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Ishinomaki Minamihama Tsunami Memorial Park, a place of prayer for passing down the memories of and lessons learned from the Great East Japan Earthquake to future generations. Storytelling and other activities are carried out in this area, which was hit the hardest by a combination of earthquake, tsunami, fire and land subsidence.

## — Eleven Years Since the Great East Japan Earthquake —

# Passing Down the Memories and Lessons Learned to Future Generations

There is a word “tendenko” in the Tohoku dialect meaning “to escape individually.” The word teaches the lesson that people must scatter and run for safety individually when they feel a quake in the coastal area, prioritizing their own lives over others.

This lesson saved the lives of approximately 3,000 elementary and junior high students in Kamaishi City, Iwate Prefecture, as they evacuated to a place that was higher than the evacuation centers. This story is known as the “Miracle of Kamaishi.” Thanks to numerous trainings, the students were able to save their own lives.

Some people have not returned to their hometowns since they escaped. More than 27,000 people from Fukushima Prefecture are still living outside the prefecture. In the difficult-to-return zones, evacuation orders are to be lifted this year in the reconstruction bases\* in Okuma Town, Futaba Town and Katsurao Village, while Namie Town, Tomioka Town and Iitate Village are aiming to have the orders lifted in the spring of 2023. Differences in opinion between those who have returned and those who have not are creating divisions that are hindering the reconstruction of the towns. However, some people have begun to move forward saying, “We can start by sharing our experiences through these years.”

Eleven years have passed since the Great East Japan Earthquake in March 2011. One of the themes Civic Force focuses on is “Passing Down Memories to Future Generations.” In this newsletter, we will introduce various activities that aim to restore the ecosystems and local vibrancy which were lost after the earthquake, including activities that pass down the memories across disaster-affected areas in Tohoku.

\*The official name is “Specified Reconstruction and Revitalization Base Areas.” They are located in the difficult-to-return zones where entry is restricted due to high levels of radiation, and are targeted to reopen for residence and agriculture ahead of other areas.

## Our Sincere Thanks and a Report on Your Donations

### 2021 Summer Heavy Rain

As of February 22, 2022, we have received a total of 28,576,962 JPY in donations for the assistance activities for the heavy rain disasters that occurred in July and August 2021. The donation pages for these activities have closed, but the recovery and reconstruction of the affected areas are still only halfway completed. Civic Force will continue to support the local community-based recovery through our NPO Partner Projects.

### Japan Professional Baseball Players Association Fund (Players Fund)

The first crowdfunding campaign (from December 6, 2021 to January 31, 2022) raised a total of 11,121,000 JPY for the Players Fund, which was launched jointly by Civic Force and the Japan Professional Baseball Players Association. The money will be used for improving initial response which is essential to providing rapid assistance in the event of disasters, as well as for recovery, reconstruction, and raising awareness of disaster preparedness in normal times.

### Hometown Tax Payment Project

We received a total of 207,000 JPY in donations for the Hometown Tax Payment Project by Saga Prefecture, “Protect People’s Lives and Health After a Disaster! Private Sector Disaster Prevention Project ‘Let’s Stockpile Together!’” (from November 4, 2021 to February 1, 2022). The money will be used to properly maintain and manage supplies such as daily necessities that will be used immediately after a disaster in addition to stockpiles that can improve the environment of evacuation centers.

**Thank you for your support.**

The Great East Japan Earthquake brought enormous damage over a large area. Reconstruction is steadily moving forward as time passes. On the other hand, new issues such as depopulation, isolation, and fading memories of the disaster are surfacing. Civic Force is now conducting NPO Partner Projects that support NPOs in the disaster-affected areas focusing on three themes: “Community Revitalization,” “Fukushima Welfare Support” and “Passing Down Memories to Future Generations.”

### New Projects // Here are the NPO Partner Projects that newly started in three prefectures of Tohoku between January and March 2022.

