

Annual Report YouMeWe NPO 2022

特定非営利活動法人



They say, **"Dance like no one is watching, love like you've never been hurt; sing like no one is listening and live like its heaven on earth."** as we pull through the most horrific times in generations, you can see people appreciating the little things that may have been taken for granted in the past. People are enjoying each others company more, being able to meet at all is not a hindrance but a luxury to be savored.

YouMeWe was fortunate to thrive during the past year by sticking to what we saw as our main value, "children being connected in an information society". Numerous companies came out of the dawn looking to help through donations of financial support or most precious, their time. While people have been working from home, they found so much time left over not spent commuting that they reached out to us to allow us to build up our volunteer teams in preparation for when the time comes to be able to go back into all of the homes and not just a few select as of lately.

Having lessons online became a reality and a welcomed one at that. As soon as we received computers and laptops from donors, we were busy sending them out not only to Tohoku, and Kanto but now to Chubu, Shizuoka, and Kansai. Many homes learned about what we are offering and also children who aged out of the homes went to university and were sent home to attend online. They then reached out to, and we happily supplied them with the laptop or replacement they needed in case theirs blew up unexpectedly.

It dawned on us this year after being in this space since 2007 personally, that we are one of the few consistencies in the children's lives. Staff come and go, and Encho-sensels retire but even when a child ages out at 18, we are there to connect them with job opportunities this year like Sakura Internet and BMW. This, being part of the large part Knights in White Lycra (KIWL) has played a major part in our growth by introducing numerous corporate sponsors not only as donors but active participants in the children's lives.

While we may never be sure if we are through the worst of it, we know now from experience what, perhaps, we never appreciated enough. That what matters, the only thing that matters, is that our friends and families are safe and healthy and one can only truly find happiness if those around us are happy as well. Thank you for all of your support throughout the year. Tomorrow when we wake, we can whisper, "and so, we begin again."
Regards,

YouMeWe NPO and team

YouMeWe Ambassadors



Tomoya

1-Tell us your story

I have been active with YouMeWe and have been able to use the programs to increase my opportunities in the future.

2-What was your first contact with YouMeWe?

It was in 2018.

I first met Michael when he came to the home and invited me to attend an event.

3-What is your greatest memory with Michael and YouMeWe?

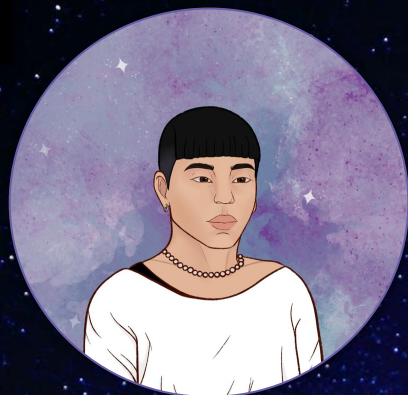
My fondest memories are of the various events I have done with YouMeWe. We were able to do many events from 2020 to 2021.

4-What did you learn through the YouMeWe program/course?

I learned independence and a sense of responsibility.

5 - Why do you think YMW's work is important for children in foster care?

I was in a children's home myself, and it is not easy for children's homes to have access to IT. I believe that if they are exposed to IT through YouMeWe's activities, they will discover more options for their future and for life.



Ryuya

1-Tell us your story

I lived in a children's dormitory from the age of 2 to 18.

2-What was your first contact with YouMeWe?

I met Michael while I was living in the orphanage.

3-What is your greatest memory with Michael and YouMeWe?

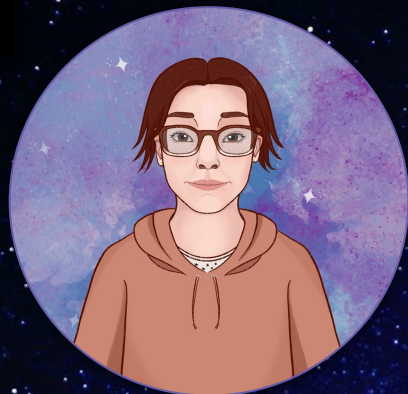
I have been working with YouMeWe and I was able to learn and do a lot of things that I wouldn't have been able to experience in a normal job.

