

# About Meals on Wheels Japan (MOW Japan)

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## Overview

In 1986, Meals on Wheels Japan (MOW Japan), formerly known as Meals for the Aged Liaison Committee, was established by Fukinotoh, a Setagaya, Tokyo-based social welfare corporation conducting food support activities through hosting lunch parties and delivering meals since 1983, with the cooperation of other food aid groups in Japan. Since then, MOW Japan has been a liaison organization for these groups through sharing information, conducting a research study and organizing seminars to upskill group staff. In 2001, MOW Japan concluded a sister-organization relationship agreement with the Meals on Wheels South Australia Association (MOWSA), with which it had interacted for years. Between 2016 and 2019, MOW Japan served as the secretariat of the executive committee organizing the nationwide tour to promote and establish "kodomo shokudo" (children's cafeteria) throughout Japan, with financial backing from The Central Community Chest of Japan (CCCJ). Along with it, MOW Japan organized a council to promote kodomo shokudo in cooperation with

intermediate child support groups and other organizations, including Japan National Council of Social Welfare, National Federation of Minsei-iin/Jido-iin Community/Child Welfare Volunteers, National Council of Women's Shelter, Japan Adventure Playground Association, Child-rearing Hiroba National Liaison Council, National Association of Resident-Participation Type In-Home Mutual Aid Service Organizations, CCCJ, and Tokyo Voluntary Action Center. In 2019, MOW Japan started to develop the model to support kodomo shokudo in Fukushima, Osaka, Kitakyushu, and Naha, with the grant of dormant deposits. And in 2020, MOW Japan launched Meals on Wheels Logistics System (MOWLS). It accelerates cooperation among support groups, administrations and companies so that those affected by the Covid-19 pandemic and in need of food support, such as children of single-parent families and older people, can receive donations from companies.



食を通じた  
地域の支え合いを広げよう

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Mission: Expand our community support through Meals.

## Our Activity

### Meals on Wheels Logistics System (MOWLS)

MOW Japan served as the secretariat of the executive committee for the nationwide tour to promote kodomo shokudo between 2016 and 2019. The tour all started when Ms. Michiko Yamazaki, Director of Tokyo Voluntary Action Center, introduced to us Ms. Chieko Kuribayashi, president of Toshima Kodomo Shokudo WAKUWAKU Network, who asked us to help promote kodomo shokudo in Japan. The three-year campaign opened many kodomo shokudo cafeterias in various regions. In 2019, MOW Japan established "Kodomo Shokudo Support Center" in Fukushima, Osaka, Kitakyushu, and Naha to develop the model to support kodomo shokudo, with financial backing from Japan Network for Public Interest Activities (JANPIA). However, the subsequent Covid-19 pandemic forced schools to close and shrank touring, restaurant and other transactive industries. As a result, the employment of tourism and related businesses in tourist sites became unstable, and the number of impoverished households increased. Many kodomo shokudo cafeterias operated at public facilities were told to close by the facility and public administration. Still, many operators of kodomo shokudo, "chiiki shokudo" (regional cafeteria for multigeneration people), and food banks continued to cater

to the needs of single-parent families at such a difficult time by switching their activities to the food drive and delivery of packed meals.

Even before we established Support Center, community groups had called for various types of support. Many companies responded to them, joined Support Center's cause and offered their cooperation through food aid. At the same time, companies wanted to cut the delivery cost when making food donations throughout Japan. In response, MOW Japan developed the "Meals on Wheels Logistics System (MOWLS)" to mediate between companies and support groups and redistribute donations. Now, 37 primary (logistic) sites accept food aid, and 76 regional (hub) sites distribute them to community groups throughout Japan. So far, in cooperation with other intermediaries in Japan, a total of 500 tons of food have been donated to about 1,800 groups through MOWLS.

Since 2019, MOW Japan has made the most of the highly public dormant deposits funded by JANPIA to develop and improve the logistic system of donated foods by combining the network of logistic-hub sites and child support groups expanded through enhancing kodomo shokudo support function, and the stock-share scheme of donation.

