St. Louis-Ishinomaki Friendship Program
September 1-10, 2015
FINAL REPORT

Funded by
TOMODACHI through generous contributions from
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Japan America Society of St. Louis
c/o International Studies & Programs
366 SSB
University of Missouri-St. Louis
St. Louis, MO 63121-4400
Program Overview

Japan America Society of St. Louis (JAS-STL) was awarded two rounds of the Tomodachi/NAJAS Grassroots Exchange Program to invest in the next generation of Japanese and American people and deepen the relationship between the two countries. With this generous funding, JAS-STL developed a grass-roots initiative with the people of Ishinomaki, which is one of the most affected areas of Tohoku from the mega disaster. It was a city with 160,000 people. The city lost nearly 4,000 (3,938) people or 2% of the population in the disaster, including 182 school children. Of the 128 cities in which lives were lost in the Tohoku region, it was Ishinomaki that had the largest number of deaths.

In Round 1-2013, we invited five students (age 12-15) and two adults from Ishinomaki and three adults from Tokyo to St. Louis on August 28 - September 4, 2013. During their one-week visit to St. Louis, the Japanese guests stayed with American host families and participated in the Japanese Festival at the Missouri Botanical Garden, which is a three-day festival attended by 30,000 people every year. The Japanese visitors participated in the ceremony and parade, panel discussion with the Japanese Language School students, bon odori, cooking shows, and the St. Louis-Ishinomaki Tomodachi Yukata show.

In Round 1-2014, we took seven young American students (age 13 to 16) along with two adult chaperons to Ishinomaki. The Ishinomaki side, coordinated by Mr. Hiroshi Abe, included all the Japanese students who came to St. Louis in 2013, plus the students’ parents, local college students and volunteer translator-participants. They managed daily logistics and facilitated the daily exchange with the American visitors. Our 5-day program in Ishinomaki (July 29-August 2) was devoted to studying the reconstruction efforts in the past three years and included a visit to the Mayor of Ishinomaki, an old Buddhist temple on a mountain top that sheltered 600 people after the disaster; a tour of the fishing business district; and a meeting with the owner of Dream House (now a café and workshop) that generates wage employment for women who live in temporary housing. Also, we spent time with the people of the Sanriku Kozakana Net, a volunteer group that picks up trash to re-claim their own living environment through weekly and monthly cleanup programs. We visited the Ishinomaki Children’s Center that deals with psychological healing of young victims. Our visit culminated with the 91st Ishinomaki River Opening Festival and a spectacular fireworks show. The students and chaperons from St. Louis participated in the bon-odori parade of the River Opening Festival, which celebrated its 91st year.
They danced Taityobushi, a traditional song in celebration of harvest fishing, along with our Ishinomaki Tomodachi group.

The program included meetings with local volunteer groups to gain better understanding of the recovery and reconstruction processes. By visiting Ishinomaki, and meeting with those who have been involved in the re-construction processes in the last three years, we gained a better understanding of how different efforts come in stages. Through meetings with entrepreneurial individuals and volunteer groups we learned how they initiated projects to address some immediate problems and moved on the next challenge. The students from St. Louis saw the leadership in action in different stages of the recovery process. While many families have recovered from the immediate struggles from the disaster, issues of unemployment and health problems are common challenges.

In Round 2 – 2015, we invited 6 young students (age 13 to 18) and two chaperons from Ishinomaki to St. Louis. This year was as successful as the first two years for many of the same reasons:

- The program provided better understanding of the current re-construction process after four years from the mega disaster.
- The program provided high-quality educational exchanges between the Ishinomaki students and St. Louis students. It offered opportunities for young people to expand their worldview and seriously reflect on their places in the world.
- The program forged new friendships between the people of Ishinomaki and the people of St. Louis.
- The home stay experiences gave unique experiences to both the visitors and the host families.

Most important this year is that the process and experience of the program itself offered insights into the rewards and successes of the previous years. Host families from two years ago eagerly offered to host again this year. Students who traveled to Ishinomaki last year participated in this year's program. Volunteers and coordinators from both years rededicated themselves to the program this year. In this, the Japan America Society of St. Louis sees affirmation of the value that ALL of the people involved receive from the program. In choosing to participate again, they have strengthened their commitment and relationship to Japan, and they have recognized this as an opportunity only afforded them by their original participation. In this third year, we began to reap the ripened crops planted over the past two years.

