

July 10th, 2013

「Soroptimist Project KIZUNA ~ Heart to Heart ~」 2013 Report No.4

We Believe in Hope for Tomorrow... And We Support

Taeko Endo, 2012-2014 Governor
Japan Kita Region, Soroptimist International of the Americas



KIZUNA ~ Heart to Heart ~ is a scholarship program for the orphans from the huge earthquake and tsunami of March 11, 2011. Five SIA Regions in Japan started this project in order to support the junior high school students who lost their families and, at the same time, to encourage the people of the devastated areas.

142 high school students are now benefitting from our support: 63 since April 2012 and 79 since this April. We started supporting 81 students this April, but two of them declined afterwards.

“I am very thankful to you for giving me a scholarship. I am determined to make full use of it and work hard. At school, the May exam is over and I am making efforts in various school events such as chorus contest and school festival, besides studies. The July exam is coming soon and I am preparing for it. Your future support will be appreciated.”

This moving thank-you letter is from one of the scholarship recipients. I responded to her wishing her a fruitful school life.

Our scholarship program is a great success thanks to many people. Especially I thank the soroptimists in the devastated areas who frequently visited the local education boards and junior high schools to raise enough applicants, carefully explaining the ideas of the program and Soroptimist. I heartily appreciate everyone that made this success.

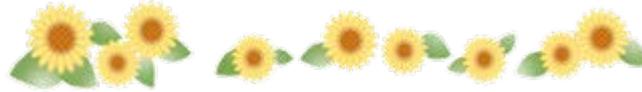
Here are the comments written by the 62 students we have supported since April 2012. They are now in the second grade of high school and working steadily toward their hopes and dreams. We are proud to be able to support these children. We are also proud to present their thank-you letters to you. We chose 31.



- ★ I have been working hard in both school studies and club activities. In the latest exams, I got the eighth place among all the same year students. In club activities, I am doing my best, though my club coach was transferred out in March. (N. S)
- ★ As a freshman, my motto was “To get used to the new school life and do my best in the given situation.” This school year, my new motto is “To decide my future course and get better academic evaluation so that I can have a wider choice for my future.” I want to be a hairdresser. (Y. S)
- ★ My past year was full of tough changes, such as school, dormitory, friends, teachers, and everything. I also had serious troubles. I could get over them, however, with the help of the people around me. I am determined to do my best in everything, especially in school studies so that I can enter my target university. (Y. T)
- ★ In my club activity, I have had a fulfilling past year. I have had hard practice, training camps, tournaments, and so on. To my regret, I placed 16th in the prefectural meet last year. I am working much harder to get a higher place this year. (M. M)
- ★ My best experience of the year was that I did a homestay with an Australian family. I became interested in English and thought I want to learn English harder. It was a big change because I hated English before that. (M. A)
- ★ In the past year I have had many precious experiences in my club activity, thanks to my club mates. I will do my best in everything in everyday life so that I won't have to say I am sorry. (R. Y)
- ★ I am now worried about my future course. I want to go to college and major in nutrition or botany. I will have to study much harder this year. (M. K)
- ★ I had good experiences in the high school brass band. We got gold prize in the district contest and could participate in the prefectural contest. We also performed in the local festivals and senior citizens' homes and so on. (M. K)
- ★ I am now in the second grade of high school (the 11th grade). I will try to study hard every day and would like to achieve my goal, that is, to become a nurse. (M. T)
- ★ The disaster gave me chances to go to many places such as The USA, France, Tokyo, Kobe. I gave speeches about my tragic experience on behalf of my junior high school. This made me think about my future course and better reconstruction. I felt happy I could be of some help to reconstruct my hometown. (S. A)
- ★ I am now in the second grade of high school and working hard in both study and club activity. In the club, I am feeling more responsible because I have some freshmen I have to take care of. (H. A)
- ★ My vision is to become an architect. I will study hard to enter my target university. I will live my life with the mottos, “Sports without neglecting studies” and “self-control.” (M. M)



