

Annual Report 2018-2019

特定非営利活動法人

YouMeWe

WHO WE ARE

We are a Tokyo-based non-profit organization with more than 10 years of experience building supporting relationships with local children's homes (orphanages).

The 30,000 children living in institutionalized homes across Japan are typically well cared for by a small yet dedicated staff. Ratio of staff members to children can often be as high as 1 adult to 6 kids. Although many of the homes have structured their environments into smaller family units to create a more personal space, it is difficult for them to offer consistent, individualized attention and guidance as the children navigate from primary through high school and begin to consider their future options. Adding to the difficulties is the large number of children dealing with post-traumatic stress disorder stemming from various forms of abuse or poverty that have resulted in the child being placed into care to begin with. Another issue for kids is the reality of their financial options. Most children will not have the funds to pay for secondary education or the ability to live with family.



Children don't ask to be born; when they are; they deserve everything life has to offer.- Karen Sullivan

OUR MISSION

Our primary mission is to help children growing up in institutionalized homes prepare for life outside the home once they reach the age of 18. We offer support programs that increase a child's opportunity to become a productive and financially independent young adult in their community. This means helping kids develop and hone critical skills such as language, writing, digital literacy, and ultimately increase confidence levels that can lead to new opportunities and choices in the future. Providing tutoring support, internship opportunities, as well as guidance on university/technical school options will offer children another critical layer of support as they start to make plans for their future. Developed skill sets, solid communication abilities, and a thorough understanding of their options will help set kids on the right path towards successful independence.

This is no easy task for any child, but it can prove especially challenging for kids without continual 1:1 attention. It is our hope that by providing educational and mentoring-based support, we will be improving their overall chances.

Our Programs

Art

- Even in the world of technology, aesthetics are important for the design of hardware as well as the way we encourage children to use both sides of their brain.

IT

One of our goals is to ensure that the children are well versed in technology, enabling them to communicate in a responsible and safe manner in everyday life, better preparing their lives at schools, and in future work environments. Among the skills needed in the 21st century, communication is an asset which commands a premium. With increased communication comes increased collaboration.



Career

When children turn 15, we offer career assessment testing so they can recognize their aptitude for certain subjects, and hopefully develop interests and acquire a skill set that they will need for jobs which do not even exist yet.

Language

We offer online language software programs, as well as 1:1 language tutoring at interested children's homes. Providing kids with opportunities to expand their language skills and/or having them help to teach children living in other countries is an exciting way for them to gain a new, broader perspective, learn about other cultures, and feel connected to something bigger in the world.



IT

For the past decade we have been working closely with numerous children's homes in the Tokyo and Tohoku area to present students with a design challenge that can best be solved by leveraging technology.

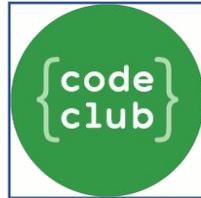
In the process of preparing and presenting a solution, the student gains creative problem solving skills and new confidence to think critically.

We leverage tools and skills like coding with Scratch to control robots and drones, digital fabrication techniques with design cutters, and electronics as a gateway to deeper digital exploration.



Coding

Code Club is a program run by the Raspberry Pi Foundation, a registered UK charity. Code Club works with a global community of volunteers, educators, and partners to run free coding clubs where 9- to 13-year-olds build and share their ideas. Ours is led by one of our 17-year-old Tech Leads.



Sphero Ball

Sphero is a spherical robot toy. Our kids, paired with their iPads, create courses for the Sphero to go through. They also utilize Scratch to direct the course of the ball. Kids of all ages, from very young, were learning from the older Tech Leads.



Digital Citizenship

A digital citizen refers to a person who has the knowledge and skills to effectively use digital technologies to communicate with others, participate in society and create and consume digital content.



Obaa-chan in the Cloud

Originally, our approach to connecting children in a country where there are more people over 65 and less under 15 per capita in the world was based on mentorship. Now, we seek to capture their life stories and have them upload them to the cloud. We also have the kids teach the elderly about IOT, smartphones and coding.