As expected, the students from Japan were polite, invested, and engaged in this experience. They again rose to challenges presented them, organized and cooperated with one another, gained confidence, and made new friendships with St. Louisans. Further, they were open to and embraced new experiences, gaining valuable insights about American culture and society. The host families, coordinators, volunteers, and student participants embraced opportunities to engage the Japanese visitors and learn about Japanese culture and society themselves.

For the Japan America Society of St. Louis, the program brought more visibility in the community and strengthened our relationship with other local organizations. In addition, the program gave us the tools to connect to individuals and families with interests in Japan in the community. We were again impressed and encouraged by the success of the past two program years.
Please do not post individual names and personal information on the Internet for the safety of the participants.

St. Louis-Ishinomaki Friendship Program
Funded by TOMODACHI/ NAJAS

Program Impact

The TOMODACHI program has already made a lasting impact on the participants and their families. A few examples are:

- Ami Mogi from Ishinomaki (2013 participant) chose international education as her career field, participated in English speech competitions, and maintains excellent academic performance despite challenging housing conditions she and her family have endured since 2011.
- Keisuke Takahashi from Ishinomaki (2013 participant) continues regular communications with his American host family (Dr. Yuasa and Mr. Piatchek with their two children, Noa and Seigo). His host family visited Ishinomaki in summer 2015. Piatchek’s family hosted a student from Ishinomaki again in 2015.
- Teru Abe (2013 participant) has gained more self-confidence and social skills. He excels in dance performances.
- Four of the five 2013 participants from Ishinomaki and their families formed the St. Louis Club and meet regularly.
- Three of the seven American students (2014 participants) have applied to some study abroad programs that would take them to Japan again. One is considering studying at Tohoku University in Sendai. George Arbanas (2014 participant) applied for a scholarship through the United World Colleges to attend one of the UWC schools around the world for 2015. (He was not selected.)
- Joshua Kazdan (2014 participant) applied for the Fukushima HS World Summit in 2015. Ms. Junko Nagao from the US-Japan Council TOMODACHI Initiative commented on his application that “Each of your submissions were incredibly well written, and we’re delighted to have such dedicated, talented alumni!”
- RB Smith (2014 participant) was one of the 12 American scholarship winners for the Finland-US Senate Youth Exchange (FUSYE) and enjoyed a 6 weeks homestay with a Finnish family in summer 2015.
- Three American students (2014 participants) took Japanese lessons before their visit to Ishinomaki in 2014. They all continue their Japanese language lessons in some ways.
- All seven American students (2014 participants) and their families support events/programs of the Japan America Society of St. Louis.
- Three of the 8 American families that hosted the 2013 participants from Ishinomaki hosted the visitors from Ishinomaki in 2015.
- Two of the 2014 participants hosted the visitors from Ishinomaki this year.
- Two families of the 2014 participants participated in the 2015 program as volunteers.
The six 2014 participants have shown significant leadership. They have launched a T-shirt drive to contribute to the “Dream House” and the town’s on-going recovery. Below is their online campaign:

One of the most inspiring people we met (during the 2014 St. Louis-Ishinomaki Friendship Program) was an old woman named Yagi-san, whose hilltop home was spared from the brunt of the tsunami. Following the disaster, she started the "Dream House," inviting homeless and jobless local women into her home and helping them earn a living weaving various products (mainly comfortable, hand-woven slippers) from used, donated T-shirts. These slippers bring in an average of 2000 yen ($20) per pair! Furthermore, the Dream House holds deep symbolic value for the area’s residents, representing the people's ingenuity and resilience, and produces as much hope as it does income. The program has been a huge boon for the area, but recently, as media attention moves away from the Tohoku region, T-shirt donations have begun to dry up, despite the fact that many women (and families) still rely on the Dream House for basic income.

So, upon our return to the US in 2014, we decided that we ought to help out. We started a T-shirt drive at our school, and with the help of Yagi-san and some great volunteers, we had overwhelming success: everyone seemed eager to clean out their dresser drawers, and we ended up with more T-shirts than we knew what to do with.

Note: Their first shipment of t-shirts arrived in Ishinomaki this late summer.

