



Nonprofit Organization The People

Our Purpose

Our organization believes that through considering local issues, we the local residents can take the initiative in working towards solving them. We consider residents who do this to form the foundation which supports our community. Therefore, one large purpose of our activities is to promote resident-driven community development. Furthermore, it is also a purpose of ours to expand our notion of our "community", undertaking roles that each of us should fulfil as global citizens.

(As mentioned in the mission statement of the People)

Our Activities

1. Used Clothing Recycling Project



Our organization has installed collection bins for used clothing at 21 locations in Iwaki City and 18 other locations throughout Fukushima Prefecture. The total amount of clothing donated to us through these collection bins and through the mail from people across the country has reached 250 tons per year. The donated clothes that are in good condition are resold at an economical price in shops or bazaars. Substandard goods are brought to automotive upholstery factories and recycled. Our organisation has introduced wool recycling machines and manufactures recycled wool to be used in handicrafts.

2. Independence Support for the Disabled

We supply used clothes as material to make wiping rags in cooperation with NPO Workshop AIAI. Moreover, following the Great East Japan Earthquake we have been working on creating jobs for the disabled.

4. Publicise our Activities

We distribute 5,000 copies of our newsletter "The People" quarterly through our member channel or community centres to provide information on our activities to the general public. We also make our information available on our website.

3. Education and Livelihood Support Overseas

In Nan Province in the north of Thailand, we provide dormitories and public halls for children of hill tribes. We also offer scholarship support to students who despite an enthusiasm for learning, cannot go on to high school or university for economic reasons.



About NPO The People

In this edition of Iwaki Vision, we take a look at the The People, a Nonprofit Organization undertaking many activities in Iwaki. NPO The People is a civic organization active under the motto "In a lively city, there are citizens lively expressing their values and taking lively action."

The organization began in 1990, under the belief that in order to make one's local area a nice place to live, it is necessary that local residents themselves think proactively, take action and raise their voices.

5. Workshops, Lectures and Citizen Awareness Projects

We hold many projects that provide local citizens with opportunities to learn about the environment, education, welfare, global understanding, volunteer activities, town planning and other topics.



6. Build Networks

In order to enable collaboration with other groups and create a wider network organization, we have established the Secretariat of the Iwaki Inter-Citizen International Exchange Cooperative Federation.

7. Disaster Relief Projects



We run disaster relief projects to provide victims of the disaster with used clothes as relief supplies. During the Great East Japan Earthquake, Iwaki City was one of the areas hit by the earthquake and tsunami. Immediately following the disaster, we provided relief supplies to evacuation centres. We then set up the Disaster Volunteer Centre (currently renamed as the Reconstruction Assistance Volunteer Centre) for the Onahama district, Iwaki. The centre functions as a contact point for volunteer activities. We also established and operate the Onahama District Chat Salon and Jōban District Community Salon where we strive to create a platform that enables the disaster evacuees and local citizens to freely communicate.

8. Agriculture Revival Projects

Since the Great East Japan Earthquake, we have been aiming to revive local agriculture harmed by misinformation concerning the nuclear accident. We are doing this through cultivating indigenous brown cotton using organic farming (Fukushima Organic Cotton Project). We are trying to generate a process of revival for Fukushima through cultivation by a variety of people such as farmers, residents, disaster evacuees and volunteers from the Tokyo metropolitan area. Through producing textile products made from the harvested cotton, we are striving to develop a new textile industry.



9. Other Projects Necessary to Achieve Our Organization's Purpose

For inquiries, please contact The People:

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