



## News Letter Vol.18

2018. 9. 30

Takaidohigashi 3-3-15-308 Smiling Hospital Japan Tokyo Main Office  
Tel/Fax: 03-4296-5691 E-mail: [info@smilinghpj.org](mailto:info@smilinghpj.org) HP: <http://www.smilinghpj.org>

This year the rainy season ended much earlier than usual and we experienced extreme heat this summer.

Severe rainstorms hit many areas of the country and left serious damage. It will take considerable time to recover from these natural disasters. Our thoughts are with everyone who has been affected by these disasters and wish for a quick recovery.

Here's September's Newsletter

With everyone's support, hospitals and facilities involved in our programs are growing in number and we keep ourselves busy delivering programs for children in hospitals. This newsletter provides the summary of our activities for the past three months.

We look forward your continued support.

All the member of Smiling Hospital Japan

### Table of contents

- Activity report from June to Aug in 2018
- Topics from June to Aug in 2018
- Comments from children and parents
- SHJ cartoon "Roten-chan"
- Comment form SHJ office staff
- Blog post from Ms. Matsumoto
- Update from SHJ

### "Happiness Helps Healing"

*Donations were used for the following activities such as antibody tests for artist participating in our programs and performance fees. During Jun and August, SHJ delivered programs for **3,735 children and the families.***

*Please find more details inside the newsletter.*



"Be a monster" provided by Sasayu at The University of Tokyo Hospital



### Support Smiling Hospital Japan (SHJ)!

membership fee of 5,000yen=SHJ artist's performance fee for one performance=Enable to deliver "smiles" to average 20 children!

Please find more details on our homepage. We also welcome your donation.

**\* Donations to certified NPOs are subject to tax incentive. Please refer to the details on the SHJ homepage under Regarding Certified NPO or ask your local tax bureau.**

●Activity Report by figures and pictures from June to August. 2018



Number of hospitals: 28  
Number of facilities: 16  
Number of activities: 131  
Number of participants: 3735



SHJ Official Character  
SUMAHOJI-kun



## ●～Comments from children and mums～

I was surprised to see play dough stretch so much. I was happy that I was able to make many different kinds of shapes using the cookie cutter molds. The operation I had to take was tough but I had fun joining the program. I will treasure the crafts that I made and will bring it back home with me. The flower shaped beads were very pretty and I want to join again. Thank you. From a child



The book was fun and it was a great experience to play instruments. From a child



I had a lot of fun. The balloon dog and balloon bag were amazing and performance with bean bags were awesome. From a child

I want thank to SHJ as we had a special time as my child was bored at being in the hospital since being hospitalized 9 days ago. During the time we enjoyed the program, it took our mind off of the suffering and pain. The experience were we could visualize and hear various sounds coming out from the acoustic instruments was a unique experience we can rarely see and the storytelling accompanied by the instrument created a fun time for my child and myself. We look forward the next opportunity to participate in such an event. Thank you again for delivering us a great time. From a patient mother

As time passes and life in the hospital becomes longer, it becomes difficult for my child to find things that interests her/him every day. Every Monday, a SHJ artist visits and I found my child and myself looking forward to meet with a different artist every week. The artists' visits motivate my child to endure treatment and stay positive until the next visit on Monday. We appreciate the programs you provide for us and your continued support for my child to fight with her/his disease. From a patient mother

It was a special and new experience to listen to a story with an acoustic music accompaniment. Also the opportunity to touch the instrument was a good experience. From a patient mother



## ●Comments from SHJ staff



Yukako Sumino

Coordinator for Hyogo region and SHJ artist (Violinist)

I'm Yukako Sumino, a coordinator in Hyogo, as well as SHJ Artist in the group known as "Satoyuka" with Satoko Matsuzaki who is also Music Therapist, providing musical activity together.

