



## Support for Foreign Children ~ for the prosperity of future generations ~

Did you know that the population of foreign children in Gifu Prefecture is increasing each year?

Many foreign residents are choosing to settle permanently in Gifu; in 2015, the number of foreign students attending public elementary and middle schools was 2,114, an increase of about 350 students over the past five years. However, the vast majority of these students need Japanese language lessons, and face many problems like not being able to keep up with class content or adapt to the school environment. At GIC, we provide various types of support for foreign children. In this issue, we introduce the Seki International Relations Association's "Tsubasa Classroom," which was supported by a GIC subsidy.



### ◆ "Tsubasa Classroom" — Classes Supporting Japanese Language Learning ◆

The Tsubasa Classroom provides Japanese language instruction and general tutoring after school and during summer break for foreign elementary and middle school students in Seki. By supporting the learning process, the Tsubasa Classroom aims to ease students' mental stress and study efforts, so that they can have an enjoyable school experience.

#### After School Study Support Sessions



Every Friday, at the Tawara Fureai Center, volunteers conduct careful, in depth study support fitted to each child's individual circumstances.

#### Summer Vacation Classes



During summer vacation, students and volunteers worked through summer homework and class assignments at four locations (such as elementary schools) in the city.

### What is a Subsidy for Projects Promoting International Exchange and Multiculturalism?

GIC provides assistance to residents of Gifu Prefecture who plan and implement projects promoting international exchange, international cooperation, and multiculturalism, to foster the proactive internationalization and development of a multicultural society in the prefecture by its own residents. In 2016, GIC provided assistance to 22 groups, including the Tsubasa Classroom introduced in this issue.

### Call for Participants: Volunteer Training for Disaster Relief for Foreigners



2015 Training Session

We will be conducting training to teach volunteers practical methods for distributing information and assessing the conditions of affected foreigners in the event of a disaster. GIC is also recruiting bilingual persons who will be able to interpret at disaster shelters on such occasions. We invite anyone with an interest in volunteering and providing disaster relief support for foreigners to participate.

- **When:** Sunday, December 18, 2016 10:00~16:30
- **Where:** Kakamigahara General Welfare Assembly Hall (Kakamigahara-shi Naka Sakura-machi 2-163)
- **Participant Limit:** 30 people      ● **Participation Fee:** Free
- **How to Apply:** Please apply to GIC via telephone, email, or fax.

**\*This training will be conducted in Japanese.**

# Greetings from Our New Coordinator for International Relations



**I hope I can introduce America to everyone, while I learn about Gifu!**

岐阜の文化を学びながら、県民の皆様にアメリカのことを紹介できたら嬉しいです!

Hello everyone! My name is Serena Forrest. I moved from Massachusetts to Gifu this August to work at GIC as a Coordinator for International Relations. Massachusetts, also known as the Bay State, is on America's east coast, with a latitude and climate very similar to Hokkaido.

I graduated university this past May, making this my first year as a working adult. At university I majored in History and Japanese Language & Literature. I came to Japan for the first time when I was a senior in high school, to study abroad in Osaka. In university, I studied abroad again in Sapporo, and while in the US, I became close friends with many Japanese exchange students. All these experiences made me hope I could work in Japan after I graduated. I am very happy and grateful to have had that hope come true this year.

While this is my third time in Japan, it is my first time in Gifu, and my first time being here as a working adult instead of a student. Through working at GIC, I hope I can share American and Bay State culture, and help the foreign residents of Gifu. I will do my utmost to contribute in every way I can, and I look forward to meeting many people in the months to come!

## Facts about the USA

<b>Official Name:</b>	The United States of America A federal republic consisting of 50 states and the federal district of Washington, D.C.
<b>Official Language:</b>	None (varies by state)
<b>Capital:</b>	Washington, D.C.
<b>Area:</b>	Approximately 9,631,373 km <sup>2</sup> (about 25 times the size of Japan)
<b>Population:</b>	About 324,000,000 in 2016 (3 <sup>rd</sup> in the world)
<b>Currency:</b>	US Dollar
<b>GDP:</b>	Approximately \$18.55 trillion as of 2016



## ...About Serena's Hometown...

### Belchertown, a Lively Farm Town in the West of Historic Massachusetts



The Belchertown Fair

When people in Japan hear "Massachusetts," most will think of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) near Boston, but if you drive two hours west from the metropolitan area, you will arrive at my hometown, Belchertown. With a population of about 15,000 people, Belchertown may seem small, but it is actually a fairly large town land-wise, which has allowed farms to prosper from the town's early days to the present. Every year at the end of September, there is a three day festival called the Belchertown Fair, which originally started as a community celebration for local farmers. Along with farming-oriented events like a horse pull, an ox draw, and a giant pumpkin contest, attendees can also enjoy a parade, booths, and fair rides. The Belchertown High School Band, which town folk are particularly proud of, marches in the Fair Parade every year. When I was in high school, I marched with the band playing the trombone.

