



JSS NEWS

Official Newsletter of Japanese Social Services

President's Message

By David Ikeda

Spring it seems in the GTA is taking a long time to come around. But we at JSS have been quite busy.

Ensuring our client, volunteer and donors' information is private and secure is the highest priority for the board and staff here. I thank board member Michelle Chibba for her fantastic work and use of her extensive expertise in this area as well as the staff for their cooperation and hard work in carrying out the plan.

On other fronts we completed our annual Holiday Drive. Thanks to the generosity of our community as well as our faith-based institutions and community partners, we were able to brighten the holidays with toys clothes and Japanese food items. I would especially like to thank our volunteers Ritsuko Osaki and Maiko Riekers who organized last year's event. I would also like to thank Naomi Scales and Shoko Kawamoto who organized the previous year's drive whom I did not mention then. And of course, thank you all for contributing so generously. Last year we

Our AGM has been scheduled for Wednesday, June 7, 2017, at 7:00 at the JCCC. The room has yet to be determined but signs will be posted. If you are a member and if you can, please join us. We face many

financial challenges this year with a drop in revenue. Your support and suggestions are most welcome.

JSS needs your support to save Konnichiwa Program (JSS's Friendly Visiting Program)

*By Takanori Kuge
(Counsellor)*

As is the case with every community, the Japanese Community in 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 the Konnichiwa Program (JSS's Friendly Visiting 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.

In this program, friendly volunteer visitors make visits to the program users on a regular & ongoing basis. During the home visit, a program user and a friendly visitor enjoy going for a walk, having friendly conversation and working together on each client's interests and hobbies. In most cases, a visitor keeps visiting a program user for a long term, so that they can establish a solid relationship.

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 GTA. In the 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 support that we provide for the Japanese Community. On the other hand, this program is the most costly program for JSS since JSS covers visitors' transportation fee, which is about \$3,000 a year. The needs for this program is on a rise, which means it would cost more for JSS to meet the needs. Bluntly speaking, JSS is and will be facing financial difficulty to sustain this irreplaceable program due to the decrease in donation.

My writing this article is a part of "Save the Konnichiwa Program Campaign", in which we'd like to call for warmhearted support in order for JSS to keep providing this irreplaceable & only-one-in-GTA program.

If you feel this program is important for the Japanese Community in GTA, and if you are interested in being a supporter of the Konnichiwa Program, please send a cheque with a note "to Save the Konnichiwa" to Japanese Social Services at 6 Garamond Court, Suite 235, Toronto ON M3C 1Z5.

*The donation through this campaign will be preferentially used for the Konnichiwa program. If the donation

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exceeds the cost to maintain the Kon-nichiwa program, it could be gratefully used to maintain other programs.

Japanese Social Services

Annual General Meeting

7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, June 7th, 2017,

at the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre,
6 Garamond Court, Toronto

All members are invited to attend

JSS News Acknowledgements

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Toronto Challenge and other challenges at JSS, 2017

By David Ikeda

The Toronto Challenge is set for Sunday, June 11, 2017, and JSS is once again participating as one of the registered community partners. The annual event is in its 25th year and is one of our most important fundraisers.

Senior board member Tokugi "Toke" Suyama annually solicits funds from friends and supporters like Mits Ito who may again walk the one km route.

This year's walk or run-a-thon will start rain or shine at 9:00 am. For those of you who do not know, the Toronto Challenge is an official fund raising event run by the City of Toronto for community groups like ours that help seniors and provide services for those in need. The event comprises a 5 km run, a 5 km walk and a 1 km walk through downtown Toronto. Participants will do one of the aforementioned races which will begin at City Hall and not Metro Hall as in previous years.

Walkers like Toke-san, in the days preceding and after the race will ask for pledges of money for JSS from members of our community. If you want to sponsor Toke-san or any of our other "walkers," please make your cheques payable to Japanese Social Services and mail them to our address. Make it clear in the memo on the cheque that the funds are for The Toronto Challenge. JSS like in all previous years will report the funds collected to the City and issue you a tax receipt. Our address, postal

code and telephone number can be seen in this Newsletter. The forms and information about the walk or run can be found on the Toronto Challenge website at: www.toronto.ca/challenge. Once again, thanks for your support.

There's a lot more information on the web. Check us out at

**<http://www.jss.ca>
and on Facebook
(Japanese Social Services)**

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

SUPPORTING TORONTO SENIORS AND COMMUNITIES

TORONTO CHALLENGE

Presented by **MonsterMortgage.ca**

5K RUN | 1K WALK | 5K WALK

SUNDAY, JUNE 11

**9:30 a.m. | TORONTO CITY HALL
100 QUEEN STREET WEST**



Learn more and register at
toronto.ca/challenge

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