As a coordinator, I felt content to see when needs from hospitals and skills of SHJ artists matched and when I see the hospital rooms were full of smiles. I sometimes visit hospitals and facilities as an assistant to artists, I really enjoyed to see how professional they are as artists and it becomes my motivation. I am also volunteering at the SHJ office to provide what ever help I can for the organization.



with Satoko Matsuzaki  
(to the right)

After graduating from music university, I founded and teach at Yukako Violin School. In 2012, I became a certified Music Therapist in Hyogo and currently provide music therapy session to individuals with severe motor and intellectual disabilities.

I fully utilize my skills and experiences to our music activities in hospitals. We not only provide a fun time to children in hospitals, but as music therapists, we provide them the opportunity to experience making music. We usually start to plan a program with imagining smiley faces to be put on the children and their parents 3 weeks prior to the date of visit and do a half or full day rehearsal 2 weeks prior. We enjoy the time of this procedure. Our focus when organizing the program is to make every child, regardless of their ages and diseases or disabilities, participate. On the day of the visit, we carefully observe the children when they enter the room, have conversation to know more about them and plan the session in mind.

Children are always the center of our activity. Without them to notice that, we support them to focus on their interests through non-verbal musical communication. We also approach to make them aware of each other by having them call each other's names or play same instruments together. At the end of activity, we perform music from J-pop and Disney and sometimes with improvisation with violin and piano. One day, a child staying for a longer period of time in the hospital was waiting for us to play together with an accordion. That child was practicing ahead of time so he could play with us during our visit. I felt our visit can motivate children to live in hospitals with keeping positive attitudes and this moment would become a precious moment for them.



I would like to extend my appreciation to Ms. Matsumoto, those who support SHJ, nursery staffs, nurses and hospital officers and facilities we visit. I look forward to providing activities to make children and their parents smile with my music.





## ●Through the experience of supporting artists ... That's something only she can do!

I heard many comments from all over the children's ward like  
"That's something only she can do!",  
"I got her technique for storytelling",  
"Her voice is something I want to listen to her all day", or  
"she changed her voice to fit the characters and produced a feeling  
of the characters actually being there"  
about Yukari Hirasawa, a voice actress as well as SHJ artist, who  
has such an attractive voice that draws her listeners' attention.



She carries a carry case which I assume is very heavy, full of story books. In order to visit children staying in hospital rooms for infants with infectious diseases, she has to wear and change gowns several times for each infant within the same room. This is quite tedious work. To see each child longing to see her, she has to move and change her gown each time to see all the kids which is quite physical causing her to perspire as she visits each child.

Mostly younger aged children joined the program with her today. The children with mothers or fathers moved their body while listening to her story and pointed to the pictures in books filled the room with smiles. One child was intently watching Yukari's kind face and expressions, even the child's mother tried to divert her attention to the story book. For the child, the visit of someone who she/he doesn't know becomes a good stimulus. One of fathers was talking with his wife said "Look at our child, so into the story and smiling. I can't believe she was fussy before her visit".



We are not informed in advance about the details of the children's ages, how many children are going to attend or what are their favorite stories. Yukari will carry as many books as possible to meet the children's requests and she carries a lot of interesting books in her carry bag during the heat although she knows she will only be reading a few of them. SHJ artists have huge hearts. Yukari says as a professional voice actress, providing perfect jobs are a must but in hospitals, children appreciate my work with their pure heart and it makes me feel so much happy and relieved.

Hospital staff as well express their gratitude toward our activities and each child is able to have such a special experience in the hospital, which is a win-win for everyone.

This is the article Ms. Matsumoto posted on her blog.

She started out writing her blog almost everyday since last July talking about SHJ, the artists and issues around children. Thank you for being the followers.



