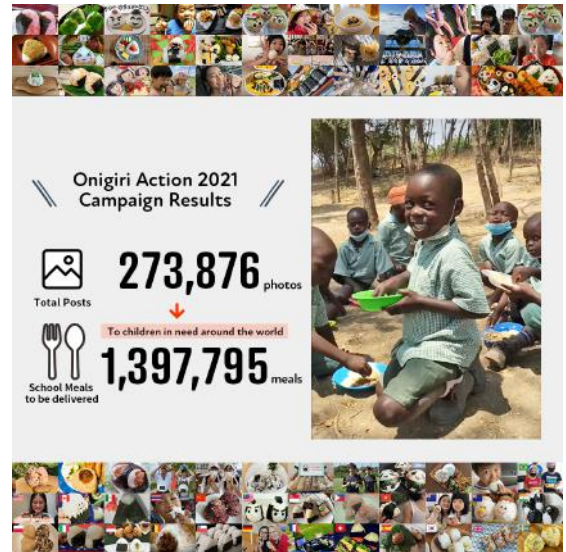


**TABLE FOR TWO's 2021 ONIGIRI ACTION Campaign
Provides 1.4 Million School Meals
with 273,795 “Onigiri” Rice Ball Photo Posts in 32 Days**

New York, NY – November 19th, 2021 TABLE FOR TWO (TFT) USA, a non-profit organization that aims to tackle obesity and worldwide hunger, organized its 7th annual social action campaign called ONIGIRI ACTION to commemorate World Food Day. We are grateful to announce this year’s total of 1,397,795 school meals to be provided to children, making this year’s achievement 1.5 times that of 2020. During the campaign, every photo of onigiri posted to the campaign website

(<https://onigiri-action.com/en/>) or social media with #OnigiriAction helped provide five school meals to children in need. In the US, a 25-cent donation is used to upgrade meals

by adding nutritious elements such as fruits and vegetables in socioeconomically disadvantaged neighborhoods. TFT funds one school meal to a child in East Africa and Southeast Asia with the same 25-cent donation. This year we saw many beautiful Onigiri photos posted from 35 countries around the world. The 2021 theme - Unite the States with Onigiri – was a fun new twist and showed participation from 41 states! The passion to support children in need continues to connect us all and grows each year.



The ONIGIRI ACTION 2021 campaign is generously supported by our partner organizations in the U.S.:



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., ACTFL, Just One Cookbook, BentOn, Onigilly, Sunny Blue, Omusubee.

Ten "Best Onigiri Awards 2021" photos were selected to commemorate this success. Prizes included a rice cooker donated by the Zojirushi company and original Onigiri Action T-shirts.

Best Onigiri Awards 2021

State Onigiri Awards

Woodward, Moanalua, Cupertino HS

This is a tribute to their HACATA students from Hawaii (Moanalua HS - Pineapple), California (Cupertino HS - Grapes), and Atlanta (Woodward Academy - Georgia peaches). Students from 3 schools have connected for a collaborative Japanese language journey!



Palmer Alaska High school

Alaska Moose like onigiri too! Thanks for sharing your school mascot and Onigiri Action with many students!

Valerie

These onigiri were cut from a calendar of famous scenes in Minnesota.

So many possibilities to sit and enjoy an onigiri picnic!



Creative Onigiri Awards



Edwin O. Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies, Harvard University

This patriotic crane with tiny onigiri embodies the spirit of our theme "Unite the States with Onigiri." The RIJS ran a month-long campaign, including serving over 700 onigiri in Harvard Yard, sightings of Omusubi-kororin around the Harvard campus, daily photos and an onigiri making webinar with special kits.

Western Carolina University

Students used origami paper to make onigiri and toilet paper cores to make onigiri stamps! This student completed the word “日本 (Japan)” using the onigiri stamps.



