

Non-Profit Organization



LIVING



It offers a place of recreation and relaxation through interactive and empathetic service.

LIVING started its operation as a private enterprise in delivering support to elderly people, and restarted its activities as a nonprofit organization in September in 2005. It coincided with the time when Takayama City became a city with the largest area in Japan though municipal merger and the rate of its elderly population was raised from 19.6% to 23%.

The activities of LIVING still primary focus on daytime service, but the most essential feature lies in its interactive and empathetic daytime service. That is, it provides a “place of recreation and relaxation” where citizens are able to visit casually and enjoy friendly interactions within the community where they have grown up. As of now, the number of its users is 350 persons on average per month. There has been a growing trend in recent months towards a further increase. “Interactions and communications among the generations have been gradually diminishing due to an increasing number of nuclear families. What the users of LIVING take great delight in is that they are able to interact with people of different generations from children and youths to elderly people,” says Mrs. Chiharu Yamashita, Representative of LIVING. She is responsible for the management of the NPO and at the same time works as nurse.

LIVING provides pick-up service to come to the place, helps job search of the person with disability, and accepts volunteers as well as providing daytime service. Its activities are deeply embedded in the community.

Mrs. Yamashita wants such daytime service as provided at the “place of recreation and relaxation” to become broadly available in any region and community and build its network. “Some people are unable to visit any facilities because they have no transportation means or some communities are badly depopulated. Thus, each region has its own particular problems. I would like to alleviate some problems, if possible, and expand the circle of friendly exchanges. Or, I would like to make opportunities to enhance social participation”. It appears that Ms. Yamashita’s fond wish is growing further.