●About Smiling Hospital Japan Updated as of Sept. 1 2018

Established	May 2012 as a Volunteer Group    December 2012 as an NPO					
Address	3-3-15-308 Takaidohigashi, Suginami-ku Tokyo 168-0072 Tel/Fax:03-4296-5691 Mobile:090-8894-2640					
Purpose & What we do	Smiling Hospital Japan believes “Happiness helps healing” and our mission is to lift the spirits of children in hospital, especially of those under very weak condition with low immunity, and of those obliged to stay long in hospital, through entertainment of professional artists.					
Background	There are the present situation that many children are forced to long-term hospitalization for chemotherapy or transplant and enduring still hard treatment without being permitted the meeting with friends and brothers/sisters for the infection prevention. There are some hospitals holding a concert and the drama for the purpose of healing of the patient, but those who can't appeared from a sickroom are deprived an opportunity to enjoy even the event of the hospital. Activity to enjoy while being in a ward and the sickroom is necessary for children whose living environment is extremely limited by a fight against illness.					
Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular visits (mostly weekly basis) to let the children look forward to next activity</li> <li>• Personal visits   to cherish every child</li> <li>• Individual participation to make the children active</li> <li>• Sharing professional art   to let them enjoy high-quality creative activities</li> </ul>					
Hospitals: 28 Facilities: 16	[ <b>Hokkaido&amp;Tohoku</b> ]Hokkaido Medical Center for Child Health and Rehabilitation/Hokkaido University Hospital/Ishinomaki Red Cross HospitalI[ <b>Kanto</b> ]Ibaraki Prefectural University of Health Sciences Hospital/Chiba Children’s Hospital/Gathering for severely multiple handicapped children and parents in Suginami “Mikangumi”/Gathering for severely multiple handicapped children and parents “Nakano Dream”/Haru Home Care Station/Himawari Haus/Japanese Red Cross Medical Center Pediatrics Ward&Infant Home/Kanagawa Children’s Medical Center/Keio University Hospital/National Center for Child Health and Development “Momiji House”/ National Center for Child Health and Development / Nihon University Itabashi Hospital/Tokyo Women’s Medical University Hospital/University of Tokyo Hospital/University of Tsukuba Hospital[ <b>Chubu</b> ]Aichi Children’s Health and Medical Center/Nagoya University Hospital/Shizuoka Children’s Hospital[ <b>Kinki</b> ]Child Chemo House/Jidou dayservice-PRIMO/Kobe Children’s Hospital/Kyoto University Hospital/National Hospital Organization Minami-Kyoto Hospital/Osaka City General Hospital/Japanese Red Cross Himeji Hospital/Yodogawa Christian Hospital Children’s Hospice/St. Mary’s Hospital in Himeji[ <b>Chugoku</b> ]Hiroshima City Hospital/Hiroshima Prefectural Hospital//Hiroshima Rehabilitation Center[ <b>Kyushu</b> • <b>Okinawa</b> ]Hisayama Ryoikuen/Kyushu University Hospital/kitakyushu City Yahata Hospital / Okinawa Miyako Hospiat					
Home-Visit	6 in Tokyo		Fiscal Year	Oct. 1 ~ Sep. 30		
Number of Activity	503 a year (2017)		Number of Participant	9170 (2017 cumulative total)		
Board Members	Representative   Ellie Matsumoto                                  Director   Mirei Yada Deputy Representative Director   Koji Taniguchi                                  Audit         Rie Koudu					
Area Coordinator	Hokkaido : Noriko Yonezawa    Ishinomaki : Junko Chiba    Shizuoka : Tomoko Suzuki Sendai : Ellie Matsumoto      Tokyo/Chiba/Kanagawa : Mirei Yada    Ibaraki : Junko Igarashi Aichi : Yasuyo Minoura    Kyoto : Tomohiro Takyu    Osaka : Sumie Nishi    Hyogo : Yukako Sumino    Hiroshima: Naoko Tanaka    Fukuoka :Takayuki Fujiwara    Okinawa: Kimiyo Kambara					
Accountant	Satoko Mochizuki	Voluteer Artists	152	Assistant Volunteers	17	
Regular Members	11	Support Members	215 individuals    12 Groupes			
E-mail	info@smilinghpj.org		URL	http://www.smilinghpj.org		
Bank Account	JP Bank  Mizuho Bank Hamadayama Branch		Account Holder : Smiling Hospital Japan Kigou : 10090    Account Number : 74039541 Account Holder : Smiling Hospital Japan Account: Savings    Number : 1950697			
Fund	Member fee, Donation by individuals and companies, Grant, Sponcership fee					

## Special Thanks