Passing Down Memories to Future Generations

**Fukushima** Tomiokachou 3.11 wo Kataru Kai (Talk about March 11 Sessions of Tomioka Town)



Lectures are given at the request of schools and companies.

#### To Know Fukushima Is to Know Japan

More than 16,000 people, the entire population of Tomioka Town, were suddenly forced to evacuate because of the Fukushima nuclear incident. Eleven years have passed, and yet, there are only 1,800 people back in town. “Tomiokachou 3.11 wo Kataru Kai” is the “kataribe (storyteller)” activity that takes place in town. Motivated by their storytelling mission, they have been sharing with visitors about the events that transpired in Tomioka Town and Civic Force has been supporting this activity from January 2022. The NPO holds “kataribe” classes for children and young people, creating spaces to meet and communicate with each other to pass down memories.

Passing Down Memories to Future Generations

**Miyagi** March 11 Future Support



“Online Kataribe” continues under COVID-19 restrictions

#### Demonstrating the Impact of Passing Down Memories

Ishinomaki City’s “March 11 Future Support” started as a function of the NPO/NGO liaison meeting management office after the Great East Japan Earthquake. Along with improvements made in the disaster-affected area, the activities gradually shifted from support to passing down memories. From 2017, they have been supporting activities that pass down the memories of each local area as the management office of the “3.11 Memorial Network,” an earthquake disaster cooperation group. From February 2022, we have been verifying the impact of these activities on the progress of disaster preparedness. By showing the social value of these activities, we aim to create a more disaster-resilient society.

Passing Down Memories to Future Generations

**Miyagi** Mémoire de Yuriage



Tsunami Reconstruction Memorial Museum “Mémoire de Yuriage”

#### To the Generations Born after the Earthquake

Prior to the disaster, about 5,000 people were living in the Yuriage neighborhood of Natori City, Miyagi Prefecture. The tsunami destroyed the land and Yuriage Middle School lost 14 students. One year after the disaster, a memorial was built where the school used to stand. The memorial is an important place for people to gather together and pass down the memories of the tragedy. The past NPO Partner Project with Civic Force supported memorial services management but starting this March, the project also began supporting storytelling activities and management support.

Passing Down Memories to Future Generations

**Miyagi** Date no Kurofune Taiko(Drum) Preservation Society

#### Collecting Landscape Pictures Taken Before the Earthquake and Making Them Treasures of the Town

A preservation society continues to perform “Date no Kurofune Taiko,” a local tradition based in Ogatsu Town, Miyagi Prefecture. In addition to concerts, they are collecting and preserving landscape pictures of “matsuri (festival)” and local life taken before the disaster. Unfortunately, after the tsunami, the population of Ogatsu decreased to one-fourth of its number before the disaster. An NPO Partner Project is providing printing and digitalizing the photos collected to help the local people preserve their culture, traditional arts, and local life. Photos and videos are shown in the special exhibition, “Ogatsu no Matsuri,” at Ogatsu Suzuri Dento Sangyo Kaikan.



Special exhibition, “Ogatsu no Matsuri,” is held till March 21

Community Revitalization

**Iwate** Riku Café

#### Securing Meals for Children and Health for the Elderly

Riku Café is aiming to revitalize communities that were split or lost in areas around Rikuzentakata City, Iwate Prefecture. The café is running a community space led by residents and puts effort into food education for children and healthcare for the elderly. Since January, the NPO Partner Project is working to solve health issues that were exacerbated by the Great East Japan Earthquake. Civic Force will support lunch box distributions to households needing food (listed by the municipal council of social welfare) in addition to “Kodomo Shokudo (children’s cafeteria),” which offers free or reduced-price meals and a safe place to stay. New menu development contests for high school students, cooking classes, nutrition consulting, and healthcare projects for the elderly will also be implemented.