Future Activities

Participants from this year's program will continue to be involved with Japan and the Japan America Society in a variety of ways. We have plans for three presentations at the Japan America Society's annual dinner. One, a host family from this year's program will present on the impact that hosting had on their family this year. Two, another host family - which hosted in 2013 and 2015 - traveled to Japan to visit the Japanese students who came to St. Louis in 2013. Two young boys from that family will present about their trip to Japan and the continuing friendship they have formed. Three, two coordinators who have been involved since 2013 will present on their experience and the continuing impact it has had on them.

In preparation for the next trip to Japan, past participants will be an integral part of recruitment events. They will share both their experiences in the program and the benefits they have derived from it. They will be able to identify quality candidates both in their schools and in their other circles - clubs, interest groups, sports teams, etc.

As part of the JAS-St. Louis's strategic planning process, we have identified "community partnerships" as one of six key focus areas that will help us grow and expand our service and impact in the St. Louis area. The past participants, their families, the host families, and the coordinators are absolutely essential in identifying and connecting with other community partners. This has already begun to happen as one of our coordinators has connected the JAS
with a local brewery that will be a partner for an upcoming Japan Update event. And, during this year's program, one of our host families was able to make a connection to the St. Louis Zoo.

We also plan to have participants present at an upcoming board meeting to impress upon our board the importance and effectiveness of this program in both promoting the JAS and in fulfilling its mission.

The impact of this program is not limited to St. Louis. In Japan, the students who visited in 2013 have started a "St. Louis Club" that represents a formal connection between St. Louis and Ishinomaki. The students meet and comprise a growing network of Japanese youth interested in forging relationships with St. Louis.

**Participant Testimonials**

I found the Japanese Festival to be the most memorable part of the program. Although I’ve participated in festivals in Japan, it never included a strict schedule or repeated rehearsals. But for this Japanese festival, we gathered together to rehearse four days ahead of time. I’m so happy that I was able to travel to America, the country I dream of, and to interact with so many people. (Kana Yoshida)

This program challenged and broadened my own values. More than ever before, I’ve come to think about things with a wider perspective. Also, I became much more used to listening to English, and being more proactive when it comes to addressing new challenges. (Shuntaro Ogata)

I enjoyed my homestay and conversations with the host family very much. I was especially happy when I did a good job conveying my thoughts. My host family members (the Smiths) were very warm to me. I wish I had more time with my host family. (Aya Sasaki).

Through the St. Louis Ishinomaki Friendship program, I learned that there are, naturally, differences between Japan and other countries, and that the world is a huge place. The program made me think once more about my life in Japan, and I came to hold a greater interest and appreciation for the every-day things that I do. For example, in Japanese schools, the students and teacher take care of the cleaning. I thought this was a given, but in America, there are specific people hired for cleaning. When I heard that, I thought, “isn’t that strange?”, but in the same way that I have come to think of such a thing as “strange”, I’ve come to think of students cleaning their own school as a given. (Shunta Sato)

I really enjoyed the exchange we had with the St. Louis Japanese Language School students. Also, I found the history of the Gateway Arch to be very memorable. I learned from my Host Mother, Nozomi Krapfl, that the Gateway Arch is packed with the history of the pioneering of the West. It was really nice to be able to know the history of the region, and then to actually go and see it. (Tomoka Wako)

I am happy that I was given an opportunity to give presentations about the earthquake/tsunami disaster. People listened to my presentations and asked questions about the disaster regardless of linguistic barriers. Also, I learned the importance of communications. In Japan it’s
not a big deal whether or not I ask questions (after someone’s presentation). However, the American way is that not asking questions is the same as not having listened to what the person said – a value that the Japanese do not have. Beyond the matter of asking questions, the Japanese may have a good reputation for holding back and not expressing their thoughts, but I think it’s also important to try expressing those thoughts. (Rimpei Takahashi)

To meet a stranger from the other side of Earth and discover a shared humanity that bridges vast geographic and cultural differences moved me, shaping me into a fresh being. For two persons from very different contexts to discover and explore a shared humanity - its contours and depths, its sufferings and joys, its confusions and insights, its hardships and hopes - means more than I can presently describe. Over a few days - eyes to eyes, hand to hand, heart to heart, mind to mind - we came to know each other through silence, eating, listening, sitting, laughing, church, cooking, asking, driving, pondering, celebrating, waiting, teasing, walking, speaking, hugging, and responding to our shared humanness. Over a few days timelessness unfolded too quickly, and I am grateful for each endless moment... - Host family

