Communications with local adults further reinforced children’s thoughts “for the sake of the community.”

Children’s voices and thoughts did not only take shape in the planning and designing of the facility. Their thoughts were also incorporated into the bylaws for the establishment of the center, as a preamble. Children participate in the operation of the Children’s Center. The “Children’s Conference” plays a central role. Approximately 20 children who frequently use the center attend and have discussions about the usage of the Center in meetings that are held regularly. In addition, 54 representatives of the Children’s Conference and “Ishinomaki City Children’s Community Building Club” have discussions with adults about future operations at the “Management Conference” held with adults.

Also, there is a system where children using the center can propose a plan for what they want to do to the Children’s Conference. Once a proposal is received, the plan is reviewed by the Children’s Conference and if it is adopted, the children themselves implement it. The Ishinomaki City Children’s Community Building Club continues to operate as a project of the Ishinomaki City Children’s Center.



Source: Save the Children Japan

It is the role of adults in the community to support these children’s activities. They create an environment for children to exercise their infinite power. With this support, children grow steadily as members and supporters of the community.

A member of the Children’s Community Building Club said, “Through these activities, I learned how to convey my thoughts and implement them. Most of all, these activities make me smile after working so hard. My previous idea that reconstruction is a task for adults completely changed. Even children participate. Children have thoughts. We will express our thoughts, so please accept them.” Although the activities of children, who raise their voices and participate in society while hoping for the reconstruction of the area, and the efforts of the Ishinomaki City Children’s Center have just started, these efforts are steadily bearing fruit.

Other than the above, the following columns are also available.

**[Column 2]**

**Approaches to Companies Suspected of Treating Employees like “Expendable Items”**

**[Column 3]**

**Convening the “Re-challenge Council”**

**[Column 4]**

**Networks to Support Children and Young People in the Community**

**[Column 5]**

**Back-on-track Support for Delinquents in Collaboration with Relevant Organizations, etc.**

**[Column 6]**

**Community Support by Juvenile Classification Homes**

**[Column 7]**

**Social Contribution Activities in Offenders' Rehabilitation**

**[Column 8]**

**“Cooperative Employers” who Willingly Employ Young People who Have Committed Crimes or Delinquent Acts and Support their Rehabilitation**

**[Column 9]**

**Live Campaign for Child Abuse Prevention “Child Aid LIVE”**

**[Column10]**

**Efforts of Local Governments for Promoting Foster Care Placement**

**[Column 11]**

**Children's Initiatives to Prevent Bullying - Student Council Summit -**

**[Column 12]**

**Support for Education at home that Connects People – Support Team for Education at home in Yuasa-cho, Wakayama Prefecture**

**[Column 13]**

**Efforts to Support Junior High School Students and High School Students in Children's Hall - Hiragishi Children's Hall in Sapporo City “Toyohirappi Festival” -**

**[Column 14]**

**Private Organizations that Address Development and Support for Children and Young People**

**[Column15]**

**Activities of Civil Rights Commissioners who Protect Children's Human Rights**

**[Column 16]**

**Deliberation on Issues about the Internet and Cellular Phones by High School Students “High School Student ICT Conference 2013”**

**[Column 17]**

**Measures to Clean up Harmful Environments Surrounding Children**