

Nozomi Project overview:

Nozomi, translated 'hope' in Japanese, is a social enterprise organization striving to bring sustainable income, community, dignity and hope to the women in Ishinomaki, Japan by providing employment crafting unique jewelry products that can be commercially sold. Most of these women are single mothers and grandmothers who lost their livelihood when the tsunami crashed through half of their city in 2011. *Nozomi* women are creating one-of-a-kind pieces of jewelry made from broken pieces of pottery left in the wake of the tsunami (called the *Shards of Hope* product line), as well as other beautiful products such as kimono jewelry and notecards. Just as broken shards of pottery are being transformed into rare and exquisite treasures, so too the hope afforded these women through the *Nozomi* Project is transforming their present situations into lives teeming with future promise.

Vision statement:

That the women of Ishinomaki will find transformation through employment, community, restored dignity and hope by learning and employing creative skills for distinctive jewelry making and other artisan crafts.

Objectives:

The Nozomi Project is an opportunity for tens of women in Ishinomaki that should:

- provide income of these women,
- provide a place for learning a new trade,
- restore dignity and renew confidence,
- create a place to find community and friendship,
- find healing through sharing experiences, prayer, and the work of the Holy Spirit,
- be exposed to the truths of the reality of Jesus Christ through Christian business practices, daily Christian devotions and prayer, the presence of Christian staff and many volunteers in the workplace.

Websites (under construction): www.nozomiproject.com
www.nozomiproject.jp

Current Business Plan:

The Nozomi Project right now is employing eleven women on a parttime basis, with one local woman who has already been trained and hired as the group leader and trainer. Our one-year plan is to generate enough income to be able to hire up to twenty women part-time as jewelry makers, and two women who will be paid for their leadership and administrative abilities. We are currently selling jewelry locally to volunteers and visitors, through special mail orders, and to North American and Japanese churches, individuals, groups, and bazaars who are able to pay ahead of time a minimum of \$1000 for jewelry orders that they will sell in their local venues. We are hoping to be under a non-profit umbrella in the very near future so that we can accept tax-deductible donations that will help us continue to update our equipment and supplies, find separate facilities over the next six months, and expand our product line to also include notecards and kimono bracelets.

Nozomi's Guiding Principles:

- We believe that all people are created equally in God's image and have special worth and unique gifts and abilities that can contribute to our community and society.
- All of us are broken people, but God's desire is to transform and heal us.
- We are committed to being a place where women find meaning through creating, and where we all can experience healing, transformation, and hope.
- We desire to conduct our business in a way that imitates God's character and creation.
- We are committed to excellence in our work and our transactions.
- Developing a sense of trust, openness, and honesty is integral to finding wholeness in our work community. We are committed to confidentiality, restricting gossip, and working with an attitude of encouragement and respect for one another.
- There must be transparency in all of our activities, behavior, and finances.
- We don't mind making mistakes; we are committed to an environment of learning, laughing, crying and growing together.
- We are a group formed around the idea of hope; it is something God is giving us here and we believe God will use Nozomi Project to spread hope to many others.
- All of the profits that are made through Nozomi will go to support the local people and projects of Tohoku and/or reinvested back into the company. In keeping with the practices of many Christians, we will also give 10% of our profits to organizations and/or individuals who are making a difference in bringing about hope and transformation to their communities. We will give Nozomi staff bonuses based on profits that we make. (The Be One staff involved in Nozomi will not receive any money from the profits of the Nozomi Group).

Nozomi's Business Practices:

- Normal business times will be Tuesday through Friday, 10 am – 3 pm. Please come when you are able to come. If possible, it is helpful during our first month to have everyone ready to start at 10 am to continue learning together, but if you cannot come until later that is fine too. Please leave whenever you need to (no one is required to stay until 3 pm).
- Since we are just starting, we will all practice making different styles of accessories. Please be flexible in what you are asked to make, even if it may not be your favorite. When there are demands for certain styles, we may ask everyone to focus on that style for a few days.
- We will pay once a month. Each day when you are finished working, please make sure that you fill out your time sheet with the hours or number of pieces that you have completed, and have one of the Nozomi staff sign your card before you leave.
- We believe God wants to use the Nozomi Project for more than just a business; also to create a community for making friendships, encouragement, learning

together, and healing. During our time of working together, let's listen to each other with respect, allow each other privacy when it is needed, and not share what we hear with others (i.e. not gossip). We want this to be a "safe" place to be. Let's practice the Golden Rule from Jesus, "Do to others what you would want them to do to you."

- We want to accept each other's strengths and weaknesses and be open to accepting new people who might come in so that we can carry hope to others as well.
- Because we want to understand and depend upon God, each day we will have a short time to read a part of the Bible and pray together. We have seen how God has already answered many prayers in our lives and in the Nozomi project; we are excited to see Him answer many more prayers.

Be One/Tohoku Aid

Brief History:

Be One is a house church network that began in the greater Osaka area about eight years ago. After the tsunami hit last year on March 11th, several members of Be One quickly drove up to Tohoku with supplies. Several days later another van followed. Chad Huddleston, one of the three main leaders of Be One Osaka, and numerous other missionaries and staff associated with Be One, ended up spending most of last year bringing aid and assistance to the people in Ishinomaki. Over the next few months following the tsunami, churches across the greater Kansai (Osaka) region began working through Be One to help with these relief efforts. Over twelve different churches were a part of providing this needed relief, and in the first year over one thousand volunteers came up to Ishinomaki with Be One.

Current Status & Vision:

Through God's clear calling and guidance, there are now three families and one single woman living in Ishinomaki. It has been a joy for all of us to participate in the exciting work that we see God doing here. It also continues to break our hearts to see the devastation caused by the tsunami and the many individuals and families in our communities who have lost loved ones, homes, and jobs. Our vision is to see disciples and communities of believers spread throughout Tohoku, and to see leaders emerge from the new harvest who will begin reproducing disciples. We also are committed to helping meet the practical needs of those in our community. Our four units have chosen a very incarnational life style in our approach to church planting; our children are all enrolled in the local schools and we are seeking to be part of the communities where we are living. We continue to host and coordinate many volunteers who come to help out, and by our daily presence in the communities we are involved in the lives of many individuals.

Community Needs:

There are a number of areas where we are recognizing needs within the community in which God has been giving us an increased burden to help meet those needs. One of the

main challenges we have identified for the local people has been the challenge, especially for women, of finding employment. With much of the fishing industry affected by the tsunami, many businesses washed away and not rebuilt, and the societal issue of men being more “marketable” than women, there is a great need to help women find sustainable income. A job that develops women in areas of expertise can help restore the dignity that has been lost through so much pain. In addition, we are also convinced that women need to have “safe places” where they can share their story, cry, laugh, and find healing. Nozomi Project has already become a wonderful community for these women, and we are discovering God meeting these needs even in the infant stages of development.