

Japan/Hawaii Exchange Program for the Mentally Challenged

Summary of Activities

Purpose

We intend to establish a high level of care for the mentally challenged through international exchange programs, in which opportunities for active sharing of information among the Japanese families, American families, faculty members at schools for mentally challenged youth, and associates at nursing facilities, are provided. Furthermore, we shall widely contribute to the good of the society by cultivating the global awareness of both the Japanese and the American participants and by expanding the employment opportunities for the mentally disabled on the Big Island.

Significance

We shall learn the reality of facility operations in the State of Hawaii where the high per capita income is achieved. We shall also learn:

1. Hawaii's education system which focuses on the improvement of individual abilities,
2. hours of work at schools and facilities, and
3. the system of maximizing the vacation time via one-on-one guidance which suits each individual's particular characteristics.

We shall strive to adopt and apply such knowledge in Japan. Needless to say, through international exchange programs, we shall cultivate the global awareness among the mentally challenged, and it is extremely significant in the true sense of the word that we make the contrition in elevating the level of care for the mentally disabled by providing opportunities for friendship among American families with disabled child (children), faculty members at schools for the challenged, and the associates at the nursing facilities.

Contents of the Program

Through schools and facilities for the mentally challenged, organizations such as All Japan Schools for the Mentally Challenged PTA United Association (membership: 260,000), All Japan Society for the development of Mentally Challenged (membership: 200,000), Japan Mentally Challenged Welfare Association (non-profit - membership: 150,000), will receive brochure/application to participate in International Exchange programs below. Especially, such programs as International Exchange for the schools for mentally challenged and International Exchange for the facilities for mentally challenged will be deemed special for having the financial support from non-profit organizations and corporate sponsorship. In addition, exchange program for individuals will be made available in the aforementioned brochure by introducing the web site address for non-profit organization's international exchange programs for the mentally challenged.

With regard to this individual exchange, the organization's international exchange program web site will indicate names of: 1) participating firms (airlines and travel agencies), 2) local/Hawaii program directors, 3) local/Hawaii lodging facilities. Those interested individuals will apply to participate in the program through appropriate firms.

- 1) Adolescents Exchange Program (all costs are to be paid for by each participant), Three programs per year; total 30 participants.
 - i) events held in: July-August; December; March. A 10-day event
 - ii) content: Attend special classes; experience actual work study programs; sporting events.
 - iii) place: Helemano Plantation; Pahoia Junior and Senior High Schools; ARC, Puna Kamali'i Flowers, Inc.
 - iv) Participants: students at schools for mentally challenged; challenged youth who attend facilities; adult companions to mentally challenged; challenged youth who reside at care facilities.
 - v) One overnight home visit with individuals who share similar interests.

- 2) Faculty Exchange Program (all costs are to be paid for by each participant), Three programs per year, total 30 participants.
 - i) events held in: July-August; December; March. A 10-day event
 - ii) content: Attend special classes; participate in workshops for the faculty;
 - iii) Attend lectures held at Hawaii Community college
 - iv) place: Helemano Plantation; Hilo Junior and Senior High Schools; Pahoia Junior and Senior High Schools; Hawaii Community College
 - v) participants: faculty members at schools for mentally disabled; special education teachers.
 - vi) One overnight home visit with individuals who share similar interests.

- 3) Day Faculty for the mentally challenged participants Exchange Program, (all costs are to be paid for by each participant), Three programs per year; total 30 participants.
 - i) events held in July-August; December; March; A 10-day event.
 - ii) content: Experience the Day Facility
 - iii) place: Helemano Plantation, ARC, Puna Kamali'i Flowers, Hawaii Community College
 - iv) participant: Day Program participants and the residents at care facilities
 - v) One overnight home visit with individuals who share similar interests.

- 4) School for the Mentally Challenged International Exchange Program, (Participants will pay only for the costs of domestic travels and meals.), One program per year; total 10 participants.
 - i) event held in: March, 2006; A 7-day event.
 - ii) content: Attend special classes; participate in special workshop for faculty.
 - iii) place: Pahoia Junior and Senior High Schools; Hilo Junior and Senior High Schools; ARC, Puna Kamali'l, Hawaii Community College.