It was our pleasure to host Rimpei. What a busy and fun week. It was great meeting new friends from across the globe. Tom thoroughly enjoyed getting to spend time learning about the Japanese culture and practice his language. Thanks for letting us participate in this unique program.- Host family

I really enjoyed spending time with Rimpei and the rest of the exchange students for the week. I translated quite a bit over the week to help my mom and Rimpei communicate better. The amount of spoken Japanese I can understand has greatly increased, as well as my confidence in the language. - Host family/Participant

Our family's experience with our student, Shuntaro, was wonderful. I can state with certainty that we gained as much enrichment from our time together as Shuntaro did. The shared experience of spending time together, laughing, talking, eating and playing, allowed us to better understand each others' life experiences and opened the door to having a broader "world view." - Host family

Hosting Tomoka was a great experience for me and especially for my wife and daughter. She brought us a handmade photo album with pictures of her and her family plus some extra photos of the area I volunteered in Ishinomaki. - Host family

My favorite part of the exchange program would have to be all the time that I was able to spend with all the kids and make friends with each of them. I hope I will continue to communicate with them in the future. - Host family/Participant

We had a great time together and I hope we can see each other again. - Host family (child)

We learned a lot from each other and we had a lot of fun too. - Host family (child)

If I could have the opportunity to host a Japanese student again, I would take it in a heartbeat. - Host family/Participant
I didn't catch the fashion shows or Bon odori dance but knowing these kids I'm sure they left a lasting impression on all the festival goers who watched them perform. I can't wait to visit Ishinomaki someday. - Host family

I think our guest really opened up during his stay and he seemed to have a great experience. - Host family

I was also happy to jump into the Japan America Society in St. Louis and really play a part in what is going on in our city. If I could have the opportunity to host a Japanese student again, I would take it in a heartbeat. - Host family/Participant

The school visit was an interesting experience. I felt I was able to help the group as an interpreter and I felt volunteering was rewarding. - Board member/Donor

The Tomodachi program has been one of the most amazing and life-changing programs that I've had the opportunity to take part in. - Volunteer

Meeting the Japanese youth, as well as the adults, has impacted my life in many positive ways. I have made quite a few friends through this people-to-people exchange that I continue to keep in touch with through social media and e-mail. I believe that the Tomodachi program has enriched so many younger and older peoples' lives in the St. Louis and Ishinomaki areas. - Volunteer

I feel as though this program not only succeeds, but excels at bringing people together. I personally don't consider myself a volunteer but as someone who has been given the opportunity of a lifetime. - Volunteer

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**SPECIAL APPRECIATION TO HOST FAMILIES**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hosted: Aya Sasaki (F, 15)</th>
<th>Hosted: Kana Yoshida (F, 13)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bob and Ginger Smith RB (17) and Alex (15) Smith</td>
<td>Greg and Reiko Gorman Grant (11), Grace (8), &amp; Gene (5) Gorman</td>
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<tr>
<th>Hosted: Tomoka Wako (F, 15)</th>
<th>Hosted: Shuntaro Ogata (M, 13)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ryan and Nozomi Krapfl Hinata Krapfl (1)</td>
<td>Noriko Yuasa and Paul Piathek Noa (12) and Seigo (8) Piathek</td>
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<tr>
<th>Hosted: Shunta Sato (M, 14)</th>
<th>Hosted: Rimpei Takahashi (M, 18)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Linda Algra and Andrew Kazdan Josh (17) and Ben (13) Kazdan</td>
<td>Jeff and Jennifer Lieber Tom Lieber (17)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Hosted: Akemi Abe</th>
<th>Hosted: Shigemi Sakuma (9/6-9/9)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kinuko Lombardi</td>
<td>Stephen Lamkin Tye (17) Lamkin</td>
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SPECIAL APPRECIATION TO FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS & DONORS

Consul General of Japan at Chicago
Honorary Consul of Japan at St. Louis
Japan America Society of St. Louis
Japan America Society Women’s Association
Seinen Committee
Japanese Activity Committee

Japan America Society Board of Directors
James Alexander
Linda Austin
Jack Coad
Richard Colignon
Joel Glassman
Lawrence Holyoke
Kazuko Ikeda
Yutaka Ikeda
Mike Kimzey
Yuko Kitajima
Stephen Knapp
De Krapfl
Steve Masaki
Chip Meyer
Jana Nester
Hitomi Salini
Yoshi Shibusawa
Chikako Usui

