

BEYOND Tomorrow Endeavour 2019 Participants



Nanami Okuma Yame Agricultural High School, Fukuoka prefecture

When her parents divorced, Nanami struggled to find faith in others again, having lost her sense of belonging and motivation to live. But by living through this difficult experience, she became interested in helping others who are struggling. She hopes to follow in the steps of her inspiration, Mother Teresa, dedicating her life to others in need by approaching them with a heart full of kindness. In this vein, she is pursuing a career as a nurse. At school, she is active in school government.



Rin Kitomi Osaka Yuhigaoka Gakuen High School

There were difficult times when Rin was not allowed to go to school. But once she entered a child care facility, she discovered the happiness of having a “normal life.” Rin intends to work with street children in developing countries, helping to put a smile on their faces. She hopes to become someone who can inspire joy in others by focusing on innovation and discovery, and not being too bogged down with logic. After high school, she has decided to study English and Economics in university.



Chihiro Kobayashi Taga High School, Ibaraki prefecture

Since entering a child care facility as a young girl, Chihiro keenly felt the sadness of not having a place to call home. But when she joined BEYOND Tomorrow, she discovered, for the first time in her life, what it means to have a home. From this experience, Chihiro became interested in helping others who also feel homeless to find a home. Her dream is to become an architect and a children’s book illustrator. She wants to create spaces where people can be comfortable and also give children heart-warming stories to grow up with, just as she did when she was little.



Kane Takizawa Seto Pottery Senior High School, Aichi prefecture

Kane grew up in a child care facility. Though it was difficult to choose to live away from his family, he realized that “family” comes in many different forms, and it is not just the people who you live with. Living apart from his mother was lonely at times, but his mother’s kindness nonetheless strengthened their bond as a family. Inspired by her, Kane aspires to lead his life with kindness as well. He would like to study psychology and become a school counselor. His current hobbies are breakdancing and design. He is also active in local volunteer activities.



Arisa Yamasaki Chinzei Gakuin High School

Arisa entered a child care facility when she was in grade school, parting ways with her mother. Even in her times of solitude, seeing the kindness of those around her, she realized that she is not alone in the world. From this experience, she vowed to gain the confidence to express herself and not create walls around her. She hopes to support others who are in dark places in their lives, as she feels her past struggles give her a unique perspective to do this work. She also wants to participate in international volunteer efforts in the future and work in a place where she can use her foreign language skills. Currently, she is active in the English Speaking Society and volunteers as a fundraiser.



Kaho Wakayama Osaka City Minami Senior High School

Kaho struggled with her foster family, and when she chose to enter a child care facility, she discovered the importance of determination. Recognizing the myriad of people who have supported her through these years, she wants to follow in their footsteps, remembering to always think of others first. She hopes to help other children who are suffering. Kaho is working towards entering university to get a teacher’s license so that she can work with children with disabilities. She is a talented flautist and is teaching herself sign language.