- iv) participant: principal (1); faculty (1); students (4); parent/guardian (4). total 10.
 - v) One overnight home visit with individuals who share similar interests.
- 5) Facility for the Mentally Challenged International Exchange Program, (Participants will pay only for the costs of domestic travels and meals.), One program per year, total 10 participants.
- i) event held in February, 2006; A 7-day event
 - ii) content: Participate in actual work programs; Experience the Day Facility.
 - iii) place: ARC, Puna Kamali'l, Hawaii Community College.
 - iv) participant: facility executive director (1), facility associate (1), mentally challenged
 - v) persons who either attend the Day Facility or reside at the nursing facility (4);
 - vi) parent/guardian (4); total 10.
 - vii) One overnight home visit with individuals who share similar interests.
- 6) Human Services College Students Exchange Program, (all costs are to be paid for by each participant), Three programs per year; total 30 participants; A 10-day event
- i) event held in July-August; December; February-March.
 - ii) content: Attend the University of Hawaii at Manoa and Kapiolani Community College's
 - iii) special lectures; Observe the day facility; Observe the special education classes.
 - iv) place: Hawaii Community College; Hilo High School; ARC; Puna Kamali'i; Helemano Plantation; University of Hawaii at Manoa; Kapiolani Community College.
 - v) participant: college students majoring in Human Services (10)
 - vi) One overnight home visit with individuals who share similar interests.
- 7) Exchange Program for families with mentally challenged child/children, (all costs are to be paid for by each participant), Events held throughout the year.
- i) event held at any time of the year
 - ii) content: visit day facilities; participate in fellowship activities with families; attend lectures on culture at Hawaii Community College.
 - iii) ARC; Puna Kamali'l; Hawaii Community College
 - iv) participant: one family with mentally challenged child/children
 - v) One overnight home visit with individuals who share similar interests.

Organizations

The Organization for the Promotion of Intercultural Exchange for the Mentally Challenged (OPIEMC), a Japan non-profit organization.

Purpose:

This non-profit organization's purpose is to contribute to the expansion of contacts between Japan's mentally challenged people and those of overseas (particularly the State of Hawaii in the United States) by creating programs which foster exchanges among Japan's mentally challenged youth (and their families), faculty and staff (at schools and nursing facilities), and mentally challenged people of overseas, especially ones in Hawaii.

Enterprises that pertain to the specific non-profit activities:

- 1) Providing opportunities for exchanges and fellowship among Japan and overseas (especially Hawaii's) mentally challenged people and their families, schools and facilities' faculty and staff. This enhances mutual understanding.
- 2) Providing opportunities for active sharing of ideas and information among Japan and overseas (especially Hawaii's) mentally challenged people and their families, schools and facilities' faculty and staff. This is done through exchanges between the people. Knowledge gained through such exchanges will assist us in achieving the goal of elevating the level of care for the mentally challenged.
- 3) Cultivating the global awareness for the mentally challenged youth who participate in the exchange program with overseas (especially Hawaii's) youth.
- 4) Providing the place and opportunity for the true rest and relaxation for families who participate in international exchange program with their mentally challenged child (children) and for faculty and staff at schools and facilities for mentally challenged.
- 5) Making contribution to the expansion of employment opportunities for the mentally challenged through the international exchange programs for Japan and overseas (especially Hawaii's) youth.

Management staff and full-time associates for this organization:

Management Staff:

Chairperson of the board:

Nobuko Sekino

PTA member for All Japan Schools for the Mentally Challenged

Board member:

Keiko Yamamoto

Board President for the Tokyo Municipal Society for the development of Mentally Challenged

Board member:

Shoko Yoshida

Office Manager for the United PTA - All Japan Schools for the Mentally Challenged

Auditor:

Sueo Yasue

Executive Director for the Tokyo Municipal Sports Association for the Disabled

Associates:

Koji Sakaguchi

Mayor, Nishi Tokyo City

Masa'aki Kurano

Councilman, Nishi Tokyo City

Ruth Matsu'ura

Spouse of the former US Senator, MD

Kei'kichi Kishimoto

President of the Association of the Principals at All Japan Schools for the Mentally Challenged

Kei'ichi Koyama

Tax Accountant at Kamiyama Tax Office

Fusao Adachi

Adviser for the International Disabled Person's Nice Heart Foundation

Ivan nakano

Japanese Chamber of Commerce & Industry of Hawaii, 1st Vice President

Vicki Nelson

Vice President, Puna Kamali'i Flowers, Inc.

Carolyne Morikawa

PTA member for All Japan Schools for the Mentally Challenged

Miyoko Matsumoto

Committee member for the International Division of the Japan Association for the Welfare of Mentally Challenged

Kazuhiko Sekino

PTA member for All Japan Schools for the Mentally Challenged