Program Director
Chikako Usui (President, Japan America Society of St. Louis)

Coordinators
Chip Meyer
Hitomi Salini
Tony Salini

Volunteers
Paige Jouglard (F), Aya Kawasaki (F), Kristy Gamill (F), Bret Oliver (M),
The Program

On Day 1, visitors arrived in St. Louis and checked into a hotel. Coordinators showed them around the hotel, making sure they knew how to work the baths and showers. We had dinner at a nearby Greek restaurant, returned to the hotel, and left them to get some sleep.

Day 2, coordinators met the visitors at the hotel and visited with them while they had breakfast. Then, a driver from the University of Missouri St. Louis (UMSL) and coordinators transported the visitors and their luggage to UMSL for orientation and a schedule overview. Orientation topics included background information about the Tomodachi Program in general and the "St. Louis-Ishinomaki Grassroots Exchange Program" in particular. General information about the United States' social and cultural norms, expectations as a guest in the hosts' home, overview of the program schedule and emphasis of expectations for the program, expectations beyond the program, and English phrases practice and instruction. Particular emphasis was placed on the school visits (Day 3), the panel discussion with the Japanese language school (Day 5), and the TOMODACHI yukata show (Day 7).

Following orientation, the visitors split into 2 groups. Six students went with coordinators and volunteers to the City Museum (http://www.citymuseum.org/). The City Museum is a unique St. Louis attraction comprised of architectural salvage from the city and other whimsical collections. Meanwhile, the adult chaperones went with a coordinator and volunteers to lunch and then to Urban Chestnut - a local craft brewery (http://urbanchestnut.com/). St. Louis is the world headquarters of Anheuser Busch and has had a strong brewing tradition for 100 years. Urban Chestnut is a craft brewery that is carrying on that tradition.

After lunch and seeing the attractions, all the visitors returned to UMSL for welcome party. All the host families, many volunteers, and several board members and local program supporters attended. The party was catered by a local BBQ restaurant called Sugarfire Smokehouse. In all, nearly 50 people attended. From the party, host families took home their respective guests for the first night of homestay.

Day 3 began with visits to a private school called John Burroughs (http://jburroughs.org/) and then to a public school - Parkway South (http://www.edline.net/pages/ParkwaySouthHS). John Burroughs is a premier private school offering grades 7 through 12 in St. Louis. The visitors split into three groups, each with a translator, and visited two classes each. In each group, one of the classes was a core academic subject: biology or math. The other class in each group was a hands-on class: sculpture, printmaking, or home economics. Then, the three groups reconvened and were led on a tour of the large school campus.

From John Burroughs, we traveled to Parkway South, a public high school. Parkway South is one of just two high schools in St. Louis that offer Japanese language classes. At Parkway, we spent all of our time with students of Japanese language. Two of the Japanese student visitors delivered presentations to American students: one about the recovery and reconstruction in Ishinomaki, and another about daily life in Japan/Ishinomaki. Then, there was a brief Q&A session for American students to ask questions in Japanese. Next, we enjoyed lunch in the
American school cafeteria. The American students led the Japanese visitors through the process and everyone spent time talking informally over lunch. Then, we returned to the Japanese language classroom, where the students engaged in a rotating interview activity. In timed intervals, the American students moved from Japanese guest to Japanese guest asking them questions. Finally, we went on a tour of this school, led by one of the assistant principals.

From Parkway South, we all went to the Missouri Botanical Garden (MOBOT) where the students debriefed, discussed, and wrote about their school-visit experience (attached). Next, there was an intensive practice session for all activities to come, including bon odori, TOMODACHI yukata show, student presentations, and panel discussion. Then, host families picked up their guests for the evening.

On **Day 4**, the morning again saw practice for coming activities. Then, visitors, coordinators, and volunteers headed out for sightseeing and learning about St. Louis. We stopped first for lunch in "Ballpark Village," an area next to the professional baseball stadium with shops and restaurants. The visitors enjoyed typical American burgers and fries. Next, we walked to St. Louis's most important icon - the Gateway Arch. Completed in 1965, the Gateway Arch stands 630 feet high (192 m) and represents the westward expansion of the young United States across the North American continent. Normally, there is a museum about this westward expansion under the Arch, but the area is undergoing massive redesign and reconstruction, so unfortunately, the museum was closed during this time.

