

# Leave it to me

Daichi Hoshi

“Is this Osawa? Where’s my house? Where’s my glove?” When I saw my hometown, Osawa area for the first time after the East Japan great earthquake disaster, I could not believe my eyes. The horrible situation made my heart almost break. At 2:46 in the afternoon on March 11<sup>th</sup>, I was preparing for the graduation ceremony which would be held the next day with my friends. The earthquake which attacked east Japan area caused a huge tsunami and tremendous damage. At that moment, I could not imagine how bad it was. That night some of my friends and I slept in our teacher’s car. It was an unforgettable cold long night. From that day, I began staying at a refuge. The gym of our junior high school was the place where I lived.

At first, at the refuge we could eat only a rice ball each day. I longed for meals cooked by my mother. Of course, we could not take baths. Later a kind neighbor boiled a lot of water, and he told us to wash ourselves. After washing my body, I felt really refreshed. I could remember what it was like to have good meals and take a bath every day. But at that time it was difficult to do those. It was not until then that I realized how good life was and how well off we were. Now we are supported by many people, not just around Japan, but also around the world. Thanks to their help, our life at the refuge was improved gradually. I appreciate their kindness and help very much. If I were in an opposite position, could I support other people like them? I strongly wanted to do what I could do as a junior high school student. I was the first to clean the entrance hall and carry everyday goods.

Fortunately my glove and spiked shoes were found although muddily. I have used them since I entered junior high school. After much use, my glove fitted my hand very well, so I was really happy to play baseball with it. It is my favorite. I decided to practice baseball a lot. After a long vacation, our school started again. My friends and school life made me desire to do many things. How excitedly I played baseball with my teammates! How fun to dance Soran with all the students on Sports Day! Although I was rather shy, this spring I volunteered to become a chairperson of the Health and School Lunch committee. I led the committee with good teamwork, and it was a good experience.

It was a bitter disappointment for all of us to lose precious lives, houses, and our personal memorabilia. Moreover it takes a very long time to rebuild. Although we are having a hard time because of the tsunami, I have become strong and come to think positively. And now, I realize the things which are taken for granted are really valuable. I thank everything and everyone around me very much. In the future I want to become independent and be a useful person to rebuild my hometown. Now I am sure that I can face up squarely to anything. I will be there to do my part. I do my best.