

The Child Reporter Project Has Begun!
“I want to convey the joy of a marching band through photos!”
(March 26, 2013)

Save the Children Japan (SCJ), in collaboration with Sony Corporation, established the RESTART JAPAN Fund to support children affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake. The fund has already played a role along with other corporate partners in SCJ conducting the “Achieve Your Dream Project.” The project has now entered into its second term with the launch of the “Child Reporter Project.” Children from supported organizations will be able to convey their opinions through photos and articles of their own.

Today, we want to share with you the child reporters from one of the supported organizations, the marching band "Seeds+." On Saturday, March 9, a concert was held in Minamisoma City of Fukushima Prefecture on the theme of “Let’s Get Energized with Everybody!” Six organizations including Seeds+ participated in the concert. Seeds+ is a marching band based in Minamisoma and Aizuwakamatsu cities. The band has 37 members in total, consisting of 31 elementary school students and 6 junior high school students. They deliver energy to their communities through playing music, while also enjoying it themselves. Yuta Shiga (6th grader), who worked as a child reporter on the concert day, plays the bass drum in Seeds+.



Yuta says, “You can recall scenes of that time by seeing photos no matter how many years have passed. It is interesting to photograph such scenes.”

At Seeds+, the members take turns being the photographer at competitions or events, but this role is very popular among them. Yuta said through his smile that he was happy to be in charge of photography that day. Regarding his ambition in taking photos at the concert, Yuta passionately said, "I want to take [photos of] smiles and cool poses of everyone. And I want to convey the joy of a marching band through photos!" Looking at the camera that had just been delivered, he said, "I realize that various people are supporting us. I want to convey my feeling of gratitude through our music and performance."



After completing his photography job at the concert Yuta said happily, "I could photograph how well they were playing, even the difficult rhythms. I believe I can take good photos."

When asked about the Child Reporter Project, a representative of Seeds+, Ms. Suzuki said, "I think it will be good if children start to have a sense of responsibility through taking the role of photographer. Photography gives them a good opportunity to see things from their own standpoint. I always tell them that they can freely photograph what they see."



Ms. Suzuki is watching the band's rehearsal

Mr. Sugawara, who is in charge of technical guidance, said, "Instead of simply taking pictures, I want to cultivate the children's feeling of "conveying," so that they can share their thoughts and information with others in their own way." Seeds+ has been updating its blog on a regular basis and the photos so far uploaded have been taken by parents. "However," Mr. Sugawara said, whilst warmly watching over the child reporters, "from now on, we want to use the photos that the children take."



Seeds+ members play music with united hearts. At the concert they played a medley from Spirited Away.

Asked what Yuta and the other child reporters wanted to convey through their photos, Yuta replied, "I want to convey the joy of a marching band." They certainly conveyed the joy they feel about music and their happiness to be able to play in a marching band.



"The best shot is certainly that of our friends playing music!" says Kana Hanzawa (1st grader from junior high school).



Miku Kanazawa (6th grader) often takes pictures in her daily life as well. This day she took photos at the "Marching Experience Corner."

We look forward to meeting many active child reporters from now on!