- ★ Now I am living in a temporary dwelling and having a new house built. I can't wait to move. I will try to live a decent life to meet your expectations. Thank you very much. (Y. S)
- ★ My home town, Minami-Sanriku, is far from reconstruction yet. Commuting to school takes me two hours one way. Honestly, I sometimes feel desperate but my parents help me get over it. I want to finish high school as soon as possible and go to university. I am very grateful to you and many people who support me. (H. U)
- ★ I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your warm support. As for my club activity, the past year was not a good one for me. I couldn't make the team because of injury and influenza. I will try to take care of my health and work hard to make this year a fruitful one. (K. Y)
- ★ I am now a second grader of high school and captain of the soccer club. The soccer club motto is "Mature through support." I believe that a decent everyday life will lead to a good soccer team. (Y. A)
- ★ The railway is not yet good in my city, Onagawa, after the disaster. So I got a motorbike license and now I commute to school on my motorbike. I will ride my motorbike safely and study hard. (M. I)
- ★ After I entered high school, I tried to do my best in both studies and the club activity. I had to go through many new experiences but I enjoyed them. (Y. S)
- ★ My hardship is not worse than many other families. They are doing alright even while they have missing family members. I will have to live stronger, work hard to be a nutritionist and contribute to my family. (H. Y)
- ★ I am now a second grader of high school. My vision is to become a pet dog trimmer. It was a promise between me and my mother who was killed in the disaster. I will work hard every day to make my dream come true. (Y. H)
- ★ I'm working hard every day to be seated as a qualified second degree electrician. Though I have lots of things I have to do at school, I feel satisfied. I enjoy my school. (K. Y)
- ★ In the past year, I had a homestay in the USA, visited an International School, went to France with an international interaction program, had a job experience at a bakery, and so on. Now I am into studying to get certificates in the French language, baking bread and nutrition. (A. O)
- ★ I had many new experiences on a school excursion in Australia. It is a good memory. I belong to the English language course in high school and the course gave us a three-day English camp where English is the only language. I had a very good time. (R. K)
- ★ I chose the electricity course in April when I became a second grader. I enjoy it because I am interested in making things and using tools. Besides, I will be given a chance to sit for a qualified electrician test which will help me get jobs. I am working very hard for the test in June. (A. K)



- ★ I joined a tennis club in high school. I practiced every day and made it to the prefectural tournament. As for studies, I passed the qualified information technology test. (K. S)
- ★ I continued my club activity for the past year. I made it thanks to my friends' encouragement and my family's support. I was often away from home on training camps and visiting games, and many times I didn't do my house chores because of fatigue. My family, however, gave me kind words and took care of my health. I am always thankful. (M. M)
- ★ After I entered high school, I met new people and met with new experiences. I like it all. This year, too, I expect even more new things to come. (S. S)
- ★ In April, I was a bit relieved when I was promoted to the second grade. My close friends, however, were in different homeroom classes and I was uneasy. Now I have made new friends and my close friends from last year are much closer friends. Although there are some troubles, I think I can manage. (Y. S)
- ★ Studies in high school have been tough and I could barely keep up. My parents require all passing marks for me to continue the club activity. So I worked hard to clear the condition. I will keep working hard so that I can say to myself, "You did it" when my final game in high school is over. (M. Y)
- ★ In my club activity, I am a senior to freshmen who are uneasy and stressed. So I will try to look after them and make the activities fun. (N. I)
- ★ I still live in a temporary dwelling. Although there are inconveniences, I have managed them. Everything was new in high school and I felt stressed, but I have managed. They are all good memories. Now I am in the second grade and am used to school life. I think I can behave like a senior to freshmen. (N. O)

The scholarship recipients have changed their hardships to ambition.
They have started to walk ahead aiming towards their future dreams.
The Soroptimists watch them and support them.

【Issuer】 Japan Kita Region Governor Taeko Endo
Soroptimist International of the Americas

【Office】 Japan Kita Region Office

Kita 7-jo Yoshiya Bldg 3F. Kita 7-jo, Nishi 5-chome, Kita-ku, Sapporo. 060-0807 JAPAN

TEL (011)756-8161 FAX (011)756-8162

E-Mail : sia-jkita@world.odn.ne.jp URL : <http://www.navi-kita.net/sia-kita/>