

TABLE FOR TWO's ONIGIRI ACTION Campaign Provides 900 Thousand School Meals with 200,000 “Onigiri” Rice Ball Photo Posts in 31 Days

New York, NY – November 26th, 2020 TABLE FOR TWO (TFT) USA, a non-profit organization that aims to tackle obesity and worldwide hunger issues, organized its sixth annual social action campaign called ONIGIRI ACTION – Change the World with Onigiri rice balls. The campaign, which commemorates World Food Day, ran throughout October. During the



campaign, every photo of onigiri posted to the campaign website or social media with #OnigiriAction helped provide five school meals to children in need around the world. A total of 202,143 photos were posted in just 31 days – with posts from 31 countries around the world. TFT will provide 900,000 warm school meals. It could reach to the maximum number of school meals to be supported from this campaign on the last day, Oct 31st. In the US, a single 25-cent donation can be used to provide more nutritious meals in socioeconomically disadvantaged neighborhoods by adding fresh vegetables and fruits. TFT funds one school meal to a child in East Africa and Asia with the same 25-cent donation.

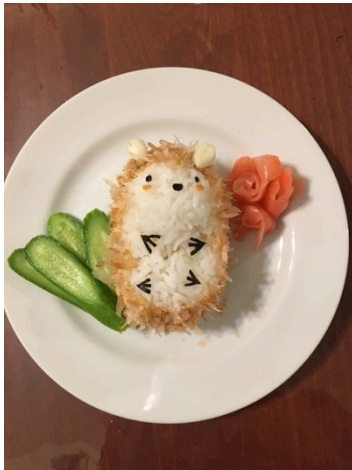


The ONIGIRI ACTION 2020 campaign is generously supported by: J.C.C. Fund/Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of New York, JFC International/Nishiki, JCAW Foundation, Zojirushi America, San-J, ITOCHU International, SMBC Global Foundation, Misuzu Corporation, MUFG Union Bank, N.A., Sumitomo Corporation of Americas, Mishima Foods U.S.A., Just One Cookbook, BentOn,

Onigilly, Sunny Blue, Omusubee, Gohan Market, OtaJoy, Marukome, Echigoya Inc., Sushi Chef Institute, Orinigiri, Hana Japanese Market, and Kokoro Care Packages.

Eight "Best Onigiri Awards 2020" photos were selected to commemorate this success. The photographs can be found here: <https://onigiri-action.com/en/>

Animal Onigiri Award



Hedgehog #OnigiriAction 2020 theme animal is the hedgehog! Follow the anime character, Sonic The Hedgehog's advice, "never give up no matter what comes in your way."
(New York, USA)

Creative Onigiri Award



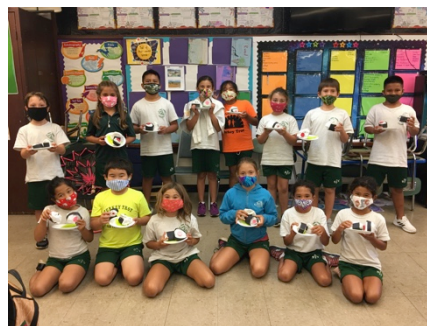
Tad Socially Distanced Creative Onigiri that is very representative of the adaptations made around the globe in 2020. (Georgia, USA)

Animal Onigiri Award



Yuzu Shiba inu are great models for onigiri. This picture is surely worth a smile and many school meals to children in need. (Japan)

Best Team Award



Onigiri Fun Aloha from 3rd grade students at St. John Vianney School in Kailua, HI. The students are sharing their fun onigiri art and smiles to support other kids in need. (Hawaii, USA)

Most Creative Onigiri Award



WaFood USA Impressive, creative onigiri movie poster depicting classic Films, wow! Cute, scary, glamorous, hilarious, it's all covered.
(California, USA)

Best Team Award



The Edwin O. Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies (RIJS) at Harvard University RIJS inspired Onigiri Action participation by calling on organizations and members to "pay it forward" with more onigiri posts.
(Massachusetts, USA)

Favorite Locale Award



Kenkin What a joy to watch the onigiri travel to beautiful sights around Ghent, Belgium.
(Ghent, Belgium)

Onigiri Kids Award



Miles-san Onigiri Miles

participated in one of TFT's Onigiri Action events this year and modeled a cute onigiri after himself!
(California, USA)

Impact of Onigiri Action in a Global Pandemic

Due to the pandemic, economic hardship is impacting many households and food insecurity has increased, #OnigiriAction takes center stage to help address this. 2020 has brought increased attention to the role nutritious foods plays in the strength of the immune system, and overall health, including resilience to viruses. Lifestyle-related health conditions increase the risk and severity of Covid-19.

