

Acquah Dadzie Louis (11 years old)

- What I like to do:** Playing with friends, studying, using a PC and taking pictures
- What if I could have a wish come true:** No more blackouts, it messes up my PC
- My future dream:** Join the army and protect the country

I am a third grader at a school for the deaf. The time I like the most at school is after classes. We take turns at using the PC room, and I look forward to the turn of third graders every week. It was difficult to hold the mouse at first, but I'm getting better. I can now use the typing software and am learning games faster than older pupils, which makes me confident.

I met Ms. Maruyama in a PC class. She always checks our grades and teaches us how to use the PC, so I go to the classroom to help her even when it is not my turn. Recently, I am gradually learning how to search for what I want to know on a PC, but I still need her help in choosing keywords. I would like to acquire more skills and grow to be an adult who has all the information of the world.

Louis eats waakye, his favorite school lunch (second from right)



Chisato Maruyama

(Youth Activities of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers) encountered in **Ghana!**

Otgonbayar Tuvshinbayar (5 years old)

- What I like to do:** Playing with RC airplane
- What if I could have a wish come true:** I want a big car with studless tires
- My future dream:** Employee of a large company

I love chatting with friends and teachers at kindergarten. I was happy when I met Mr. Aso for the first time, and I told him about my family and many other things.

I am very competitive. One day, when I lost a game, I was so disappointed that I didn't want to talk to anybody and stayed in the corner of the classroom even when it was lunch time. I was afraid of being beaten by the homeroom teacher as usual, but I wasn't on that particular day. The teacher just watched over me from a distance instead of scolding me. Apparently, Mr. Aso talked to the homeroom teacher about how I felt. After a while, I calmed down and went back to my seat to eat my lunch. Next day, before playing some other game, Mr. Aso said to me, "Don't cry today even if you lose", and I answered "I won't cry today!" I now enjoy playing games more than I used to. Whenever I lose, I'm determined to do better the next time.

Tuvshinbayar (left) is kind in nature and likes to play with his friends.



Yutaro Aso

(Early Child Education of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers) encountered in **Mongolia!**

Children in the world

Children are the future of their countries. How did they grow through their encounter with JICA volunteers who are working all over the world?

whom JICA volunteers encountered



Hidenori Tachizuka

(Baseball, Youth Volunteers for Nikkei Communities)

encountered in **Argentina!**

Leandro Yamawaki (11 years old)

- What I like to do:** Baseball
- What if I could have a wish come true:** I want to be a millionaire
- My future dream:** MLB player

I am a member of the boys' baseball team of La Plata Japanese Association in the State of Buenos Aires. The most unforgettable game is the final of last year's city tournament. In the last inning, we were 3 points behind, and I was in the batter box. My absolute desire to win the tournament made me capture and hit the eighth ball from the pitcher. It was connected to the following lineup, and the team won the come-from-behind victory. Coach Tachizuka was as happy as we were.

Coach Tachizuka teaches us not only baseball skills but also the aspects of mentality and courtesy. I used to think "I'm happy if I'm happy", but I have gradually grown to consider the feelings of others and take care of younger children. In addition, all of us are now treating our gloves and bats more carefully than before. I was appointed captain this year. Our team will participate in World Children's Baseball Fair to be held in July in Tokyo. I will lead the team and play without giving up to the last minute.

Leandro likes to practice. He is the cleanup batter of the team.



Yumi Takai

(Primary School Education of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers)

encountered in **Samoa!**

Alisa Keni (14 years old)

- What I like to do:** "Netball", popular sport in Samoa
- What if I could have a wish come true:** I want to live in Australia
- My future dream:** Scientist

I go to elementary school on Savaii Island, Samoa. Now that I'm a senior, I take care of younger pupils. I also do household chores and take care of my siblings at home when my parents leave the island to visit the capital city.

On the day when Ms. Yumi came to live on the island two years ago, I was already excited when I woke up. I ran up to her as soon as she got off the bus. We became friends quickly. She helps with my homework, and sometimes I confide "just between us" things to her. In class, she often asks us "Why so? Why do you think so?" I was surprised, because all we used to do in class was memorize. It was difficult to explain at first, but as I started to think "Why" whenever I know something new, I gradually learned to express myself. I would like to study many different things in order to make my future dream come true.

Alisa (right) loves netball. The picture was taken after a game with another team.