Cooking class for children held at Riku Café

Community Revitalization

**Iwate** Nebama “Hamanasu (Japanese Rose)” Project Planning Committee

#### To Revitalize a Marine Coast Full of “Hamanasu”

Due to the disaster, the number of marine plants decreased along the Nebama Coast of Kamaishi City, Iwate Prefecture, greatly influencing the local ecosystem. Local volunteers started an initiative to regain the valuable sightseeing attraction of the local area. The coastal landscape and ecosystem will be revitalized by expanding “hamanasu,” a symbolic flower of Kamaishi City that grows wild in the area. In cooperation with local children and specialists, they have conducted seeding, plant cutting, and soil improvement and are aiming to create a Nebama-style sustainable community that coexists with nature. At the tree planting festival to be held this April, seedlings that were raised and seeds that were collected will be planted.



Making “hamanasu” seedlings with local children

### Ongoing Projects as of March 2022



Kokoro Smile Project

**Miyagi** **Community Revitalization Kokoro Smile Project**  
Providing support and mental care for children and their families who have suffered after losing their families.



Soma Aid and Rescue Team

**Fukushima** **Community Revitalization Ishinomaki Revival Support Network**  
Providing shelters to families in need and those facing domestic violence.

**Fukushima** **Community Revitalization Soma Aid and Rescue Team**  
Creating communities and nurturing the next generation through the horse culture of Minami-Soma in Fukushima Prefecture.

**Fukushima** **Fukushima Welfare Support Shinsei**  
Creating a sustainable mountain farm for evacuees who have the nuclear disaster.

**Nationwide** **Fukushima Welfare Support 311 Japan Nuclear Disaster Aid Association/ 311 Ukeire Zenkoku Kyogikai**  
Supporting the continuation and progress of the retreat programs operated by volunteers across Japan

**Iwate** **Kosodate-ship Community Revitalization**  
Providing continuous childcare support from pregnancy Supporting disaster preparedness project for infants

**Ohanashi Kororin Community Revitalization**  
Lending books to elementary schools and local groups Lending books and holding story telling at the salon



Ohanashi Kororin

**Ohakozaki Civic Meeting Community Revitalization**  
Supporting a fishing industry experience tour and Umi no Gakko (School of the Sea) at Hakozaki Peninsula in Kamaishi City

We Offer Our Support!

L'OCCITANE EN PROVENCE

### A Sustainable Initiative Linked to Company Philosophy

**Natsuko Nakahara**  
In charge of L'OCCITANE Fund L'OCCITANE JAPON



Red flower of “hamanasu” that blooms in the summer.

L'OCCITANE applies the philosophy, “Respect for nature and people” - from a tiny seed in soil to its products distributed all over the world. As a sustainable initiative that links to our company philosophy, we deeply empathize with the the people of Kamaishi City who tirelessly work to restore the local nature starting from improving the soil, to raising seedlings, and planting.

\*This project is conducted by support from L'OCCITANE and the L'OCCITANE Group.

In July 2021, the Izusan neighborhood of Atami City, Shizuoka Prefecture was struck by a massive mudslide, followed by torrential rains in Kyushu in August where many houses and buildings were damaged. Through NPO Partner Projects, Civic Force has supported local volunteer organizations in the affected areas that aim to resolve local issues.

**Tenkarasen**  
Opening Café for Local People to Get Together

In October 2021, a local group delivering packed meals to elderly forced to take refuge at home and relief supplies to Hama Disaster Control Center established a volunteer organization named "Tenkarasen." The organization looks after the elderly and holds networking events for local residents. They are now preparing to be an incorporated organization and are in the process of opening a café with ocean views in Izusan this coming April. Our NPO Partner Project is assisting them with their incorporation process to establish long-lasting activities and support their projects for disaster-affected people.



Offering prayers at floral tribute table

**NPO Kusunoki**  
Sheltering / Looking after Pets of Disaster Victims

A private volunteer organization "Kusunoki," which has provided refuge for cats in Atami since 2004, looks after mudslide victims' pets to take some burden off of the owners during their stay in evacuation shelters. The organization also finds foster owners for cats to provide them with a peaceful environment. Since November 2021, Civic Force has supported the management of "Kusunoki" and provided financial assistance to cover medical costs so that the organization can efficiently manage both emergency activities and its regular operations.



