



# JSS NEWS

Official Newsletter of Japanese Social Services

Fall/Winter 2017

## President's Message

By David Ikeda

I am writing this message the day after our Volunteer Appreciation Party held on November 4, 2017, at the JCCC. Around 34 attended the special lunch, which was prepared by long time JSS volunteer Tak Yoshida and his lovely wife Fumiko. The food, including fillet mignon, was absolutely delicious and was enjoyed by all who attended.

In October we completed another successful fundraising event, the Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon. The entire staff and many board members, volunteers and friends of JSS walked or ran the 5 km route or the half-marathon. Special thanks to Junko Yamamoto who again organized the event and got the sponsors for our poster and pledge sheets. Thanks to her efforts and all of the staff, board and volunteers we beat our previous amount raised of approximately \$8,000 and raised instead over \$13,000.

The next couple of months will be busy ones for us as well. Our Annual Holiday Drive has just begun. Our volunteers are working very hard organizing the placement of donation boxes in the various churches and organizations in the community and then distributing the goods as well. Like last year we are

encouraging donors to consider making monetary donations with cheques clearly marked "Holiday Drive" in the "Memo" section. Our staff, who know the clients better than anyone, can better customize the recipients "gifts" that you will in a sense have donated.

Lastly, if you are available please come out to enjoy a late afternoon of singing at the Joy of Christmas Concert to be held at the Gospel Church on December 6. The proceeds again will go to our organization. So on behalf of all of us at JSS, please have a safe Winter and thank you again for all of your support and encouragement. Good health and may we all see each other again in the new year.

## JSS Annual Holiday Drive 2017

JSS again asks for your support to help make some Japanese in Toronto or Japanese Canadian's holiday a little brighter this year.

Non-perishable food, new toys and clothing can be dropped off at the bins at various community organizations from Nov 10 to Dec 10. This year, we are making a special

request for monetary donations (\$\$) so we can fulfill our client's particular needs.

Please visit or mail in your cheques to the JSS office listed on the back.

\*Please indicate that this donation is "for Holiday Drive."

**Thanks & Happy Holidays!**

## Elder Abuse Seminars

*In partnership with The Momiji Seniors' Centre, JSS held two seminars on the sensitive topic of Elder Abuse. The seminars were held on October 4, at the JCCC with the Wynford Seniors group and on October 18 at the Momiji Seniors' Centre*

The events were made possible by a Grant from the Government of Ontario Seniors' Secretariat. At the JCCC, over 100 seniors, mostly members of the JCCC based seniors' group Wynford Seniors. For many years, JSS has been serving this group at their bi-monthly meetings with Japanese lunches prepared by many volunteers.

This time our volunteers prepared free box lunches for the event as well as providing translations for the Japanese speakers in the audience and advertising and coordinating the entire event itself.

## JAPANESE SOCIAL SERVICES

The main speaker was Monita Persaud from Elder Abuse Ontario who through a multi-media presentation, addressed issues of what is elder abuse, how to identify it and ultimately how to prevent and escape it.

The presentation was repeated for over 200 attendees at the Momiji Seniors' Centre during the afternoon on October 18 and again on the 24th. At this location, our full-time counsellor Mr. Takanori Kuge provided private counseling in a secured area to some of the attendees.

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### Thank you very much for your support to save Konnichiwa Program (JSS's Friendly Visiting Program)

*By Takanori Kuge (Counsellor)*

In this spring, I wrote the following article to call for support to save our Konnichiwa Program.

As is the case with every community, the Japanese Community in the GTA is rapidly aging, which means that there are a lot of people living in isolation due to aging, language barriers as well as health related issues.

In order to alleviate the loneliness of those who are isolated in the Japanese Community, JSS has been providing this program since 2004, and in the last few years, the needs for this program from the aging

community in GTA has been increasing and expanding.

Many of the service users are the seniors who need a Japanese-speaking friendly visitor, and this program is the ONLY program that can meet their needs in the GTA. In recent years, we have been serving for 2nd and 3rd generations of Nikkei Canadian seniors who are English-speaking, as well. Regardless of language, all the service users seem to be enjoying the service from this program very much.

On the one hand, this program is one of the most essential supports that we provide for the Japanese Community. On the other hand, this program is the most costly for JSS since JSS covers visitors' transportation fees, which is about \$3,000 a year. The need for this program is on the rise, which means it costs more for JSS. Bluntly speaking, JSS is and will be facing financial difficulty to sustain this irreplaceable program due to the decrease in donations.

As of November 16, we have received more than \$4,000 of donation to "Save the Konnichiwa" campaign. This means that JSS can securely keep providing this meaningful program for the coming year for the people in need of this service.

We'd like to take this opportunity to express our deepest gratitude for your warm-hearted support towards our activities.

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### Thank you very much!

There's a lot more information on the web.

Check us out at <https://jss.ca> and on Facebook (Japanese Social Services)

Check out our new online newsletter: <https://jss.ca> and press the English Icon

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### JSS News Acknowledgements

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Thanks also to the staff and volunteers