



JSS NEWS

Official Newsletter of Japanese Social Services

Many Thanks to the Previous Fundraising Committee Chair

by David Ikeda

As a special way of expressing my thanks I did not want the following to be lost in the middle of my President's Message. But I wanted to express my and indeed the organization's gratitude to Mrs. Junko Yamamoto for her many years of service to JSS.

Eight years ago Mrs. Yamamoto and her husband Sam attended one of the board meetings chaired by then president, Mr. Takeo Maekawa. I remember they both listened attentively to Mr. Maekawa's presentation and explanations about what JSS does for the community.

It was shortly after that that Mrs. Yamamoto joined the board. Both she and Sam pledged to give JSS \$10,000 for the next five years. She also took on the task of Fundraising Chair. We never really had one before and only relied on Toke Suyama and his amazing Toronto Challenge one-man show and a few small scale events such as the Hot Lunch program with the Wynford Seniors.

Mrs. Yamamoto organized the largest and most successful fundraiser we have ever had, the

Piano Concert held in Fall, 2016 where she brought in a world famous husband and wife duo-pianists from Japan to perform at a near full house at the Glenn Gould Concert Hall. Other noted events included Sam's 80th birthday party which she converted into a fundraiser for JSS that raised around \$13,000.

For personal reasons she retired from the board this year. And boy do we ever miss her. However, she is still doing a lot of hard work for JSS. This summer she brought in an up and coming famous Illusionist from Japan, Mr Daiki Tanaka and opened up her and Sam's home for a special show with all ticket revenue going to JSS.

I could go on but space in this newsletter is so limited. On behalf of everyone here at JSS thank you Mrs. Yamamoto. We wish you health, happiness and much needed rest.

President's Message

by David Ikeda

September was a very special month for us at JSS. We held our first board meeting after the summer break. We also held our Volunteer Appreciation party to thank all of the community members who take time out of their lives to help our organization and the people we serve.

Our wonderful counters' duties are various, such as Konnichiwa volunteers who make friendly visits to Japanese speaking seniors and isolated members of our community some of whom suffer from dementia.

This is a daunting task for JSS as there is no "Japan Town" and our community is scattered over a wide part of the GTA. It is very easy for community members who may not have many family connections here to become isolated particularly if they suffer mental or memory deficits. Our volunteers help our counseling staff to monitor their day to day lives as well as just brighten up that day with some friendly company.

We also have office volunteers who help with non-counselling related work. The latter is no small task. Volunteers organize the advertising, collection and sorting of gifts and food items for our annual Holiday Drive, where JSS makes gifts donated from community members to be distributed to individuals and families in need during the holiday season. And this is just a brief view of only some of the activities our volunteers do for the community.

In September we also received our Strategic Plan, which we worked on with the generous aid of Endeavour, a non-profit corporation associated with the University of Toronto. JSS worked

with 8 high level financial, engineering and non-profit sector volunteers who helped us map out a strategy for our future and financial viability. We do face many challenges both organizational and financial. Professional advice and reporting along with board and formal organizational development are crucial in making sure JSS remains to serve the community. The survey results demonstrated that our clients see our services as much needed and also happily enough, greatly appreciated. So a big thank you to all who participated in the survey which was so helpful in formulating the strategic plan and giving us the impetus to continue and hopefully build up our services. Thanks also to the staff for providing such professional service which is so greatly appreciated by many members of the community who have used and perhaps continue to use our services or participate in our many programs.

The big job for the board of directors is to formulate a workable plan moving forward in manageable stages in the near future. Strategic planning requires a workable strategy which means formulating steps. My thanks and appreciation to the board as well for all of the members' hard work and leadership in forging a workable plan for the organization moving forward.

In closing I would like to take this opportunity to thank you as well for your continued interest and support. On behalf of the board of directors, staff and all of us here at JSS, thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Run for a Reason Fundraiser this Fall

One of most important fundraising events is quickly approaching. "Run for a Reason" is happening on Sunday, October 21, 2018. Staff, board members and volunteers will be either walking or running at the Scotiabank Waterfront Marathon held in Toronto. The 5 km walk or run starts at the Exhibition grounds and ends at City Hall, while the marathon run starts and ends at City Hall.

Please sponsor one of our participants at this year's event. Pledge forms can be found online and at the office. Donations can be made online through our website: www.jss.ca. Please click on the link "Support JSS," then hit the PayPal logo and then make a note in the "add details and amount" section that the donation is for "Run for a Reason." Donations can also be made to any of our runners/walkers in person. Cheques can also be made to the address on this newsletter and mailed in as well. All donors who give over ten dollars are eligible to receive an income tax receipt provided we have a mailing address.

Again thank you for your support.

19th JSS Annual Holiday Drive

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 3 to Dec 9. 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 cover. *Please indicate that this donation is "for Holiday Drive."

Thanks and Happy Holidays!

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

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

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

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**Thanks also to the
staff and volunteers.**