

WFWP Hanazono, Osaka, Japan holds its fifth Children's Cafeteria

Eiji Tokuno
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On August 22, Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP) Hanazono Chapter of Osaka Third Federation held its fifth "Children's Cafeteria," with 53 children and adults participating, while taking countermeasures against COVID-19. WFWP Osaka started operating Children's Cafeteria in April 2021 with the aim of solving the issue of child poverty. This cafeteria offers free breakfast to children using healthy organic rice and homemade miso.

One of the major social issues facing Japan today is child poverty. According to a survey by the Nippon Foundation, the relative poverty rate in 2019 was 13.5%, which means that one out of seven children is living in poverty. Although it is different from "absolute poverty," where household income is below a necessary level to maintain basic living standards, this figure is the highest rate in developed countries. As a result, the number of children who go to school without eating breakfast, or eat an unsubstantial breakfast, is increasing.



In light of this situation, WFWP Osaka decided to operate a Children's Cafeteria. The aim is not only to offer meals but also to help children learn about the culture of Japanese food with the traditional breakfast style of rice and miso soup.

The breakfast menu served at the Children's Cafeteria this time was organic rice, miso soup, pickled vegetables, meat and potatoes. After breakfast, shaved ice was served outside. Since there were free refills, children were delighted and ate more than 150 shaved ices in total. Eating together gave children the chance to interact with others and the venue was filled with a cheerful atmosphere.

By continuing to operate Children's Cafeteria, the number of customers coming back has increased, and the cafeteria became a place for community exchange. "We would like to support children's mental growth as well as help solve the problem of child poverty through our activity," a volunteer said.

WFWP Osaka is planning to host the next children's cafeteria next month.