Next to Belchertown is the town of Amherst, home to Amherst College, the alma mater of William S. Clark, who is famous in Japan for his help in cultivating Sapporo in the 1800s. There is also the University of Massachusetts Amherst, where Clark worked for a time as school president, and from which I graduated this year. Thanks to Clark's work, exchange between the University of Massachusetts and Hokkaido University continues to this day. I feel that my chance to study abroad at Hokkaido University was also thanks to this relationship Clark built.

Compared to Japan, America is still a very young nation, but within that young nation, Massachusetts is one of the oldest states, and it has maintained bonds with Japan going back over a hundred years. I hope the residents of Gifu Prefecture will consider taking an active role in this longstanding international relationship, and visit Massachusetts, the historical heartland of America.



The BHS Band performing



My little brother & the giant pumpkins

# Introducing groups active in Gifu Prefecture

## The Volunteer Japanese Class in Mizuho Mizuho Japanese Supporters



### About Mizuho Japanese Supporters

Mizuho Japanese Supporters is an organization that was formed in 2010, in order to meet the increasing need for Japanese language study support for local long-term foreign residents, in order to help them develop the language skills necessary in daily life.

Mizuho Japanese Supporters conducts one-on-one Japanese instruction, so that foreign residents of Gifu prefecture can go about their daily life without being inconvenienced by language barriers. Instruction is based around the Japanese ability level and needs of the student.

Along with Japanese language skills such as conversation, grammar, reading, and writing, Mizuho Japanese Supporters also teach about Japanese culture and customs.

**When:** Saturdays, 13:30~15:00 (90 minutes)

**Where:** Mizuho Civic Center (Mizuho-Shi Beppu 1300-3)

· Mizuho Municipal Office West (parking available)

· Access by JR: 10 minute walk from JR Mizuho Station

Access by bus: Mizuho Bus, "Mizuho Municipal Office" bus stop

**Member Fee:** ¥2,000 (3 months of classes)

**Target Participants:** Foreign Residents of Gifu Prefecture

**Number of Students:** 15 (currently)

### Calling Japanese Volunteers!

Help teach Japanese language, culture, and customs to foreign residents!

**Member Fee:** ¥500 per year

### Message from Mizuho Japanese Supporters

For seven years, our organization has been working to support foreign residents' Japanese study, with volunteers ranging from those in their teens to those in their 70s. Now and then, our students surprise us with Japanese-related questions we have difficulty answering, and we ourselves end up learning something new about the language we speak every day. As we enjoy this work with foreign residents, we will continue to work hard so that we can be even the least bit helpful.

#### Applications · Questions

Mizuho Japanese Supporters Office (Secretary of Public Relations Office) **Tel:** 058-327-4130 **E-mail:** hisyokou@city.mizuho.lg.jp <http://www.city.mizuho.lg.jp/>

## A drama workshop unit with international members based in Kani!

### Multicultural Drama Unit MICHl



### About MICHl

MICHl is a multi-cultural drama workshop unit based in Kani, Gifu Prefecture.

The group aims to help non-Japanese residents further their understanding of disaster prevention, education, welfare, and other essential information about life in Japan through their drama workshops. Participants can learn through taking part in educational games even if they are not confident Japanese speakers, and are encouraged to consider their own situation by comparing it to scenarios acted out by the group. Using Portuguese, English, and of course Japanese, MICHl is working to promote multiculturalism.

### Disaster Prevention Projects

Many non-Japanese residents living in Japan have never experienced an earthquake before, and some people may not recognize the earthquake warning siren, or know important disaster-related vocabulary such as *jishin* (earthquake) or *hinanjo* (evacuation shelter). MICHl teaches people what to do during a disaster and how to stay prepared through their workshops.



#### Drama Skit

Playing a foreign family with no knowledge of disasters or disaster prevention, performers teach the audience appropriate actions to take when faced with a disaster.



#### The Chair Game

In this game, participants practise taking shelter under chairs upon hearing the earthquake warning siren, learning to keep calm and stay safe.



#### Disaster Safety Walk

Participants walk around town to confirm the locations of evacuation shelters, while identifying other safe or dangerous places in situations requiring evacuation.

### MICHl also runs workshops with other themes!

MICHl runs a variety of workshops to support foreign residents in leading relaxed day-to-day lives, such as *Learning Kanji Through Movement*, a workshop aimed at building interest in the study of Japanese, or *Community Manners*, a workshop focused on facilitating participation in home visits, funerals, and other such situations.