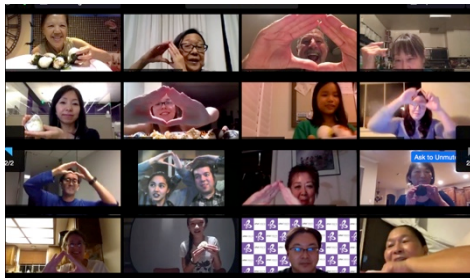
TABLE FOR TWO USA President Mayumi Uejima-Carr

“The results of this year’s Onigiri Action Campaign exceeded our expectations. Photos were posted from all over the country, including from schools and organizations that had not participated last year. As the title of our campaign promises, onigiri did change the world. Numerous online events were held nationwide despite this situation to introduce onigiri over the course of a month. Thanks to the online feature, many people from different areas could get connected. We found enthusiasm and creativity everywhere for this unique social action campaign. We were delighted to see all the fun and heartwarming photos from adults, teens,

and children all over the world. We appreciate everyone's support in bringing many smiles to those in need."

The ONIGIRI ACTION events traversed across the United States as many connected virtually.

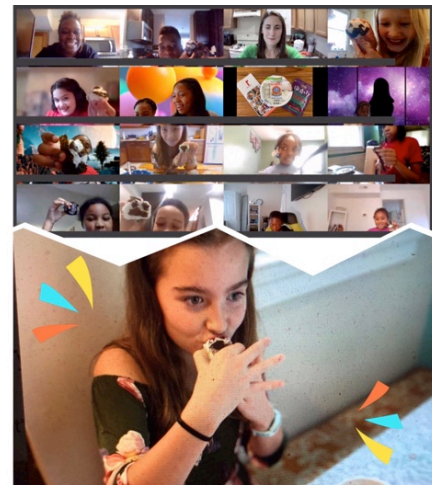
Onigiri Action in 2020 has been a unique year with a focus on virtual events. This has expanded participation reaching greater and more diverse groups across the country. TFT hosted multiple Jack O'Nigiri virtual events.



In Los Angeles, Japan Foundation Los Angeles hosted the largest virtual onigiri event with about 100 attendees by inviting a Five-Star Rice Meister. Wonderland Elementary School students received "Onigiri Action Kits" that included basic ingredients and materials to make onigiri as part of our Japanese inspired food education class for students. Kits were provided through the new partnership between TFT USA, The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of JAPAN (MAFF) and The Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) Los Angeles.



Many schools across the US organized fun ONIGIRI ACTION events. The students rose to meet the challenge of achieving zero hunger around the world. Ingredients were delivered to students to participate in virtual onigiri making. JFC International generously donated Nishiki rice and Mishima Foods USA provided rice seasoning, JCAW Foundation and MUFG Union Bank, N.A. participated in the classes, also thanks to all the sponsors for supporting these events.



To highlight a few, students at various DC Public Schools, Neighborhood Charter School of Harlem and Bishop Boys School participated.

Sumitomo Corporation of Americas organized a virtual event where employees across the US and South America

connected to make creative onigiri to directly support local schools in neighborhoods near their offices.

The Edwin O. Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies (RIJS) at Harvard University has spread Onigiri Action through a creative way and received the “Best Team Award” for 2020. Staff and students inspired Onigiri Action participation by calling on organizations and members to “pay it forward” with more onigiri posts on social media, about 100 posts and 10 participating organizations can be credited from their efforts. The US Japan Exchange and Teaching Programme Alumni Association (JETAA) had an exciting Zoom Cook-Along event featuring delicious (“oishii”) Gochiso/Gourmet Onigiri.

The 2020 Onigiri Action Campaign has been a huge success thanks to everyone that participated! TFT USA hosted more than twenty Onigiri Action events and countless schools, individuals, and organizations hosted their own events to make a big impact with meals for children. Thank you!

About TABLE FOR TWO USA:

TABLE FOR TWO USA (TFT) is a 501(C)(3) organization that addresses the issues of hunger and obesity through a unique "meal-sharing" program. TFT partners with corporations, restaurants, schools, and other food establishments to serve healthy TFT meals. For each one of these healthy meals served, a small portion of the proceeds is donated to provide one school meal for a child in need. TFT started in Japan and now operates in 14 countries. TFT has recently launched a food education program called "[Wa-Shokuiku -Learn. Cook. Eat Japanese!](#)" to teach K-12 students in the U.S. about Japanese food and food-ways through hands-on cooking and learning activities. For more information about TABLE FOR TWO, please visit: <https://usa.tablefor2.org>.



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