Holding lecture sessions in Atami and Tokyo

**Shizuoka Kyouiku Net**  
Securing Places for Children

"I am so stressed due to the evacuee life." "I have lost the nursery for my children." Having listened to such words from parents, Shizuoka Kyouiku Net, an NPO in Shizuoka City, has been providing places for children in collaboration with the Atami City Office and other volunteer organizations. Civic Force helps to provide child-friendly spaces and manage their academic support to junior high /high school students. Activities include online tutoring for junior high students in cooperation with university students and NPOs, food education using local produce, and environmental education through the cleaning of Atami Beach.



Offering tutoring with NPOs and college students

**Atami Kicollys**  
Restoring Temple Hall - Heart and Soul of Locals

Atami Kicollys is a weekend logging group that operates in the forests of Atami. Its members lead the restoration work of the half-destroyed Aizome Temple, home of a local guardian deity in Hama District. Civic Force provides restoration equipment, cleaning tools, and financially supports first aid lectures for injuries or accidents potentially occurring during the restoration work. The goal of the project is to help restore the temple hall, a source of pride for the locals, by ensuring project safety and utilizing the timber of Atami's forests.



Kicollys' members restoring and cleaning the temple

**Megumi Group**  
Restoring the Workshop at an Employment Support Office

Megumi Group, which runs an employment support office for disabled persons, made every effort to restore its damaged workshop. Ended in December 2021, the NPO Partner Project helped them replace their damaged printer and refrigerator and provided a vehicle and items required to reopen the workshop. Megumi Group appreciated the project support saying, "We are now able to continue projects as we did before the disaster such as binding booklets for schools in Atami, assembling corrugated cartons, and creating reusable shopping bags. Thanks to your heartfelt support, we can concentrate on our primary activities without worry."



A rest and relaxation space created next to the restored workshop

**Galapagos**  
Reopening of Support Center for Affected Children

An after-school day service organization named Galapagos in Takeo City, Saga Prefecture, accepts children who have developmental disorders. The center was forced to close for two days after the flooding on August 14. In order to continue providing for children, a temporary center had been opened at a different location but preparations for the reopening of a new center are now underway. Civic Force assisted with the establishment of the temporary center and, in January 2022, began supporting the opening of the new center.



Children enjoying with play equipment

Regrettably, COVID-19 has not been contained, and people who are still in the process of recovery and reconstruction from disasters are facing yet another difficult situation. Civic Force has supported NPOs in the affected areas with COVID-19 response projects since June 2020. Furthermore, we have been developing NPO Partner Projects in areas affected by disasters in 2019 and 2020. In March 2022, we implemented the following projects:

**COVID-19**

- Fukushima** Caro Fukushima Platform to support children's education. "Study at Caro"
- Miyagi** Ishinomaki Revival Support Network Supporting disaster victims in temporary housing amid the pandemic.
- Miyagi** TEDIC Opening safe spaces for children.
- Nationwide** World Open Heart Emergency hotline for COVID-19 discrimination victims.



©TEDIC

**2020 Kyushu Heavy Rains**

**Amamira**  
Publishing an informational magazine from Amagase Town

Amamira (formerly named Amagase hot spring creation project), was launched in Amagase hot spring in Oita Prefecture in the wake of the heavy rain disaster in July 2020. Since the disaster, the group members including inns, restaurants, Regional Cooperation Teams, and tourism associations have implemented a soup kitchen service and, security measures and other efforts. Now, they are promoting town reconstruction with an eye on the future of the community. Through the NPO Partner Project (ended January 2022), Civic Force created an informational magazine, "Amamira Report", which covers the damage situation, evacuation methods, river improvement plans, and feelings of the local people. We held a study session on river improvement plans in Amagase and other issues, aiming to revitalize the community with the locals.