Check out our Facebook page!

### Group Information

**Founded** 2011

**Contact**

Hisako Yamada

**Address**

1185-7 Shimoedo, Kani-shi, Gifu Prefecture (inside NPO Kani International Exchange Association)

**E-mail**

workshop.michi@gmail.com

# Information for Foreign Residents



At GIC, we dispatch medical interpreters and distribute relevant information to assist foreign residents with limited Japanese ability in their visits to medical institutions.

## Gifu Prefecture Medical Interpreting Volunteer Services

(<http://www.gic.or.jp/foreigner/interpreter/>)

Gifu Prefecture dispatches medical interpreters who possess appropriate knowledge and interpreting skills to meet the requests of the medical institutions listed below. Interpreters include speakers of Portuguese, Chinese, and Tagalog.

After receiving an interpreting request from a medical institution, GIC will inform the patient ahead of time whether we can or cannot send an interpreter. Patients requiring interpreting assistance should first contact their hospital in order to make a request. Interpreting requests must be made by the medical institution three days prior to the desired date of interpreting.

## Regarding Monetary Compensation for Medical Interpreters

Compensation is paid by the requesting medical institution or the patient.  
Compensation is ¥3,000 per two-hour interpreting request. (This includes travel expenses.)

For more details,  
please contact GIC!



The following hospitals may request interpreting services (as of August, 2016)

Gifu University Hospital (Gifu)	Chuno Kosei Hospital (Seki)
Gifu Prefectural General Medical Center (Gifu)	Kizawa Memorial Hospital (Minokamo)
Gifu Municipal Hospital (Gifu)	Rosebell Clinic (Kani)
Japanese Red Cross Gifu Hospital (Gifu)	Matsubara Eye Specialist Clinic (Ikeda)
Matsunami Health Promotion Clinic (Kasamatsu)	Gifu Prefectural Tajimi Hospital (Tajimi)
Matsunami General Hospital (Kasamatsu)	Shin Kani Clinic (Kani)
Tokai Central Hospital (Kakamigahara)	

## Finding Medical Institutions With Multilingual Personnel

Below is a list of websites which allow you to search by language for medical institutions within Gifu Prefecture with multilingual personnel. Be sure to contact the medical institution directly before any appointments.



### Gifu Emergency Network (Japanese, English) (<http://www.qq.pref.gifu.lg.jp/>)

Searchable Languages: English, Portuguese, Spanish, French, Russian, Korean, Chinese, Tagalog, Vietnamese, Thai, German

### Gifu Medical Facility Portal (Japanese, English) (<http://www3.pref.gifu.lg.jp/pref/s11229/teikyoo/index.php>)

Searchable Languages: English, Chinese, Korean, Portuguese, Spanish, Tagalog, Thai, Indonesian, Vietnamese, French, Russian, German, Italian, and others.

## Message from GIC's Lifestyle Consultants for Foreign Residents



Recently, consultations about tuberculosis have been increasing.

Tuberculosis is an infectious disease which spreads when someone breathes in the germs that are exhaled through an infected person's coughs or sneezes. However, not every person exposed will necessarily get sick – rather, one to two out of every ten people exposed will become ill. For those who do become ill, the disease usually manifests six months to two years from the incident of exposure. Overwork, exhaustion, and an irregular lifestyle can lower one's immune strength, making it easier for the disease to onset.

Tuberculosis's initial symptoms are similar to those of a cold. In some cases, an infected person may go to the hospital feeling ill, be diagnosed with a cold, only to return for another examination and be diagnosed with tuberculosis. If you experience consistent symptoms of coughing, phlegm, slight fevers, sluggishness, fatigue, weight loss, night sweats, or chest pain for over two weeks, see a doctor as soon as possible.

If left untreated, an infected person can pass the disease on to their family, and their own symptoms will get worse. However, with the right treatment – a number of medications over the course of six to nine months – tuberculosis is a curable disease. In addition, if you are diagnosed with tuberculosis, there are organizations which will cover part or all of the costs of treatment; consult your nearest health center for more information. If you need interpreting, please use GIC's triphone service (call 058-263-8066). GIC provides interpreting in English, Chinese, Portuguese, and Tagalog.



Issued by:

**Gifu International Center (GIC)**



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1-12 Yanagase Dori, Gifu City, 500-8875  
Tel: **058-214-7700** Fax: **058-263-8067**  
Triphone: **058-263-8066 (Three-way telephone service for civic interpreting)**

E-mail: [gic@gic.or.jp](mailto:gic@gic.or.jp) URL: <http://www.gic.or.jp>

Opening hours: Sunday to Friday 9:30am – 6:00pm

Closed: Saturday, Public Holidays, New Year Period

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