Art

Education in the fine arts is an integral part of the development of each human being. Fine arts education refers to education in such disciplines as music, dance, theatre, and the visual arts. Study of such arts is integral to our society. They are a part of the cultural heritage of every person. The arts are what make us most human, most complete as people. The arts cannot be learned through occasional or random exposure any more than math or science can. Education and engagement in the fine arts are an essential part of the school curriculum and an important component in the educational program of every student.

Sufficient data exists to overwhelmingly support the belief that study and participation in the fine arts is a key component in improving learning throughout all academic areas. Evidence of its effectiveness in reducing student dropout, raising student attendance, developing better team players, fostering a love for learning, raising students' sense of dignity, enhancing student creativity, and producing a more prepared citizen for tomorrow's workplace is documented in studies conducted in many varied settings, starting with school campuses.

Evidence from brain research is only one of many indicators of how education and engagement in fine arts are beneficial to the educational process. The arts develop neural systems that produce a broad spectrum of benefits ranging from fine motor skills to creativity and improved emotional balance.

DAA



DAA is a 7-day camp in which 30-40 kids living in a children's home, ranging approximately from ages 8 to 15, participate. The children are organized by grades in groups no larger than 10, with group mentors assigned. Each morning there are focused art workshops, such as photography, painting, illustration, fashion design, and craftwork. This is followed by afternoon sessions where kids have a chance to choose from such things as mural painting, Japanese cultural classes, smaller craft activities, cooking, dancing, or singing. At the conclusion of camp, there is a special exhibition party to celebrate the children's creations and the completion of camp.

Holiday Gifts

We have 600 children to buy presents for. This year we will provide a list of appropriate items by age and gender. If you decorate even just a simple shoebox, we will arrange pick-up and delivery.

Gift giving is something that should not be a chore. It must come from the heart. When you give gifts, you are giving something willingly without wanting something in return. Making someone feel special is more than enough reason to make you give more. It tells the recipient that you are thinking about them.





Career

More than 50% of children in Japan today will live to be 100 years old. What can we teach the children born in the 21st century who may live to see the 22nd century?

What technology will they use?

What jobs will they apply for?

When neither the technology nor the jobs have been invented yet, we need to focus on the age old principles of:

- Communication
- Collaboration
- Creativity



Career Mentoring

This includes mapping out a general plan with milestone markers to help them reach their goals. In addition, we provide specific training and preparation tools such as interview scenarios, email correspondence etiquette, meeting presentation skills and software in real-world scenarios (Excel spreadsheets, Powerpoint slides, etc.). We require a commitment of quarterly meetings either at the home or online. We ask for this commitment to continue until the child reaches the age of 18.



Career Assessment

The career test results highlight the types of courses children might study in university or technical school, as well as a ranked list of jobs associated with their specific results. We analyze the results and provide guidance on how best to move forward. Would they be interested in an internship opportunity? Do they need counseling on university or technical school options? Or maybe they would like tutoring support in a particular area.



Language

Children who speak more than one language learn to negotiate meaning as a crucial part of communicating in more than one language system. This also helps them with problem-solving tasks, and gives children the ability to seek different approaches to solve a problem. Research shows that there is a relation between bilingualism and several abilities, including the ability to think abstractly about language and think non-verbally.

Some of the cognitive advantages of learning a second language may have to do with the fact that the brain of bilingual and multilingual children develops more densely, as found by researchers analyzing the brain densities of bilingual people. In a study conducted using brain imaging, Andrea Mechelli of London's Wellcome Department of Imaging Neuroscience and her colleagues (which included experts from the Fondazione Santa Lucia in Rome) found that bilingual speakers had denser gray matter compared to monolingual study participants.



Night ZooKeeper

Night Zookeeper is your online writing tool, class blog and library of interactive lessons. My students were able to make a year's worth of progress in their writing in one term, as a result of their involvement in and enthusiasm for Night Zookeeper.

NIGHT ZOOKEEPER WRITING PROGRAM

The Night Zookeeper writing program provides a fun environment in which kids are encouraged to develop creative writing skills in English. Kids use an online writing tool, class blog, and a library of interactive lessons to help advance their writing. We installed the Night Zookeeper program and internet connection at homes to enable communication in English between children in Japan and Syria. This also provides a platform for Arabic language instructors to act as online teachers so that Syrian children do not lose their native language skills.





