

## The Origins of the Orange Ribbon

There was a miserable tragedy in Oyama City, Tochigi Prefecture in 2004. Two lovely boys, who were three years old and four years old were being assaulted by one of their father's friends a number of times. The manager of a convenience store had seen their faces and reported about them to the police. Even though they were under protection once, because various surrounding organizations did not set up proper arrangements, again, they were assaulted by the man at a gas station, receiving terrible injuries in a car, finally, they were thrown out from a bridge to a river to their deaths on September 11<sup>th</sup>.

A group called "Kangaroo Oyama" in Oyama City, Tochigi Prefecture started the orange ribbon campaign wishing a tragedy like this never happened again and aiming at the children's cruelty prevention in 2005.

Recently, there are sixty tragedies of death by child abuse a year. It is not the exact number. The number of children suffering from child abuse is getting more and more. And some of them commit suicide because they can not endure the suffering.

The Child Abuse Prevention of the Whole Country Network by us began to bear an integrated window of the orange ribbon in 2006. We began to move to expand this movement to the whole country wishing no more tragedies will happen any more.

At first we were really feeling our way around in the dark with everything we did with the orange ribbon movement. Now we won many people's sympathy, and our movement is expanding from parties concerned of child welfare that faces the current state of child abuse to the whole country including various organizations, corporations and individuals.

The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare has promoted the project to fill all over Japan with the orange of this orange ribbon during The Child Abuse Prevention Month since November, 2007.

We wish as many people as possible will put this orange ribbon badge on. And to have some events with their orange ribbons on during The Child Abuse Prevention Month in November in all regions.

Let's get together and let's get started to make a society where all children are not maltreated. Please lend your hands to spread promotion of the orange ribbon movement and your warm understanding and cooperation to expand the circle of children's cruelty prevention.

The color of the ribbon, orange was chosen by foster children. We think that they imagined this color desiring the brightness and warmth like an orange, the fruit, without thinking of this color.