Following the Arch, everyone attended a reception hosted by the Consul General of Japan at Chicago and the Honorary Consul of Japan in St. Louis. The reception was well-attended by all host families, volunteers, past program participants, and local supporters. After the reception, host families drove home their guests.

**Day 5** was the opening day of the Japanese Festival at MOBOT and was the busiest for the visitors. First, was a panel discussion of the six students with students of the St. Louis Japanese Language School. The topic of the discussion was the ongoing recovery and reconstruction efforts in Ishinomaki. One of the Japanese students, Kana Yoshida, delivered her presentation on Daily Life in Japan. Then, the Japanese students answered prepared questions and spoke about their experiences, then answered questions from the audience of Japanese language students.

From the panel discussion, visitors joined a bon odori procession to the Japanese Festival's Opening Ceremony attended by the Hon. Francis Slay, Mayor of St. Louis; Dr. Peter Wyse Jackson, President of the Missouri Botanical Garden, Hon. Toshiyuki Iwado, Consul General of Japan at Chicago, Hon. Bruce Buckland, Emeritus Honorary Consul General of Japan at St. Louis, Hon. Stephen Knapp, Honorary Consul of Japan at St. Louis, and other dignitaries. Dr. Jackson and Hon. Iwado recognized the delegation from Ishinomaki in their welcoming remarks before a huge crowd of visitors. The Festival was officially opened with a **kagamiwari** ceremony. (Note: More than 28,000 visitors enjoyed this year’s Japanese Festival, which was held on September 5-7.)

Following a quick lunch, the students joined a choral music program, singing in Japanese with other Japanese children and students of the Japanese Language School in the MOBOT auditorium for an audience of a couple hundred people.

After the music program, the visitors finished their day by participating in a bon odori demonstration with a local professional dancing troupe for visitors to the Festival.
**Day 6** was a free day spent with host families. One visitor attended church services with her host family. One student spent the day doing recreational activities like driving go carts. Another returned to MOBOT and volunteered at the Japanese Festival. Others enjoyed more relaxed time getting to know their host families and their children.

The morning of **Day 7** was spent at MOBOT with host families. In the late morning, visitors, coordinators, volunteers, host families, and past participants completed final preparations and practice for the St. Louis-Ishinomaki TOMODACHI Friendship Program. This program included host family children, participants in the 2014 St. Louis Ishinomaki Tomodachi Program, coordinators, volunteers, and the eight visitors from Ishinomaki - around 20 people in all. The program lasted an hour and included student presentations about daily life in Japan and ongoing recovery and reconstruction efforts in Ishinomaki, yukata demonstrations and displays, and dancing of the tairyobushi for an audience of around 100 that included host families, donors, board members, and the general public. Following the show, host families took their guests with them to spend the evening together.

**Day 8** was the final day in St. Louis. It began with a special trip to the St. Louis Zoo (America's #1 zoo). One of the host mothers is a past board member of the zoo and she arranged a private tour and special activities for our visitors. We got a behind-the-scenes look at a polar bear exhibit, attended a "private" sea lion show (and visitors were able to "pose" with the sea lions), and fed and "petted" stingrays. After the private tour, we went on a self-directed tour of the zoo. The students were particularly interested in large animals: elephants, hippos, rhinoceroses, giraffes, and camels.

From the zoo, we went to St. Louis Bread Company for lunch and then to a local mall for students to complete their omiyage shopping.

We ended at a famous St. Louis frozen custard shop, where host families met us and took home their guests.

**Day 9** saw the visitors at the airport by 6:30 AM, where host families, coordinators, and volunteers saw them off safely.

