

School lunch support and dessert support ~ A full stomach and feelings with delicious meals ~ (March 26, 2012)

Save the Children has provided vegetable juice once a week and offered plates, trays, chopstick cases and pouches to be used in school lunches for the kindergartens, elementary schools and junior high schools in Ishinomaki City. Moreover, on Saturdays in July, when supplementary classes caused by the earthquake were given, various supports were offered, such as providing meals at lunch time. As nearly one year has passed since the earthquake, the “dessert support” has provided a fantastic dessert as a present to the children who have worked hard to overcome the difficult situation since the disaster.

We are all good friends: Ayukawa Elementary School sixth graders

In the area under the responsibility of the Oshika School Lunch Center, strawberry crepes were provided on January 31, 2012. We visited the sixth grade class at Ayukawa Elementary School.



In Ishinomaki City, in addition to the school lunch centers on the coast, the inland areas were also greatly damaged. Therefore, after the earthquake in April and May, it was not possible to cook and school lunches were mainly milk and bread only. However, since reconstruction work has gone well underway since June, it has become possible to provide rice and a side dish. Accordingly, Save the Children started to provide vegetable juice once a week. Against growing concerns about vitamin deficiencies, a menu was selected that took into consideration a nutritional balance, but we also heard people say things like, “it was also good for hydration” and “I am really grateful for cool juice in this hot season.” When we asked about the vegetable juice we had been providing since June, one child commented, “I have never left any. I like it as juice, rather than as vegetables.”

Full of vigor: Class 1, Grade 3, Kanomata Elementary School

In the area under the responsibility of the Kanan School Lunch Center, cocoa waffles were provided on February 14. We visited a class in the third grade of Kanomata Elementary School.



The vegetable juice was also well received here, and when we asked, “Is there anyone here who doesn’t like it?” the students raised their voices saying, “I like it, I like it,” and when we asked, “Well then, who here likes vegetable juice?” most of them raised their hands.



Since the earthquake, the system to wash the dishes in the school lunch centers has remained disorganized and the students have to take the dishes home and clean them themselves. It was very difficult for students in the lower grades to take their dirty dishes home every day while paying attention. Therefore, in the summer, Save the Children provided chopstick cases, and takeaway pouches, as well as trays and plates. Everybody used these with great care. The other day, when we saw well-worn pouches tightly fastened to school bags, we became very happy recognizing that the students were using the pouches every day.

City officials have made great efforts to provide school lunches in Ishinomaki City and at present, it has become possible to also add warm soup or a side dish. From the next school year, full school lunches are going to be provided again.