4-What did you learn through the YouMeWe program/course?

I learned how children think and live by giving lessons to children in the orphanages every Monday.

5 - Why do you think YMW's work is important for children in foster care?

I think it is very important because the children are exposed to things that they don't usually have access to in an orphanage.



Yuri

1-Tell us your story

I stayed at St. Francis Children's Dormitory until I was 18 years old.

2-What was your first contact with YouMeWe?

I was introduced by former dorm head, I didn't have any experience with work at the time but they were still interested in me and we decided to meet.

3-What is your greatest memory of Michael and YOUMEWE?

I am very grateful to the orphanage for helping me get to the point where I was able to have surgery on my eye (internal strabismus).

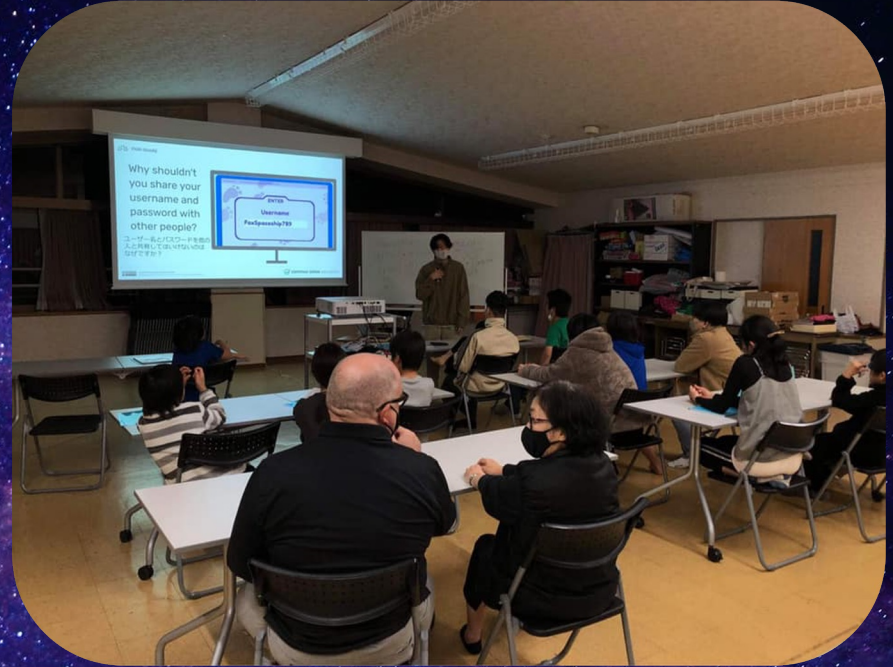
The dormitory was reluctant to do it, and it was going to be difficult for me to do it by myself because it would cost a lot of money.

I am grateful that they were willing to talk to me (I finally paid the actual costs and the surgery was a success).

Digital Citizens



The Internet can be wonderful for kids. They can use it to research school reports, communicate with teachers and other kids, and play interactive games. But online access also comes with risks, like inappropriate content, cyberbullying, and online predators.



Most of our programs are related to the internet, so for that reason we introduced Digital Citizenship training in the home, so the children can navigate on the internet safely. This project is from Common Sense Education, and it is taught to all different age groups, in a fun and effective way to approach the risks of the web.

What kinds of things should we
not tell a stranger?

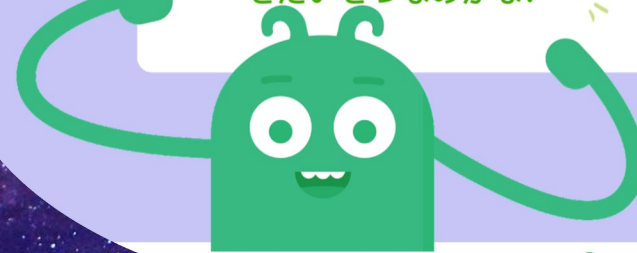
知らないひとにおしえてはいけ
ないことはなにかな?



