



# EXCHANGES

Japanese Sister City  
Commission

Winter 2007

# Japanese Students Visit

## Students Thank Host Families

We couldn't host the Japanese students if it weren't for the host families who welcome them at the airport, open up their homes, feed and transport them each day as well as share their lives with them for three weeks. Being a host family is very rewarding and a relationship with the student can develop. Sometimes you get a student that has an outgoing personality or is shy and the host family may have a challenge on their hands. How rewarding it is when the shy one has a belly-laugh that everyone at a party can hear or when an outgoing student gets all of the teens playing a game together in the pool.



Teens working with each other is very important, showing or teaching each other new things. The Independence teens were inspired to start a sub group to assist the JSCC, which is made up of 15 adults. Josh Seeley and Susan Peoples presented the idea to the Commission listing ideas to help bridge the gap with elementary-aged students to high school students, developing a better communication with previous exchange students, being more active in all the events during the Japanese Exchange and much more.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<b>2007 Teens Together Japanese &amp; American</b>	1
<b>Successful Visit for the Japanese Students</b>	2
<b>Remembering Our Friend, Bill Anderson</b> <b>Take a Look at the JSCC Web Site</b>	3
<b>25th Year Sister School Anniversary Celebrated at the Japan Festival</b>	4

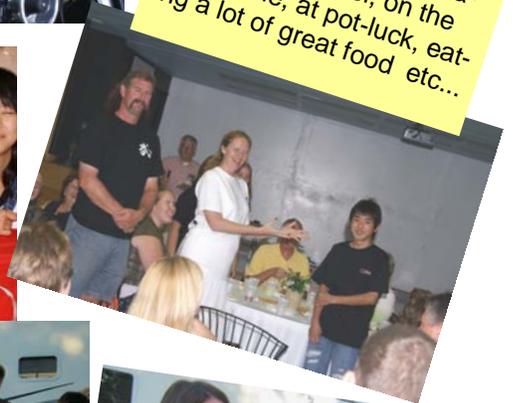
## A "Fun Loving" Delegation Visits Independence



Families Enjoy Students



Everyone is having fun at the ball game, police station, in the pool, on the trampoline, at pot-luck, eating a lot of great food etc...



Twyla Olsen-Hahn not only matches host families with the exchange students, but also helps with a lot of the activities. This year her major event was coordinating the camp fire at the Davison's Home.



Sing-a-long with the Boy Scouts both from Japan and America seemed to be the hit of the show at our camp fire night. The escort **this** year, Asato, was a lot of fun! The Western Party was very successful with a lot of people line dancing, great food and a fun skit!



## Remembering Our Friend Bill Anderson

Long before Independence and Higashimurayama, Japan established their sister city relationship January 1, 1978, Bill and Lois Anderson were well known for their friendship and hospitality toward Asian persons. Listed among their special friends were several Chinese restaurant

owners and two or more "People to People" Korean exchange students at Kansas University. It was a natural choice for the commission chairman, Peggy Hausheer, to turn to the Andersons to serve as a host family to house and care for one of the first official visitors from Japan. By accepting Peggy's request, Bill and Kazuto Miyazawa established a life long, brotherly friendship. The Miyazawa home was always open to the Andersons during their five visits to Japan through the years. Even though Bill



Lois and Bill

resided only a few yards outside the Independence city limits, he was not eligible to serve on the Sister City Commission. However, he attended every meeting, volunteering readily to provide hosting for the student exchange or other friendly hospitality service needed. Bill was always present at the mayors luncheon with a gift bag of Ameri-

can treasures for each student and escort. The annual Cherry Blossom Festival found him supervising the luncheon serving table and handling finances. After eleven years of priceless service to the exchange program, Bill and Lois moved across the border into Independence, and shortly afterward he was chosen to be Chairman of the Sister City Commission. He served in that capacity from 1993 to 1995.

The Andersons continued to remember their many Japanese friends with birthday and holiday cards, e-mail and phone calls. Their last visit to Japan was on the 20th Anniversary in 1998, but Bill continued helping the commis-

sion until his retirement in 2005. One will have to search far and wide to find another citizen of our city willing to give so much of his volunteer service to the

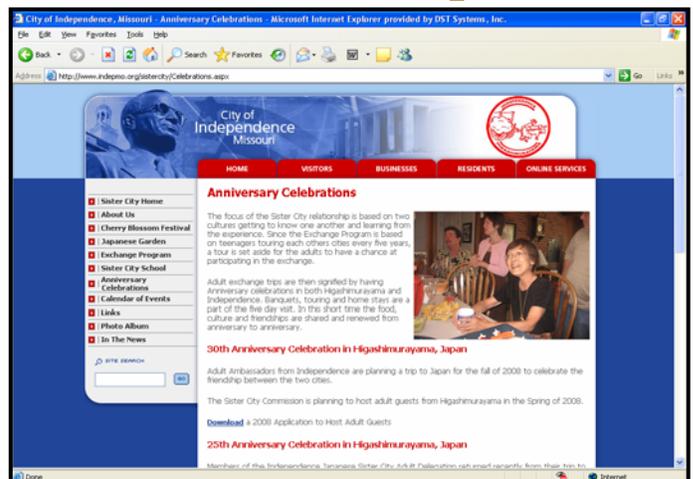


Sister City Founding Members

promotion of friendship and good will among people of different cultures. And still, his sister city service was only a fraction of the service he found time to give in many other areas of the community. Contributed by Bill Shaw, former Commission Member and Historian

Our Web URL is [WWW.ci.independence.mo.us/sistercity](http://WWW.ci.independence.mo.us/sistercity) but it is very easy to use a search engine like Google or yahoo to find the Independence Japanese Sister City Web site. It just might be worth the try too! There are eleven tabs with an extra three pages under "About Us" with links, pictures, contacts, and information on each page. New to the photo album page is a hot spot to The Examiner Spotted site, which gets thousands of visitors each week looking at our JSCC photos. Not only are the JSCC Newsletters available on "In the News" page but it is available for The Examiner's previous articles to be linked to our site. The Sister School page just got a new look and a link to The Examiner article from the Japan Festival. The web site, located on the city web site, is a great way to let others know all about the JSCC. It is colorful, interesting and full of fun links and surprise articles and applications. The Updated Events Calendar will get you in touch with activities. Why don't you check it out today?

## Web Site Updates



Visit us on the Web

<http://www.ci.independence.mo.us/sistercity/>

Sign up to host a 30th Anniversary Adult

On the web are contact phone numbers and email addresses!

Google or Yahoo it!

Just type in: Independence Japanese Sister City



# 25 Years, 2 Schools- Many Miles Apart

The 25th Anniversary of Glendale and Megurita Sister Schools was celebrated at the Kansas City Japan Festival in October with a beautiful slide show and an excellent performance by the 2007-2008 Japan Club students. Sue Hammett started the club in 1982 and Jeannae Segura-Brown, JSCC Member, is the current Sponsor.



Displayed in the schools are a collection of gifts exchanged over the years.

It is an honor for the group to be asked to perform at the Japan Festival.



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