



## **Annual Report 2023 (YTD)**

***December 20, 2023***

## Greetings!

At NY de Volunteer, our mission is to empower both the Japanese and American communities by fostering positive change through civic engagement and global leadership development.

There's a special feeling when we take action to enhance our surroundings, it's truly empowering. Witnessing the happiness our actions bring to others is immensely fulfilling. NY de Volunteer serves as a platform where we focus on meaningful endeavors, bringing both joy and education to those around us.

We would be thrilled to share this fulfilling experience with you!



NY de Volunteer Team

**Thank you for your continued support!**

# Navigating Challenges, Uniting in Purpose: A Look Back at 2023

- In 2023, NYdV achieved a significant milestone through our ongoing and impactful service at Leaders High School in Brooklyn, dedicated to supporting the underserved school. Among our various projects, this initiative stands out as a catalyst for potentially expanding our reach to other underserved schools, benefiting a wider audience.
- The recent changes in immigration labor laws have presented challenges for NYdV. A majority of our staff members were expatriates' wives whose visas did not allow them to receive work compensation while in the USA. With the recent alterations in labor laws permitting them to work, many staff members have chosen paid job opportunities, resulting in a significant departure from our organization."
- "The success of Leaders High School's one-week-long intensive program led to NYdV receiving the Japan Foundation NY Salary Assistance grant. These grants serve as a countermeasure against the labor law changes and will aid NYdV in sustaining staff members to continue executing our diverse projects. Our future challenge will be to strike a balance between volunteer work and paid work, fostering NYdV as a place where staff members' aspirations of serving the local community can be joyfully realized!"

Here are some **KEY HIGHLIGHTS**

## 1. Exploring Japanese Culture (EJC)

- A) **Leaders High School:** Hosted a successful 5-day intensive week
- B) Secured the **JFNY Grant** and launched **Japan Club@Leaders HS**
- C) Collaborated for after-school programs with **NYC Parks & Recreation**

## 2. Volunteer Solicitation Activities

- A) JAMSNET funded projects
- B) Engaged in activities such as **Harumatsuri** and the **Japan Parade**
- C) Initiated **Chat Clubs** to promote volunteering

## 3. Global Leadership Study Tour

## 4. Corporate Partnership Program



# 1-A) Explore Japanese Culture (EJC): Leaders High School – 5-day Intensive week

NYdV received a request from Leaders HS, an underserved school in Brooklyn, to organize a one-week program focusing on "Health, Wellness, and Nutrition in Japanese Culture" for a group of 23 students. The initiative was met with an overwhelmingly positive response from the students at Leaders HS.

Day 1- Karate-do, Practice and spirit



Day 2- Sa-Do, Meditation & Omoiyari



Day 3 – ONIGIRI making, Miso Soup demo



Day 4-Obento & learn about Japanese food



Day 5 – Cultural day at Leaders HS We received "Thank you!" posters !



