

HOGOSHI

A successful and practical system of community volunteers supporting offender reintegration in Japan



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Introduction: Core Values of Hogoshi

■ Who is hogoshi?

- Citizen volunteer who supports the rehabilitation of offenders in the community
- Commissioned by the Justice Minister based on the Volunteer Probation Officers Act
- No salary provided (except for reimbursement of travel expenditures, etc.)
- Rooted in Japan for more than 130 years. Now fully established as the effective offender rehabilitation system in Japan

■ Core values

- Accept probationers/parolees as neighbors
- Provide them with empathetic care, consultation and advice by standing on their side as a citizen volunteer, not a law enforcement officer
- Build inclusive community by “bridges” “raising awareness” “supporting bonds between people and addressing social isolation”
- Volunteerism : hope for happiness of others and the community

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How did I become a Hogoshi?

- My career, along with various backgrounds, as a hogoshi

1968 Qualified as a veterinarian

1979 Studied at Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Pretoria, South Africa

My third child was born

1985-1989 Researcher at Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of La Plata, Argentina

1991 Elected as member of Oyama City Council, Tochigi Prefecture

1994 Commissioned as a hogoshi by the Minister of Justice

2015 President of the Tochigi Prefectural Federation of Volunteer Probation Officers' Association

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Interaction between Hogoshi and Probationers

- Duties of hogoshi worthwhile to accomplish

- Observe small gestures of probationers to understand what they are thinking;
- At the interview, create atmosphere /space where they can talk openheartedly;
- Build mutual trust by doing so; and
- Noticing positive changes in them; It is an attractive reward for being hogoshi



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Public Understanding

- Why public understanding is necessary for offender reintegration?
- How hogoshi contributes to creation of peaceful and secure community?

- Offenders will *eventually* come back to our society.
- Excluding ex-offenders from our society will NOT solve the problems.
- Using local knowledge of hogoshi to connect probationers/parolees with local resources to create positive relationships
- Hogoshi demonstrate pure fraternal concern about the welfare of probationers/parolees as their fellow citizens living in the same community based on mutual trust
- Supporting rehabilitation of probationers/parolees through activities to promote the understanding and cooperation of their local communities.



➡ Realization of an inclusive society where "No one will be left behind"

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Cooperation with Other Hogoshi as Like-Minded Fellows

- Function of Local Volunteer Probation Officers' Association

- Consultations about their respective probation/parole cases
- Training to improve supervision/support skills
- Crime prevention activities in their local community



Offender Rehabilitation Support Center

- Place where like-minded fellows of hogoshi can advance together toward their shared goal, by sharing and solving various problems in offender reintegration in cooperation.
- The Offender Rehabilitation Support Center, established exclusively for activities for hogoshi, plays an important role.

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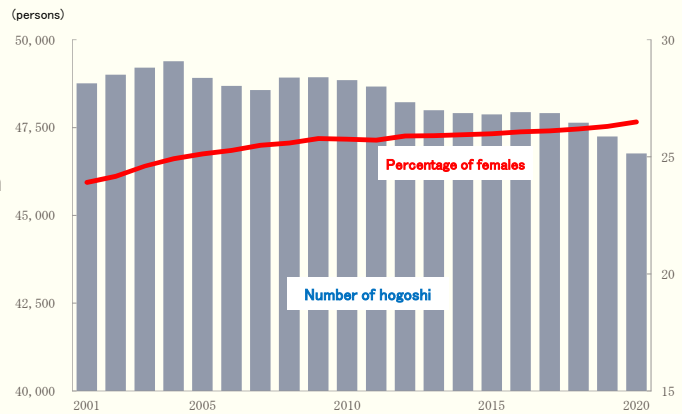
Partnership with Various Stakeholders

■ Goals and Challenges

- Smooth supervision and support of probationers/parolees
- Stable recruitment of hogoshi in cooperation with other volunteer organizations/partners
- 46,358 volunteers (as of 1 Jan 2021)



- Promotion of the understanding about duties and activities of hogoshi through partnerships with other stakeholders
- Significant impact on public understanding in recent years through visualizing activities of hogoshi



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Thank you for your kind attention!