Best Team Awards



MIT Japan Program

They created Tim the Beaver (school mascot) Onigiri. Stickers, pins and magnets were created to give out at activities that took place during the entire month including Onigiri Tasting at the Dome, Japanese Lunch Table, Online Onigiri Night and daily onigiri photo postings.

Fern Creek High School

Wow, so many different types of Onigiri! Students enjoyed a group project making many creative onigiri crafts to help support school meals.



New York City PS 147

Students enjoyed a big event with Onigiri Making, Onigiri Arts & Crafts, Onigiri Photo Booth, Onigiri Games, Onigiri Songs, and more! Students even gave speeches about the importance of their school's participation in Onigiri Action.

Onigiri Kids Awards

Andrea & Mia

Making and sharing onigiri with the neighborhood to spread Onigiri Action and smiles!



Animal Onigiri Awards



@kirakira_pepe

Cold blooded friends with warm hearts, the Central bearded dragon and Leopard gecko tiny model this onigiri! Thank you for joining #OnigiriAction everyday for 5 years!

The ONIGIRI ACTION events United the States!

Countless schools from coast-to-coast, from 41 States supported Onigiri Action. Students from elementary school to university level joined together to use onigiri to help children in need. The creativity was astounding from classic and cute onigiri making, to onigiri arts and crafts, onigiri poses and props, and innovative decorations to represent



Kids making a difference!

each state. The entire campaign gained extra enthusiasm this year with many schools and

organizations able to hold in-person events. Virtual and hybrid-model programs were a resounding success to Unite the States with Onigiri!

JFC International generously provided Nishiki rice and Mishima Foods USA provided rice seasoning, MUFG Union Bank, N.A. participated in the classes, also thanks to all the partner organizations for supporting these events.

Students gave speeches about the importance of joining Onigiri Action to do good for the world, created videos to tell a story about their school's unique efforts, and learned about rice and Japanese culture.



Event @ Harvard Yard



Wisconsin: Cheese and Cow!

Japan Foundation Los Angeles featured the president of the Onigiri Society as a guest speaker. The event drew one of the largest crowds with over 100 attendees. "Onigiri Action Kits" were provided to



Texas: Cowboy Onigiri

organizations again this year 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 partnership between TFT USA, The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of JAPAN (MAFF) and The Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) Los Angeles.

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.



Onigiri Action Kit

Products with Donations:

During the campaign, a portion of proceeds from the products below was donated towards providing school meals: Nishiki Rice (JFC International), Rice Cooker (Zojirushi America), Tamari Soy Sauce (San-J), Tamaki Gold (ITOCHU International), over 100 onigiri items (Gohan Market), Inari (Misuzu Corporation), Nori Komi Furikake (Mishima Foods U.S.A.), Okonomiyaki Pancake Mix (Otafuku Foods), Just One Cookbook eBook – Essential Japanese Recipes (Just One Cookbook), Onigiri/Omusubi (BentOn, Onigilly, Sunny Blue, Omusubee, Hana Japanese Market), Sushi Workshop for Good (Sushi Chef Institute) and Seasonal Delights Care Package (Kokoro).

TFT USA is grateful to all who participated to make this a successful campaign. We are grateful to partner donor organizations and all the schools, organizations, individuals, restaurants, onigiri shops, and more that came together with onigiri to make a big impact in providing meals for children in need. Thank you!



About TABLE FOR TWO USA:

While about 1 billion go hungry, 2 billion suffer from obesity and other health issues related to unhealthy eating. TABLE FOR TWO USA (TFT USA) seeks to change both issues by educating about healthy eating practices and providing healthy school meals to those in need. TABLE FOR TWO started in Japan and now operates in 14 countries. As one of the most well-known NPOs in Japan, a country noted for the longevity of its people, TFT USA promotes Japanese healthy eating culture and has started the unique programs, "Onigiri Action" and "Wa-Shokuiku -Learn. Cook. Eat Japanese!-" featuring Japanese food culture to tackle on the critical health issues. For more information, please visit: <https://usa.tablefor2.org>.

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