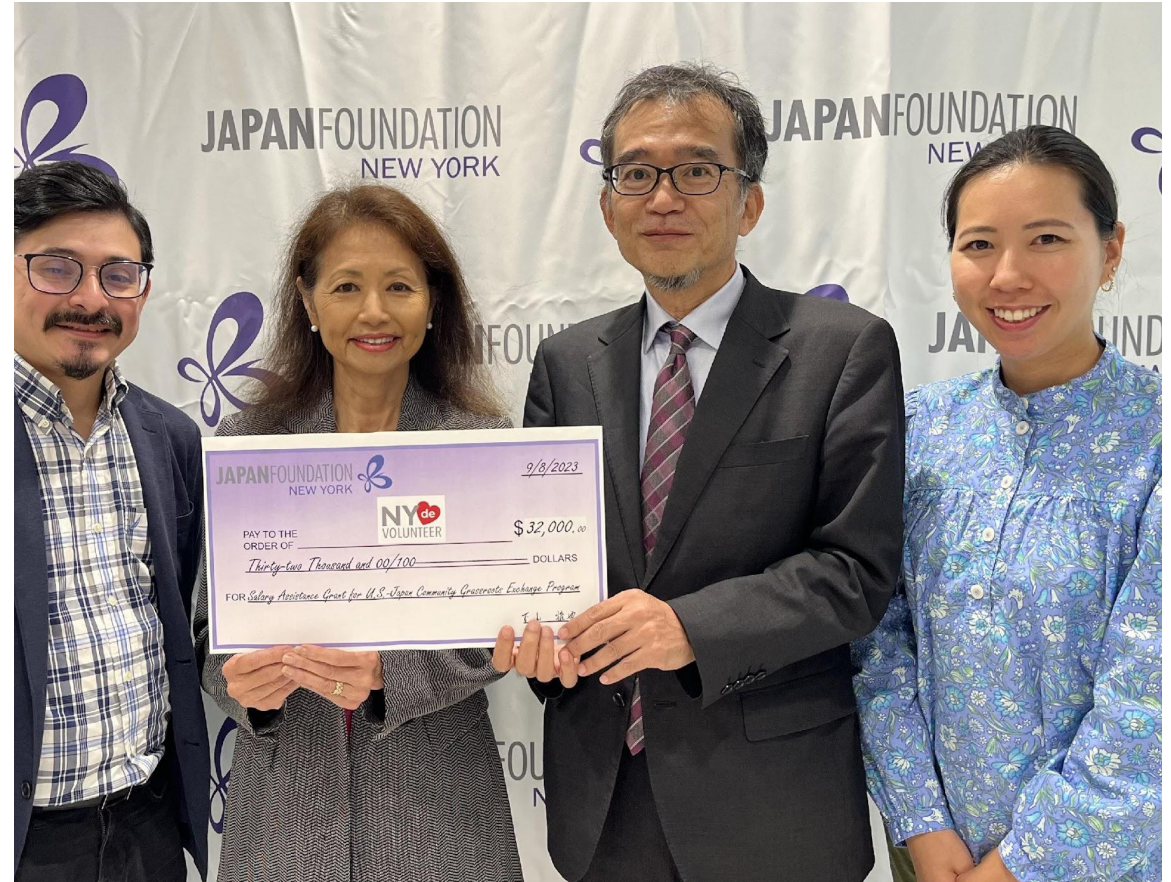


## 1-B) JFNY Grant and Japan Club @Leaders HS started

The success of the 5-day Intensive program at Leaders HS paved the way for the acquisition of the Japan Foundation Salary Assistance Grant. With the support of the grant and collaboration from the school's principal, we have established the Japan Club @Leaders HS. Our inaugural initiative includes healthy Japanese cooking classes and sets the stage for a series of monthly activities such as traditional Japanese games, calligraphy sessions, and various cultural events. These endeavors aim to foster the mental and physical development of students through immersion in Japanese culture.

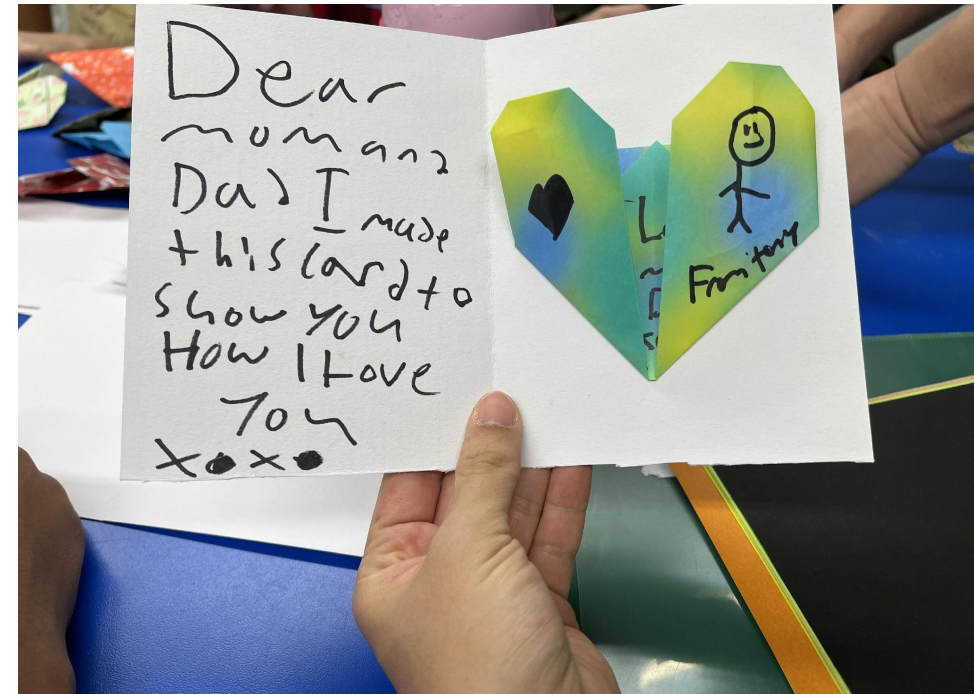
Received JFNY (Japan Foundation NY) Grant.

September 2023



## 1-C) After School Program (NYC Parks & Recreation)

On February 17, 2023, finally after a couple of years covid restrictions, we visited After School Program at the Alfred E. Smith Recreation Center for 15 children aged 6 to 13 years old. Our session included teaching origami, creating cards with origami heart, introducing basic Japanese counting, and engaging in enjoyable games. It was remarkable to see some children craft as many as 6 cards within a short timeframe.





## 2. Volunteer Solicitation Activities:

We aim to create and promote diverse volunteering activities, providing opportunities for individuals of Japanese descent and those in the wider NYC area to engage with and contribute to local communities. Our goal is to enhance the quality of life for both volunteers and beneficiaries through these initiatives.

**2-A) JAMSNET (Japanese Medical Support Network ) in New York** funds NYdV's volunteer programs as a preventative measure, creating opportunities for communication. This initiative aims to prevent isolation, ensuring individuals have someone to engage with and preventing feelings of depression.

