



IFCA's Mission

A small, but energetic nonprofit organization has started. Just like its name "International Foster Care Alliance", *this NPO intends to create opportunities for the United States and Japan to engage in discussions and activities to better the child welfare system.*

This international organization has 2 goals:

- 1) *To create a venue for the US and Japan's current foster youth and foster care alumni to express their voices and to connect with one another.*
- 2) *To generate opportunities for the US and Japan's caregivers and child welfare professionals to exchange ideas to better the system of protecting our children.*

IFCA has projects in 3 areas:

- 1) **Youth**
- 2) **Caregivers**
- 3) **Professionals**

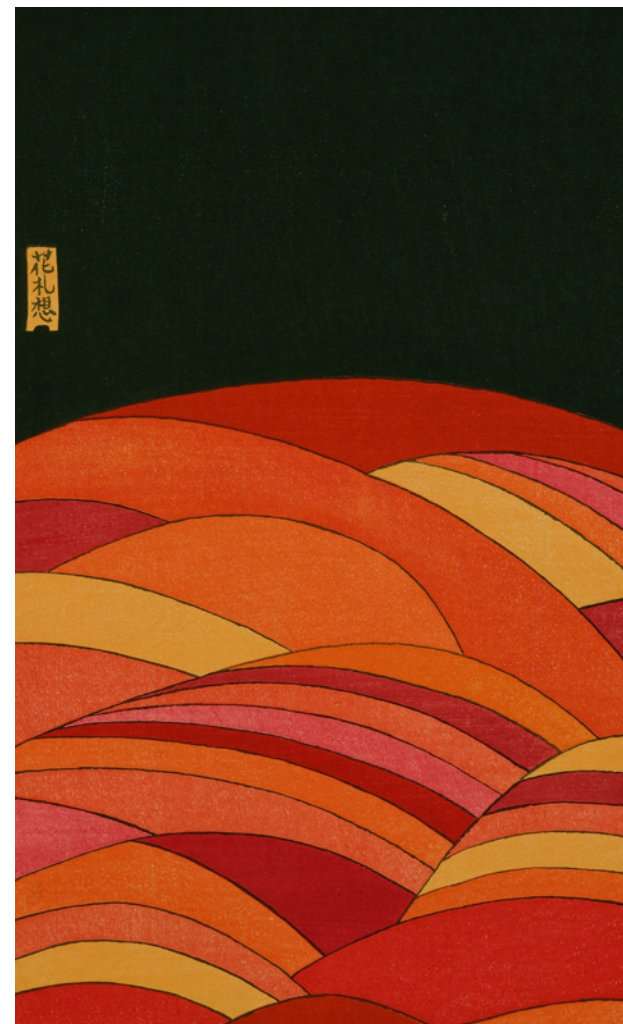
Your generous **DONATION** can make a difference for IFCA. Please make your tax-deductible donation through IFCA's website www.lfcaseattle.org or send your checks to: International Foster Care Alliance (IFCA) 6542 4th Ave. NW, Seattle, WA 98117

IFCA welcomes your questions and feedbacks. Please contact us at info@ifcaseattle.org

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International Foster Care Alliance





Connecting Youth, Caregivers and Professionals Overseas

[1] Youth

One of IFCA's long-term projects is to connect foster youth/alumni between the U.S. and Japan.

IFCA is currently forming youth and alumni groups both in the US and Japan. With the aims of global cultural exchange and of inspiring both countries' youth-lead advocacy movements, these IFCA-Youth Groups will be traveling to one another's countries to collaborate on various activities. If you or your organization want to be involved in this international project, please contact IFCA.

Both countries' youth face similar problems in attaining higher education and employment, securing adequate housing and connecting with trustworthy adult figures. There are difference between Japan and the U.S. in how the governments financially support youth and alumni. However, in both countries, young people are forming groups to fight for the betterment of their lives and for the improvement of the child welfare system.

IFCA feels that the ability to share thoughts and feelings are connected with resiliency.

Currently, IFCA is inviting youth and alumni to send their essays, poems, and art works. A stipend will be given if work is used in the website. Written work will be published in English and Japanese. Please see the "How to Submit Your Work" page in the IFCA website. www.ifcaseattle.org

[2] Caregivers

For the safety, wellbeing and permanency of foster children, IFCA wants to spread the best caregiver support methods. This is a big topic in both the U.S. and Japan. In the U.S., to remedy the consistent decline in foster parents, many new foster parent recruitment and retention programs were introduced. In Japan, there is an on-going effort to reduce the youth population in large residential facilities and to place these foster children in more family-like settings.

Currently, IFCA is consulting with the **Mockingbird Society** (a Seattle-based NPO) with the aim of introducing the Mockingbird Society's Family Model (a unique and effective foster/kinship family support system) to Japan.

IFCA's [website and publications](#) provide information on American and Japanese foster parents' current issues and circumstances, and creates a platform for both countries to exchange ideas and thoughts. There are cultural differences between the U.S. and Japan. However, these two countries share similar concerns including the difficulty of recruiting new foster parents, scarce resources for relative caregivers, and the lack of connection among foster parents.

IFCA is based in Seattle, Washington, U.S.A. It also has board members and staff in Tokyo, Japan.

[3] Professionals

IFCA provides opportunities for child welfare professionals in Japan and the U.S. to exchange knowledge and to collaborate with one another. IFCA plans and sponsors events for both countries' professionals to deliver best services for their child and adult clients.

Accomplishments: IFCA was incorporated in July 2012 as a 501 (C) 3 organization with four board of directors with 20 years each of child welfare/child mental health experience. Despite its short history, IFCA has already made remarkable achievements.

In November 2012, IFCA brought the first Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) trainer from the U.S. and funded the University of Colorado trainer's workshops in three Japanese cities. TF-CBT is an evidence-based treatment model shown to help children, and their caregivers overcome trauma-related difficulties. For the last several years, Japanese professionals have studied TF-CBT from its American developers and tried to disseminate this treatment model. However, there have been many obstacles to achieve this goal. After the workshops, the University of Colorado trainer continues to provide televised consultation to many Japanese clinicians who have started utilizing TF-CBT with their child-abuse victim clients and the 2011 Tsunami disaster orphans in northern Japan.