

# Japan Clowns Doing Good Deeds Following the Japan Earthquake and Tsunami

— Rich Snowberg



**S**everal of our well-known WCA Japanese members are lending their hands to provide much needed caring clown assistance in Northern Japan. As has been reported in follow-up articles describing our last (NYC) WCA convention, attendees donated over \$1500 toward relief efforts in the effected hospitals where Pleasure-B clowns work. These funds were delivered by one of "K" Kosuke Omune's caring clowns to the Sendai Red Cross Hospital in the disaster area. The administration was very pleased to accept our generous monetary gift. K reports that conditions are worse than shortly after the earthquake and tsunami, and life is very difficult for the displaced residents. Pleasure-B now provides rounds in the hospital each week.



RONE and Gigi have come up with a different way to meet the needs of some of the traumatized and displaced children. They have created a new program, Big Ears for Kids Project. Here is what they have reported from their website: <http://op-sesame.com/BigEars4Kids/project.html>

Northeastern Japan has been devastated with a massive earthquake and tsunami. This has caused a tragic loss of lives, radiation danger and many other life altering effects... not only to immediate survivors

of the disaster area, but to all of Japan. Additionally, our country's commerce has been greatly affected by this terrible tragedy; nearly all of Open Sesame clown theatre events and festivals for 2011 have been canceled, even within safe areas in Japan.

Many of our American Clown friends have expressed the desire to help Open Sesame continue creating laughter during this difficult time. Such generosity is deeply inspiring and so, Gigi and I wish to put our talents to work and perform for children in the earthquake torn areas.

In the spirit of turning lemons to lemonade, Gigi and RONE decided to embrace a tour schedule by creating a personal relief project called Big Ears for Kids. You can learn more about how to assist in financing Open Sesame performances throughout the northeastern area of Japan by visiting their website.

It is so great to learn that such high quality WCA members are sharing their talents at this most difficult time in Japan. 🌟

## International Clown Week August 1-7

*How will you and/or your Alley  
be celebrating the event?*

*Highlight the week with photos  
in the next issue*

*of CLOWNING AROUND.*

*Send in photos as soon as possible to  
rstevendesign@comcast.net with the  
subject line "ICW Highlights"*