### 2-B) Harumatsuri (UNIS)

The UNIS (United Nations International School) Harumatsuri, organized by NECTJ (Northeast Council of Teachers of Japanese), brings together around 400 high school students studying Japanese language in the tri-state area. This spring festival serves as a platform for learning about Japanese culture and provides an opportunity for students to test their Japanese language skills. NYdV gathered about 13 volunteers to help this event along with our staff members.

### 2-C) Chat Clubs

Throughout the year, NYdV supports Columbia University, New York University, and other colleges by aiding their students in Japanese language programs, primarily through conversational practice. This support takes place via Zoom or, more recently, through resumed in-person conversations."



At UNIS Harumatsuri – March 2023



## 2-B) Japan Day-Japan Parade

In May, we participated in the Japan Parade 2023, the largest festival showcasing Japanese culture and cuisine. Our NYdV team, along with numerous volunteers, diligently cleaned up litter along the parade route, a tradition continued from the previous year. Engaging in this cleanup effort mirrors our organization's ethos, and we hope this respectful Japanese mindset resonates globally.



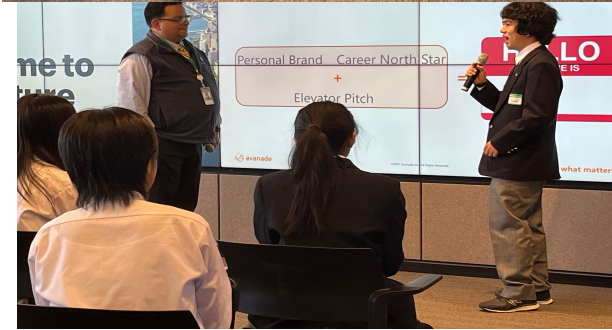


### 3. Global Leadership Study Tour

We offer programs for Japanese high school and university students, fostering global-minded individuals. This year, Kanazawa Izumigaoka High School approached us for a second time for a one-day study tour plan.

A total of 40 students participated in this event, exploring diversity and cutting-edge tech with Avanade employees. They engaged in workshops, heard inspiring speeches, and discussed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

For many, this tour broadened their future outlook. Huge thanks to the Avanade employee volunteers for making this experience impactful.





## 4. Corporate Partnership Programs

In collaboration with JTB Americas, this event, a part of the company's global SDG initiatives, took place at NYC Parks & Recreation centers that provide affordable recreational spaces for swimming, exercise, and various activities to NYC residents.

Due to constrained budgets, regular maintenance is limited. Through our collaborative social contribution, we conducted thorough cleaning, repainting walls and doors, and organizing storage rooms. We extend our gratitude to JTB Americas and all their employee volunteers. Our goal is to sustain such corporate partnerships.





# 2023 Results Overview

## PROGRAMS

8

- Explore Japanese Culture (EJC)
- Japanese Chat Club
- Global Leadership Study Tour
- Corporate CSR
- Japan Parade
- UNIS Harumatsuri
- Sakura Health Fair
- Soup Kitchen

## BENEFICIARIES

1000+

- College students in the New York area studying Japanese and those interested in Japanese culture
- High school students in underserved areas
- New York City and residents

## VOLUNTEERS

300+

- One third of our language support program volunteers called in from Japan
- Our remote programs have allowed not only volunteers from Japan but from those outside of NYC to join

## ORGs SERVED

6+

- Leaders HS
- NYC Parks & Recreation
- Columbia University
- New York University
- Kanazawa Izumigaoka HS
- JTB Americas



# Immense gratitude for your generous donations and support!

## Corporate Grants/Support

- Mitsui Sumitomo Trust Bank
- Japan Foundation NY
- JAMSNET (Japanese Medical Support Network) in NY
- Japan Medical Society of America (JMSA) Community Outreach Program (JCOP)
- Sumitomo Corporation of Americas Foundation
- Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry of NY (JCC Fund)
- Zen-Noh America
- JTB Americas

## Individual Supporters

- Dr. Tomoaki Kato
- Toshihiko Kida
- Noda Michiyo (JAA)
- Kazuo Tsuda (UNIS, NECTJ)
- Avanade and activity leaders
- Valentin Guerin
- Camile Panczak
- Satoko Kora
- Charles Meyers
- Ryu Goto (Japanese American Budokan)
- Yoshitsugu Nagano (Tea Master)
- Kakusaburo Sakurai (a-un, Wasan, Brooklyn)



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**Happy Holidays and warm wishes from NY de Volunteer team!**



Arigato !  
(Thank you!)

## NY de Volunteer Team 2023

Shizuko Kitagawa- Executive Director

Arisa Ohira, Junko Doi, Aoi Nogami, Asami Hayashi,  
Mari Urano, Noriko Nakasuji, Michiko Adams, Yu Hasegawa

Board Members: Fernando Rojas, Kazumi Terada, Noriko Hino



[www.nydv.org](http://www.nydv.org)

61 Claremont Ave, Suite 439

New York, NY 10027