

Wakaba Ward in Chiba City

Community-building Using a Support System



Situation

- Chiba city is a big city near Tokyo and has a population of approximately 1 million people.
- Among the six wards in Chiba City, the pace of population aging is the fastest in Wakaba Ward.
- As the population grows older, mutual support in the local community will be more important.
- However, there has been an erosion in the sense of belonging to a community among citizens.

Intervention

In order to promote the recognition of need for mutual support in the local community, the ward office started following projects.

- Launched a website that predicts how the demographic structure, the population aging rate and the number of people in need of nursing care in each district of the ward will change in 10-20 years.
- By using the website, the ward office held many workshops for local residents to help them learn what kinds of mutual support activities will be necessary in the community.

Impact

- The number of mutual support associations is steadily increasing.
 - 21 in 2011, 34 in 2013, and 38 in 2014.
- There are some support activities in place including shopping support for elderly people living alone, establishment of groups assisting child-rearing families, and voluntary cleaning of parks.