Slides from our Digital Citizenship curriculum in collaboration with
Common Sense Education.
Our volunteers have helped us make this content bi-lingual.

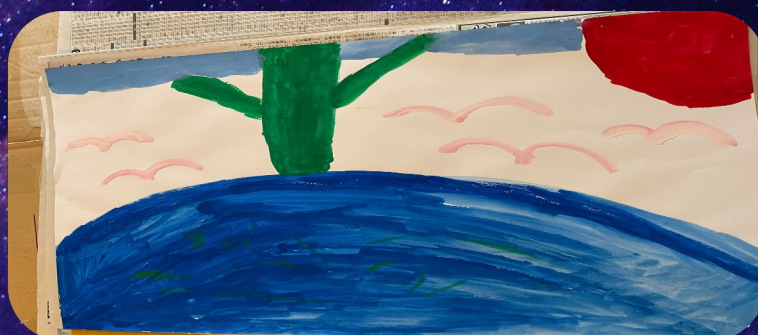
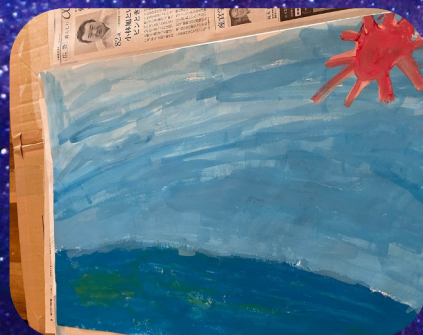
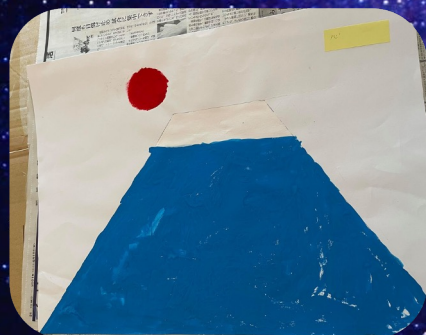
why is it important
to have device-free moments in our
lives?

「デジタルききなし」のじかんはな
ぜたいせつなのかな?



Media Balance Is Important!
With these courses we teach the kids how to be
good digital citizens and how to be safe online.

Drawing Contest



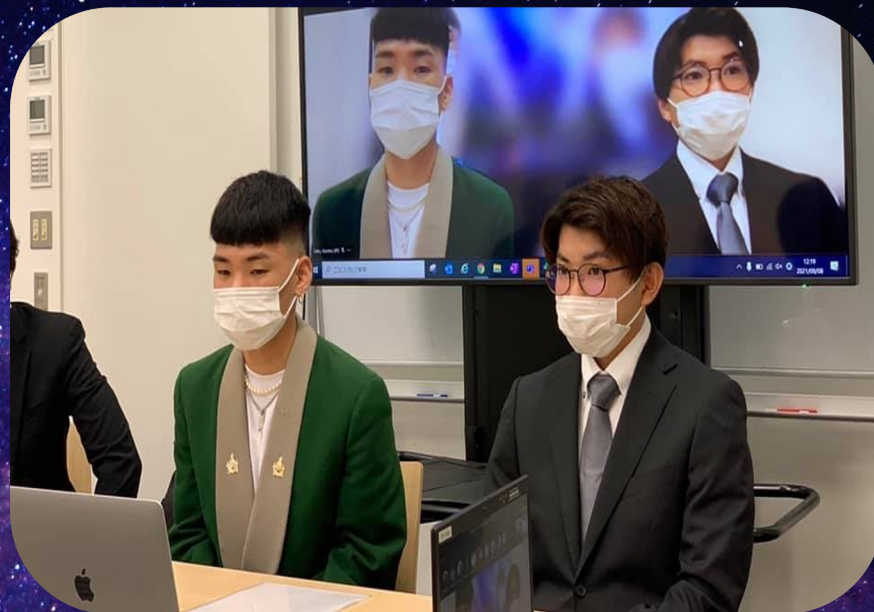
Art is important for children especially during their early development. Research shows that **art activities develop brain capacity in early childhood**. Art engages children's senses in open-ended play and supports the development of cognitive, social-emotional and multisensory skills.