**Program Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>DONOR INTERACTION OPPORTUNITIES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>September 1</strong> (Tuesday)</td>
<td>Visitors leave Narita 5pm</td>
<td>Donors could &quot;see off&quot; visitors from Narita before departure</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Visitors arrive St. Louis 6:50 pm</td>
<td>Donors could greet visitors at airport</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>September 2</strong> (Wednesday)</td>
<td>8:30 - 11:30: Welcome and orientation at University of Missouri - St. Louis</td>
<td>Donors could meet visitors during this orientation</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Lunch and Sightseeing at the City Museum (students) and brewery (adults)</td>
<td>Donors could join the groups</td>
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<td><strong>September 3</strong></td>
<td>8:00-2:00 School visits: John Burroughs and Parkway</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Activity</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Thursday)</td>
<td>South; debrief at MOBOT</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2:30-4:00 PM: Practice for the festival (Missouri Botanical Gardens (MOBOT))</td>
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<td></td>
<td>4:00-5:00 PM: Bon Odori rehearsal at MOBOT</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 4 (Friday)</td>
<td>AM: Preparations for the festival</td>
<td>Donors could meet visitors</td>
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<td></td>
<td>PM: Sightseeing (The Arch)</td>
<td>Donors could join the tour</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3:30 -5:00 PM: Welcoming reception for Japanese Visitors and the Host Families hosted by Consul General of Japan at Chicago and Honorary Consul of Japan at St. Louis</td>
<td>Donors were invited to the reception.</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 5 (Saturday)</td>
<td>9:00-10:15 AM: Panel Discussion with the St. Louis Japanese Language School students at MOBOT</td>
<td>Donors could observe this discussion</td>
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<td>10:25 AM - 12:00 noon: Opening parade leading to opening reception at MOBOT</td>
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<td>1:30-2:00 <strong>Hana Choral Music at MOBOT</strong></td>
<td>Donors could watch the performance</td>
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<td>4:00 - 5:30 Assemble in the dressing room for Bon odori preparations and photos</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5:30-6:30 PM: Bon odori</td>
<td>Donors could participate in Bon dance with visitors and the public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 6 (Sunday)</td>
<td>Free day with host families</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 7 (Monday)</td>
<td>AM - host families spend the morning with their visitor at the Japanese Festival</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11:30 AM: Visitors and host families assemble in the dressing room to prepare for TOMODACHI Yukata show.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1:30 – 2:30 PM: St. Louis/Ishinomaki Tomodachi (Friendship) Yukata Show</td>
<td>Donors could watch the Yukata show</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 8 (Tuesday)</td>
<td>9:00 AM – 3:00 PM: Sightseeing and some shopping</td>
<td>Donors could join</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 9 (Wednesday)</td>
<td>7:30 AM arrive at airport; 9:45 AM leave St. Louis</td>
<td>Donors could &quot;see off&quot; visitors at airport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8:05 pm Arrive Sendai airport</td>
<td>Donors could greet visitors at airport</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Media Coverage**

The media coverage of this year's program was mainly self-generated. We made several social media posts to keep our audience apprised of the activities. https://www.facebook.com/JapanAmericaSocietyofStLouis

We are still waiting to see what coverage the program will receive in a bulletin or newsletter of the Missouri Botanical Garden.
### Visual Record – 2015 St. Louis-Ishinomaki Friendship Program

The Japanese visitors arrive at the airport.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Students at The City Museum</th>
<th>Chaperons and volunteers at Urban Chestnut, local craft brewery</th>
<th>Host families, donors, board members, and Japanese visitors at the welcome party</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
Japanese students making prints in art class.

Japanese students discussing their experiences at the American schools.

Chaperon and coordinator at Busch Stadium.

Japanese student posing for a picture with a giant bat at Bush Stadium.

Japanese students at the top of The Gateway Arch.

Japanese students and coordinator attending the Consul General's reception.

A host family with their Japanese student visitor at the Consul General's reception.

Japanese students participating in the panel discussion with the Japanese Language School.

Japanese students participating in the panel discussion with the Japanese Language School.

Japanese students answering questions at the panel discussion with the Japanese Language School.

Japanese visitors pose before performing bon dances with a local professional.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>professional dance troupe.</th>
<th>dance troupe.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ladies prepare for the St. Louis-Ishinomaki Friendship</td>
<td>Adult chaperon and 3-year volunteer pose for a photo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult chaperons recognized during the Yukata Show.</td>
<td>Ishinomaki students performing tairyobushi during the yukata show.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petting and feeding stingrays at the St. Louis Zoo.</td>
<td>Coordinators and Japanese students pose at the St. Louis Zoo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Everyone enjoying frozen custard at a locally famous custard stand.</td>
<td>One of the chaperons posing with a sea lion.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Saying goodbye at the airport - visitors, host families, volunteers, coordinator, and donors.