"FORGET ME NOT"

Our Project to build the first children’s hospice in Japan

Momiji
Making everyday special for terminally ill children
FORWARD - by Masayo Kidani

"Through my charity, Momiji, I came across the work of Helen and Douglas House - a Hospice for children in Oxford, in the UK. It is a 'world first'. They provide respite care for children with life threatening and terminal conditions in a loving, caring environment. Every week I visit as a volunteer, and it is a great privilege to do so and be involved in their work. I have witnessed sights both humbling and uplifting, for instance - the three year old suffering from a brain tumour who told me 'her brain was like a dinosaur and her back was like a tiger on fire', and the young 20 year old woman who went with one of my groups to Japan in 2007, but died 6 months later. She told her mother it was the happiest time in her life when she saw the country and its people, and was introduced to the Empress who had shown her much kindness. It is my great desire to see such a wonderful establishment built in my home country. I do hope you will be able to support our project in any way that you can".

For nearly 50 years Masayo has worked tirelessly for the International Red Cross, and this experience, together with the loss of her beloved father who was a civilian casualty of World War 2, inspired her to set up her own charity 'Momiji'. The aim was to institute strong links between the UK and Japan to help children suffering from severe disabilities and life threatening illnesses. The charity runs a programme of exchange visits for the children, their carers and medical staff. So far 165 children have been involved.

During the course of this programme Masayo established a working partnership with Helen and Douglas House. This children's hospice is the inspiration of an Anglican nun, Sister Frances Dominica, and has led to the establishment of 40 such hospices spread over 5 continents, but none so far in Japan.

Masayo has spent her lifetime volunteering; not only for the Red Cross and Helen and Douglas House, but also for Abbeyfield International and the Windsor Blind Club.

In the Summer of 2006 she received the Asian Woman of Achievement Humanitarian award, and in 2009 the Order of the Rising Sun - Japan’s highest Award for civilians. However, for Masayo, the smiles on the faces of the children and families she has helped are sufficient reward for her efforts.

It is her vision to establish the ‘Forget me Not’ Hospice in Tokyo
The aim of the project is to
1. give a quality of life to life threatened children and free time to their parents.
2. give end of life care to the children and their parents.
3. provide bereavement care to the parents after their child has died.

Principal Sponsor - Momiji (Masayo Kidani and the Board of Trustees)
Advisors - Helen & Douglas House Hospice, Oxford
            (founder Sister Frances Dominica OBE - pictured right - and Chief Executive Mr Tom Hill)
Japan - Mrs Masago Minami
        (editor of the newspaper Yomiuri, & a Doctor of Paediatric Medicine)
        - Mrs. Toshiko Nagase (chief executive of the MacDonald House in Seiku Centre)
        - Dr Akiri Matsui (Principal of Seiku National Children’s Medical Centre, Tokyo)
Architects - Mr Hirofumi Sugimoto (Japan) and Mr Louis Sato (Paris, and the UK)

THE PLANS and FACILITIES
The building design is based on the facilities at Helen and Douglas House in the UK. Each house will have accommodation for 8 patients with relatives, carers, and staff.
Helen House is for children 0-16 years, and Douglas House for adults 17-35 years.
Phase 1 will be to start with the equivalent of a 'Helen House', with completion in Spring 2013.

Additional community facilities are planned including....
Sensory room, Play room, Restaurant, Chapel, Gym, Music Room & Family / Carer Rooms
Size of the ground 70 metres x 75 metres, and building size 1000m³ (300tsubo)

It is envisaged that children will on average stay for 7 to 10 days respite care during the year. Children nearing the end of their life may stay for longer periods.
Each year, around 250 children and their families will directly benefit.
Practice in the UK suggests a utilisation of around 95% of the rooms
FINANCIAL ASPECTS

Cost of building estimated at £3.5m / Equipment and furnishings £1m
To be funded from Trusts, Donations and Legacies

Running Costs approx £5m pa
Grants Available up to 80% from Local Government and the Tokyo Metropolitan office

Free of charge to patients and their parents

The Empress, Her Majesty Imperial Highness Michiko, meets our 20 year old (see page 2)

Momiji visit to the home of ‘Sumo Wrestling’
SEIIKU NATIONAL CHILDREN’S MEDICAL CENTRE in Tokyo

It is intended that the hospice will be built in the grounds of the world renowned ‘Seiiku Children’s Medical Centre’ in Tokyo.

The day to day operation will thus benefit from being a partnership with the centre.

List of Seiiku’s Key Competencies

- General Pediatrics and Interdisciplinary Medicine
- Medical and Surgical Specialties
- Psychosocial Medicine
- Critical Care and Anesthesia
- Radiation Oncology

Location and Site Maps

LOCATION OF THE HOSPITAL

National Center for Child Health and Development
2-10-1 Okura Setagaya-ku Tokyo, 157-8535 Japan
MOMIJI’s 5 PRINCIPLES
(The five lobes of the Japanese Maple Leaf)

1. To build self-confidence in the face of difficult challenges
2. To raise awareness of disabilities
3. To further understanding of Anglo-Japanese Culture
4. To provide memorable experiences
5. To widen friendships

www.momiji.org.uk
PO Box 3994, Windsor, SL4 9AU, United Kingdom
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