The "Amamira Report"

**2019 Typhoon No.19, Hagibis**

**Shinano Naganuma Folk House Preservation Society**  
Old Folk House Restoration Project Connecting Local Traditions

Hope Apple (Hoyasu victim support team) has provided a soup kitchen, relief supplies, and made spaces for local communities since the outset of the disaster. In 2021, it launched the Shinano Naganuma Folk House Preservation Society to preserve the historical landscape of the Naganuma region. Civic Force supported the restoration of old, damaged houses with high cultural property value. We are helping to strengthen the organizational foundation through house restoration workshops and creating a website for public relations and fundraising. Through this project, the houses can be utilized for regional revitalization instead of simply dismantling them at public expense.



Holding workshops for folk house restoration

**Column**

## Build Back Better

### To Overcome Disaster and Build a Better Society

Through the NPO Partner Projects, we are working with experts who have proven track records in various areas to correctly evaluate and analyze the validity, effectiveness, efficiency, and impact of each project and to use the results to build a better society.

**Megumi Kuwana**

Expert (Adviser) on NPO Partner Projects  
Associate Professor, Global Major,  
Department of International Studies,  
Faculty of International Studies,  
Kinki University



Though disasters cause a lot of damage, many new human relationships and unprecedented attempts are created to overcome the difficulties and to build a better society in the recovery process. Trial and error are inevitable in the face of overwhelming challenges. Listening to local people's voices, the NPO Partner Projects have encouraged and fostered new movements not covered by government subsidies and supported their activities. For over a decade, they have provided assistance in many different fields - medical care, education, energy, tourism, and disaster-resistant community creation. The variety of supported fields and the long-term continuity represent the characteristics of the NPO Partner Projects. I believe the NPO Partner Projects have respected local movements and changed the way of connection to these movements, which led to providing great power to creating the foundation for a new society.

What a single organization can do is limited when a large-scale disaster occurs.

To maximize the effect of all the support that we have received, Civic Force is investing in building an assistance mechanism that will have a significant impact on post-disaster society.

## Emergency Relief Activity in Tonga The Asia Pacific Alliance for Disaster Management (A-PAD)

A-PAD, an international emergency assistance organization, was inaugurated at the ministerial-level meeting of Asian disaster preparedness held in Indonesia in the year following the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake. In order to minimize catastrophic damages in the Asia-Pacific, a disaster-prone region, A-PAD operates an emergency relief platform through which companies, NPOs, governments, research institutions and media in the member countries can help each other. By the end of March 2022, six countries - Japan, Indonesia, South Korea, Sri Lanka, the Philippines and Bangladesh have joined, and a cooperation system established. In response to the massive eruption of a volcano off Tonga in January 2022, A-PAD headquarters and A-PAD Korea launched an emergency fundraising campaign. In coordination with the embassies and a local chamber of commerce in Tonga, A-PAD delivered relief items such as face masks and protective equipment in line with the local needs. Another emergency support activity is underway in areas of the Philippines and Nepal devastated by typhoons in December 2021.

Top: Volcano eruption - photo taken from the sky over Tonga  
Bottom: A-PAD staff unloading relief items at Fua'amotu Airport



### [A step towards a better future]

Sharing with Tonga the lessons Japan, as a disaster-prone country, has learned the pandemic.

<https://courier.jp/columns/278916/>

## Emergency Medical Support during Pandemic ARROWS (Airborne Rescue & Relief Operations With Search)



In December 2019, Civic Force helped organize ARROWS to provide rapid emergency relief and its first large-scale mission was to combat COVID-19. ARROWS delivered facial masks and medical supplies that had been stockpiled in case of disaster to medical and welfare facilities throughout Japan.

March 2022 marked the sixth wave of COVID-19, overwhelming hospitals and welfare facilities across the country. In response, ARROWS' medical teams have been dispatched to Miyagi, Hiroshima, Hokkaido and Okinawa prefectures to strengthen infection control measures and to fill manpower shortages.



Dispatching doctors and nurses across the nation upon request.