Art engages children's senses in open-ended play and supports the development of cognitive, social-emotional and multisensory skills.
Children from several homes submitted their best art for our DAA drawing contest.

Presentation to Gucci



Two YMW Ambassadors joined to share their own stories; one placed in care as a newborn and another from 12 years old. This was an excellent opportunity for not only donors to meet the recipients but also for the Ambassadors to have a platform to discuss their plights.



Pictured here are Ryuya and Tomoya. Ryuya is attending university and Tomoya recently had a documentary made about his story documentary around mental health & the journeys of children living in institutional care in Japan.

Switzerland



Canada



United States



New Zealand



Australia



Philippines



During lockdown we were able to pivot to host online interns from around the world who brought a unique skill set online. Further proof that Online Business Colonies needn't be in person or even in the same country. This is the way of the 21st century workplace and it will continue this way.

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YouMeWe Interns in 2021 and 2022



Human beings are hard-wired to give to others. The more we give, the happier we feel. We had 11 interns last year who did a great work in several areas from translation to project planning.

We are extremely grateful of all the interns that we had the opportunity to host, and all their hard work has been vital for the growth of the organization.

Donations



Throughout the year we receive donations from companies such as Airbnb, Gensler and Robert Walters. With the donated computers, we roll them out to the homes in need of more computers or upgrades.



We have also created an online store where the price is zero but entices homes to share data with us and place orders for more equipment and courses. We now have over 1,000 computers in the field with a goal to have one in each of the 600 homes in Japan to create the network towards recruiting them into full time employment. In a shrinking society, these are no longer the “throw away children” but the hidden assets!

YouMeWe Ghana



YouMeWe Ghana is an evolving project that shows the ingenuity, creativity, and potential of young people in remote areas of Ghana. YOUMEWE is teaching daily hour-long programming lessons to kids in Ghana..

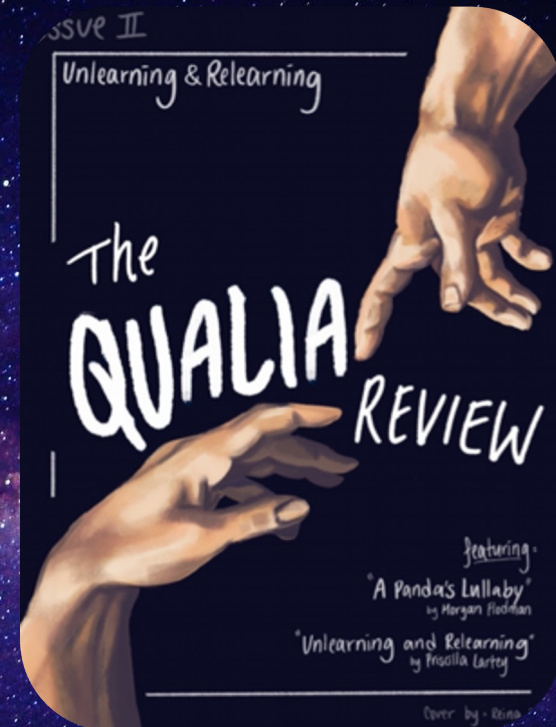


The students in Ghana have managed to create numerous amazing games and applications despite not having access to good internet, electricity, and other services.



Featured on!

The Qualia Review



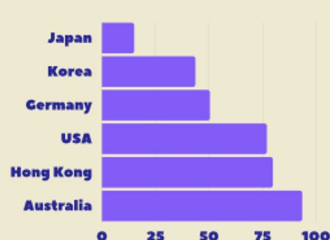
The Japan Times



JAPAN'S FOSTER CARE SYSTEM

IN NUMBERS

30K
KIDS LIVE IN
INSTITUTIONAL HOMES
THROUGHOUT JAPAN



15K GO TO FOSTER CARE

The percentage of foster care in Japan is among the lowest of countries that are in the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

ONE IN SEVEN STAY FOR MORE THAN A DECADE



ONE IN FOUR
FOSTER
PLACEMENTS ARE
TERMINATED

THIS MEANS



**OF CHILDREN ARE OFTEN
RE-INSTITUTIONALIZED**

**4.95
METERS**



The living space requirement for children in institutional care is 4.95 meters, yet the large number of children in certain homes leaves many without adequate personal space let alone privacy.