A LITTLE ABOUT KIWL

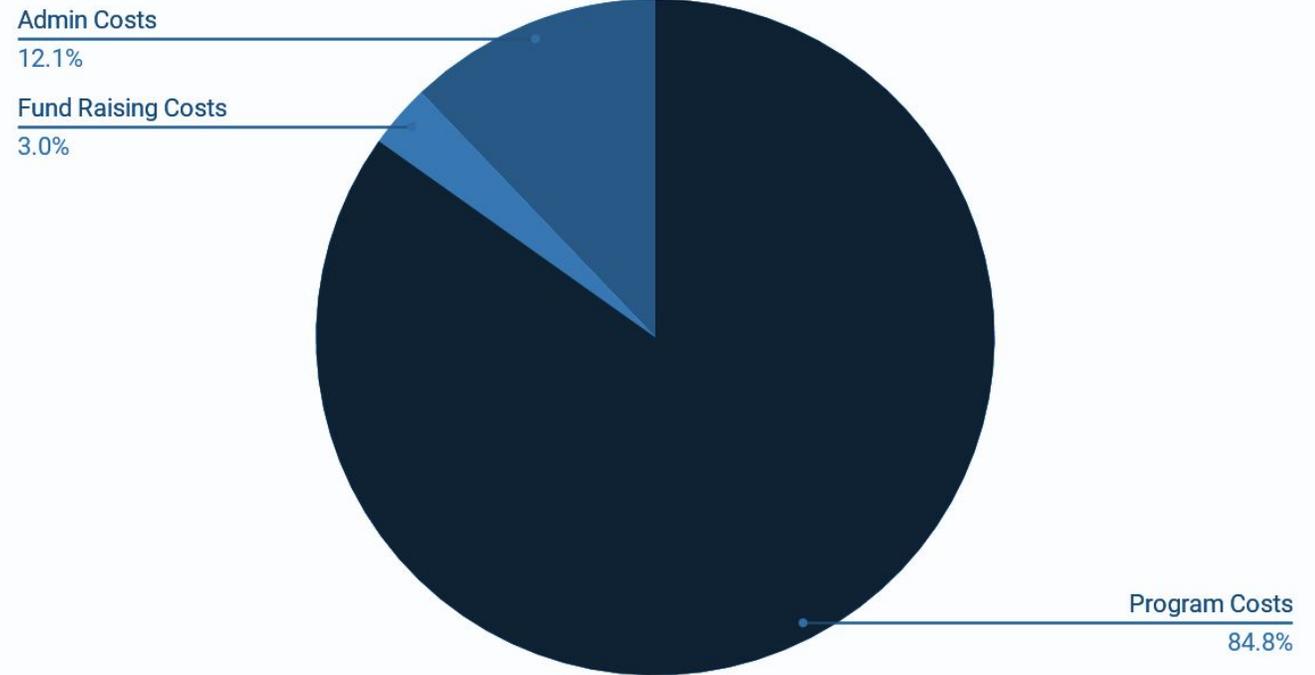
KIWL is an international group of men & women in Japan who 'get fit & give back' through sport & leisure. Cycling, motorcycling, walking, running, Futsal, golf, pub quizzes and social nights—we have something for everyone!

Funds raised are deployed by our chosen charity, YouMeWe NPO, improving the lives of abused & neglected children living in care in Japan. The aim is to give them greater hope of successful outcomes in adult life through IT education in coding and programming.

Financials for 2018 – 2019 Fiscal Year

YouMeWe

Financials 2018-2019



Revenues and Expenses	
Fundraising Income	¥7,005,249
Program Expenses	¥3,949,412
Fundraising Expenses	¥156,414
Administration Expenses	¥569,646
Total	¥4,675,472

Assets, Liabilities, & Equity	
Cash	¥2,554,786
Assets	¥421,788
Liability	¥2,740
Equity	¥2,973,834

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Special Thanks to Colt



About Colt

Colt provides network and communication services throughout Asia, North America, and Europe. Through Colt's Corporate Social Responsibility Program, non-profit foundations such as YouWeMe are able to remain in operation.

2019 Colt Charity Bike Ride

The annual Charity Bike Ride from Munich to Vienna provides support for numerous organizations working with underprivileged children, including YouMeWe for the second year in a row. We are so fortunate to have partnered with Colt and grateful for their continued support.