## "Common Benefit Investment" to Create a Local Economy beyond Reconstruction Common Benefit Investment Fund JAPAN

In November 2011, Common Benefit Investment Fund JAPAN was established with the donations offered to Civic Force from the Great East Japan Earthquake. To assist economic recovery efforts in the affected areas, it created the concept of "Common Benefit Investment" aiming to create a new economic model beyond recovery and reconstruction. Since launch, it has supported fourteen projects in Tohoku and three projects in Kumamoto Prefecture.

Some of the supported projects have begun repaying the fund. In 2018, a new fund was established with The Sanaburi Foundation to financially assist local NPOs. It will continue to assist the NPOs increase their value.

2021 annual report



Nature experience activity of Active Life -YADO-, an eco-first guest house

## Hands-on Event "Minna de Bosai" (Disaster Prevention Together)

Civic Force, together with Tokio Marine & Nichido Fire Insurance Co., held a hands-on event "Minna de Bosai 2022: Let's Think About Disaster Prevention!" on March 12 at the Fureai Square in Saga City. This disaster awareness event, held in collaboration with many companies and organizations, was intended for parents and children to learn about disaster prevention while having fun. Various goods that are useful in disaster situations were exhibited, including vehicles with power supply functions and emergency toilets, and a stamp lottery rally was also held.



## Appreciation Award from Saga Prefecture

On February 4, Saga Prefecture presented appreciation awards to 23 companies and organizations that supported the prefecture during the 2021 August heavy rain. Prefectural Governor Yoshinori Yamaguchi expressed his gratitude to Civic Force for providing supplies to the evacuation site and generous support such as distributing free taxi vouchers. Ms Kaori Neki, Executive Director of Civic Force, received the award.



## Supporting Nakano Junior High School on "Survey of Social Contribution Activities"

On February 18, Civic Force took part in an online interview held by second-year students from Nakano Junior High School in Nakano Ward, Tokyo. The school is working on a "Survey of Social Contribution Activities" as a part of the comprehensive learning program. We talked about our activities in the 2021 Atami landslide, Kyushu heavy rain and 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake. We also spoke about the role of Civic Force in times of disaster. They asked many questions such as "Is the job worthwhile?", "What were the hardest experiences?" and "Is there anything junior high students can do?"



## Media Coverage

- 21.12.25 **MAGAZINE** Hiroshima Athlete Magazine January 2022 issue  
"Social contribution through baseball: Players Association Fund finally realized!"
- 21.12.09 **WEB** Player's Plus  
"To offer immediate emergency assistance: Japan Professional Baseball Players Association founds the Players Association Fund"
- 21.11.23 **NEWSPAPER** The Saga Shimbun  
"Civic Force and Tokio Marine & Nichido's Saga Branch collaborating to prepare for natural disasters"

## Program Coordinator(s) Needed In Fukushima And Iwate Prefectures

Civic Force is seeking a program coordinator(s) to work on the Great East Japan Earthquake NPO Partner Projects based in Fukushima and Iwate prefectures. We welcome applications from people who are eager to support the disaster-affected areas.



NPO Partner Projects

## Support Our Activities Easily

### General Donations

Hometown Tax Payment Program  
<https://www.furusato-tax.jp/city/product/41001/107>

Value Books: "Charibon"  
<http://www.charibon.jp>

Heads: "Charity Happiness Shopping Bags"  
<https://www.e-heads.co.jp/products/detail2/3219>

SUNNAP (sales limited in ASKUL)  
"Phase-free Certified Paper Cup with Measurement"  
<https://askul.disclosure.site/ja/themes/103>

Hondana-Otasuke-Tai: "Donation by Selling Second-Hand Books"  
<https://hondana.biz/charity-application/>

EC Navi: "Smile Project"  
[https://ecnavi.jp/smile\\_project/](https://ecnavi.jp/smile_project/)

### COVID-19 Emergency Assistance

BEAMS "BEAMS Mask"  
<https://www.beams.co.jp/brand/901658/>



Yahoo! Net Donation  
• NPO Partner Projects <http://donation.yahoo.co.jp/detail/3747017>  
• Lending Trailers to Hospitals <http://donation.yahoo.co.jp/detail/3747016>

GlobalGiving  
<https://www.globalgiving.org/projects/coronavirus-relief-aid-distribution/>

### Great East Japan Earthquake

Yahoo! Net Donation  
<http://donation.yahoo.co.jp/detail/3747011>

## Start Your Support with Only 33 Yen per Day

In order to be better prepared for future disasters, we need your support. Become a monthly supporter and you can donate a fixed amount each month (in 1,000 yen units) and help prepare for future large-scale disasters.

- Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation : Aoyama Branch Account No. 6953964
- Japan Post Bank : 00140-6-361805 (Account holder's name of the above banks is "Civic Force")
- Credit card : Please check the "Donate Now!" section of the Civic Force website below  
<https://bokinchan3.com/civicforce/donation/bokin/page1.php>

**SNS**

- twitter <https://twitter.com/civicforce>
- YouTube <http://www.youtube.com/civicforceorg>
- facebook <https://www.facebook.com/civicforce>
- Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/civicforce/>

• Previous newsletters ▶ <https://www.civic-force.org/news/newsletter/>  
• Subscribe to updates from the disaster areas ▶ <https://www.civic-force.org/mailmagazine/index.html>

# Memorial Prayer for the 11th Anniversary: To Pass on to the Next Ten Years

## We Shall Not Let 3.11 Fade Away

14:46 on March 11.

Each year, at the exact time of the earthquake, memorial prayers are offered at many locations along the Tohoku seacoast.

The memorial event to mourn the victims is a very precious moment that comes once a year. However, the annual national memorial events were discontinued last year after the 10th anniversary of the earthquake, and municipal memorial events are similarly shrinking. Memorial events organized by local volunteers at their own expense are at a crossroads due to financial constraints and the effects of COVID-19.

In March 2022, Civic Force's Assistance Activities for the Great East Japan Earthquake is supporting the efforts of various local volunteer groups to sustain the memorial events in the affected areas.

The 11th anniversary "Memorial Prayer" is not only a time for mourning the victims but also an effort to reflect on the memories of 3.11 and pass down the lessons learned to future generations.

While the tangible efforts have been steadily progressing including the reconstruction of memorial facilities, the intangible efforts such as passing down memories to future generations are now reaching a crucial point.

### Crowdfunding Now Underway

[The Great East Japan Earthquake Support Program]  
The 11th Anniversary "Memorial Prayer":  
To Pass on to the Next Ten Years

Target Amount: 1,000,000yen



## Shiragiku Executive Committee



### Passing Down Memories to Future Generations

A 19:00 on March 11, a group of young volunteers will launch memorial fireworks in Unosumai Town, Iwate Prefecture, an area severely damaged by tsunami. The firework is named "Shiragiku," which was first made by a firework craftsman in Nagaoka City, Niigata Prefecture to mourn his army comrades lost in Siberian detention. With a wish to "turn all bombs around the world into fireworks," the Shiragiku fireworks are now launched at various places across Japan to commemorate different events including the Nagaoka City Air Raid (August 1) and the anniversary of the end of the Pacific War (August 15). Since 2020, Unosumai Town has been launching memorial fireworks on March 11, with the cooperation of Kase Enka Kogyo, the manufacturer of Shiragiku.

## Mémoire de Yuriage

At Natori Municipal Yuriage Junior High School in Miyagi Prefecture, 14 students fell victim to tsunami. One year later, a Tsunami Recovery Memorial Museum named "Mémoire de Yuriage" was opened. The museum regularly provides an earthquake disaster program to visitors. The memorial gathering, "We Will Always Remember You All," is held at the museum every March 11. In attendance is not only the bereaved families, but also people from all over Japan who wish to share the families' feelings and spend this particular day in Yuriage. This year again, the memorial will be held on March 11 to observe silent prayers to the victims and to fly dove balloons to the sky with messages written on them.

### Passing Down Memories to Future Generations