**SOME HOMES
HOUSE MORE THAN**

**150
CHILDREN**

To learn more, visit youmewenpo.org

Second Harvest & Legacy Foundation Japan



Second Harvest is Japan's first food bank and have been around supporting people for 22 years. We started collaborating with them and Legacy Foundation Japan this year and we are very grateful for all the food and supplies donated to the children.

We created a co-op for the kids who have aged out of the homes and single parents going through difficulties. Apart from food distribution, they also offer cooking utensils and cooking lessons, which are important for the new adults who are living by themselves.



LEGACY FOUNDATION JAPAN



SECOND
HARVEST

セカンドハーベストジャパン



YouMeWe



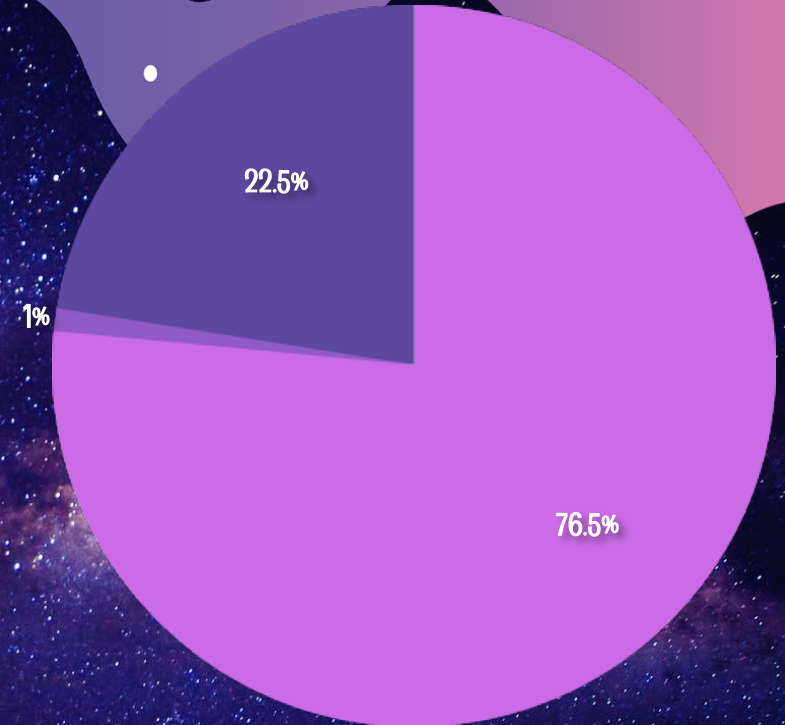
“It takes a village to raise a child.”

Part of YouMeWe is Empower Village which is a place for the aged out youth “Ambassadors” to come home to we are picking up the 15kg of groceries offered by Second Harvest for our team.

Many of our Ambassadors expressed that they only eat once a day. So, in a new Collaboratory with Second Harvest Japan and Legacy Foundation Japan, we meet twice a month to make sure the Ambassadors take advantage of this asset of the community of 15kg in groceries.

REVENUES AND EXPENSES

FUNDRAISING INCOME	¥ 40,150,789
PROGRAM EXPENSES	¥ 16,773,280
FUNDRAISING EXPENSES	¥ 203,605
ADMIN	¥ 4,944,737



ASSETS, LIABILITIES, & EQUITY

ASSETS	¥16,507,047
LIABILITY	¥2,392,285
EQUITY	¥14,114,762



OUR FAMILY OF SPONSORS



Mitake Eco Project



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CHANCE



colt



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