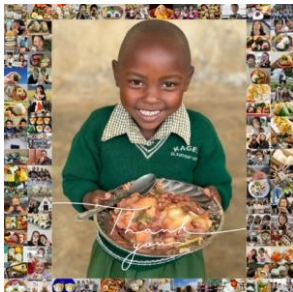

TABLE FOR TWO's 2024 ONIGIRI ACTION Campaign Provides 1.4 Million School Meals with 292,836 “Onigiri” Rice Ball Photo Posts in 45 Days

New York, NY – December 13th, 2024, TABLE FOR TWO (TFT) USA, a non-profit organization that aims to tackle obesity and worldwide hunger, organized its 10th annual social action campaign called ONIGIRI ACTION to commemorate World Food Day. This year we were able to provide 1,464,180 school meals to children with 292,836 photos! 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. For TFT USA, a 25-cent donation is used to upgrade meals by adding nutritious

elements such as fruits and vegetables in

socioeconomically disadvantaged neighborhoods in the U.S. 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 creative onigiri photos posted from 52 countries around the world and celebrated a major milestone: 10 Years of Onigiri Action! Together we are making an impact in the world by providing nutritious meals to children.



The campaign is generously supported by our partner organizations in the U.S. below and global partners: For every onigiri photo posted, five school meals will be donated through the generous support from our partners: J.C.C. Fund/Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of New York, JFC

International/Nishiki, JCAW, Zojirushi America, San-J, ITOCHU International & ITOCHU Europe, SMBC Global Foundation, Misuzu Corporation, MUFG Bank, Mishima Foods U.S.A., Q&B Foods, Inc., Juroku Cha

Onigiri partners: BentOn, Onigilly, Sunny Blue, Omusubee, The Onigiri Stand

Nine "Best Onigiri Awards 2024" photos were selected to commemorate this success

Best Onigiri Awards 2024

10th Anniversary Awards



Bella Vista High School and Mira Loma High School

To celebrate the 10th anniversary, Japanese language students came together to craft onigiri and form the kanji for "TEN" (十)!



Annalisa

She organized an Onigiri Action party and celebrated the 10th Anniversary with Onigiri & Roses!

Creative Onigiri Awards



Chapman University

"Happy Onigiri Action Man," designed by Yen Dang! The poster was a big hit at an event co-organized by Chapman's Japanese Studies and Asian American Studies programs, which brought together over 100 students and faculty for a fun-filled onigiri-making experience.

University of Pennsylvania Japanese Program

The students put a lot of thought into choosing a good photo spot that reflects the university's theme. Every day on the way to Japanese class, students pass by this statue, "Ben on the Bench." They wondered if Benjamin Franklin might have liked onigiri, so they decided to offer him one along with a handmade onigiri event button!



Kids Onigiri Award



South Academy of International Languages, Japanese Immersion Program

Kindergarten students are “married” to the idea of helping those in need with the help of the props made by the Middle School students!

The students channel their inner Naruto with the help of props made by the Middle School students and unleash the power to help others at a schoolwide event with the help of the 5th grade German class.



Team Onigiri Awards



Japan House at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

They enjoy hosting Onigiri Action workshops each fall because it challenges their student interns to create a special onigiri tasting menu and educates attendees on onigiri while supporting a great cause. They inspire local schools to join the action as well!!

Brazil Mairiporan Doshikai Japanese Language School

Participants from all generations made and enjoyed delicious rice balls, researched and discussed global food issues and nutrition, and created rice balls using calligraphy, origami and drawings.



Animal Onigiri Award



Dylan

His teacher at SUNY Oneonta encouraged the class to participate in Onigiri Action. He made two smoked salmon onigiri decorated like his cats, Mocha (tortoiseshell tabby) and Miso (orange).



Denise and Piquirita the parrot

This is the perfect sized onigiri for a parrot! Piquirita says "Love is the freedom to fly."



ONIGIRI ACTION 10th Anniversary

Americans across the United States participated in Onigiri Action in many ways. Through posting photos online, they were able to help children in need around the world. Every year the number of creative onigiri

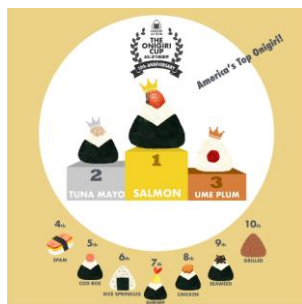


School Event

photos, including kawaii (cute) handmade onigiri, arts and crafts, poses and props, and innovative decorations is astounding. Schools and organizations held in-person, hybrid and virtual events to spread Onigiri Action. We had employee events with SMBC Global Foundation and ITOCHU Europe. JFC International generously provided Nishiki rice and Mishima Foods USA provided rice seasoning, while MUFG Union Bank, N.A. and JCAW participated in events at schools. Juroku Cha additionally provided tea at select events. Thank you to all partner organizations for their support.



SMBC Global Foundation Event



The Onigiri Cup Results



Nationwide Celebration

In celebration of 10 years of Onigiri Action, we held several special events. There was a voting event called **The Onigiri Cup** where people selected their favorite onigiri fillings out of 10 options. Over 350 people participated with the number one onigiri being Salmon followed by Tuna Mayo and then Ume Plum. Onigiri with the winning fillings will be donated by our partner BentON to a school in New York City. We additionally held two events that featured **Kimono Mom**, an influencer with over 3.1 million subscribers on YouTube. The first was part of our Ouchigohan! – Japanese Home Cooking series where participants made delicious onigiri with her. The second was a lecture with the Japan Foundation Los Angeles where she discussed her background and how she launched her business. Our final 10th anniversary event was a **Nationwide Celebration** that connected 10 cities. It was a hybrid event with 100 people in attendance that included fun ice breaker activities and a cook along where participants made tuna mayo as well as creative onigiri.



Kimono Mom with onigiri

We additionally continued the “**US & Japan College Relay Baton Touch/バトンタッチ!**” where two teams comprised of clubs and associations from Japanese and American schools competed to finish the race first and submit creative photos. The White Team with students from the following schools won the race:



University of Pennsylvania, Miami of Ohio, California State Long Beach, Ohio State University, Colorado College, University of Montana, Hitsotusbashi University, Nihon University, Toyo University, Ochanomizu University.

For students at partner schools, we offered special **Mini Wa-Sho lessons** that focused on making onigiri and bento. Students love the taste of riceballs and



Mini Wa-Sho Lesson

shaping them with their hands. There were several public Onigiri Action events, including the San Diego Sake Fest and one in partnership with D.C. Central Kitchen and Globalize D.C. at MLK Library in Washington D.C. The events attracted many people who were enthusiastic to try onigiri for the first time!



Yale University's onigiri



San Diego Sake Fest

Products with Donations: During the campaign, a portion of proceeds from the



products below were donated towards providing school meals: Nishiki Rice (JFC International), Rice Cooker (Zojirushi America), Tamari Soy Sauce (San-J), Tamaki Gold

(ITOCHU International), Inari (Misuzu Corporation), Nori Komi Furikake (Mishima Foods U.S.A.), KEWPIE Mayonnaise (Q&B Foods, Inc.), Juroku Cha, AUTEK (Onigiri Maker ASM545A), Okonomiyaki Pancake Mix (Otafuku Foods), Onigiri/Omusubi items (BentOn, Onigilly, Sunny Blue, Omusubee, The Onigiri Stand).

TFT USA is 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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