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Title: Kathy Yamaguchi Interview
Narrator: Kathy Yamaguchi
Interviewer: Naoko Wake
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<Begin Segment 6>

KY: There's a lot of different . . . 'cause when I did that, I did a training in Hiroshima in 1996, that HICARE thing.

NW: Right, right. Yeah.

KY: And they took me all over the city to meet all these different people who were all doing so-called research about radiation effects.

NW: How did you find it to? I mean, did you find it effective?

KY: It was, it was, it was, I didn't learn . . . I didn't. You know the point was for us to then be able to take over and you know, see survivors and . . .

NW: Right. In the States?

KY: Yeah.

NW: Yeah.

KY: Yeah. And, I, I don't think the survivors would have been interested in seeing me. Number one, I don't speak Japanese. Number two, I don't have the experience or expertise behind me that they would get as much comfort talking to me as they would from a young doctor from Hiroshima. You know, they just wouldn't. It just . . . so basically, you could look at it as a waste, but it was a nice experience for me. 'Cause I don't think I couldn't, I wasn't able to use it, and especially I couldn't use it because in my system, I see the poor, who are not Japanese. The Japanese, we have a few Japanese patients, young women, you know, young women who have babies here: they're single mothers or they have American fathers who aren't really there. Those are our patients. But not A-bomb survivors.

NW: Right, yeah. So you don't actually get involved, as a physician in the medical health checkup?

KY: No, no. I had one patient for a while, until she turned 65 and got Medicare who was my patient here, but

NW: She was through this clinic rather than through survivors' . . .

KY: Yeah, because she didn't have health insurance, she didn't have health insurance so she came, and I saw her. But, no, I, I don't know. We tried doing some, earlier on, we tried doing some follow-up, like, we offered, Richard and I offered ourselves for consultations from the, with the survivors if they were interested. And, they weren't.

NW: Right.

KY: There wasn't much call for that. You know, there just

NW: Do you think it's mostly American survivors' group trying to get assistance or collaboration from Japanese physicians or Japanese physicians trying to help out American survivors?

KY: Um, I don't know. I think that the survivors here are very, they're very. They really want this. They, I know they really want it. I think the Americans, they say, I mean, the Japanese say what they're doing is a humanitarian thing to do.

NW: Right, right.

KY: But they are also collecting data. They're also, this is part of their, they collect data on this. So they get something out of it beyond the humanitarian, I think.

NW: Right, right. So it's a research data that they could use.

KY: Yeah, but they, but they stress the humanitarian aspect of it.

NW: They do.

KY: It's a huge visit. I mean, they usually, there's suitcases, all the stuff they bring, you know? But I've seen them also have a very good time. You know? They, they, I think, and I don't know everything because I don't speak the language but oftentimes, they, they have a good time with each other, and they have some good meals. I've gone out, I've been invited along with them, to these celebratory, you know, end of the exam, dinner, and, without the survivors, you know. Not with the survivors. Only me or somebody else, you know. And it's informal, it's like I'm one of the guys because I've been around so long. I have, I went to one in Hawai'i; I was visiting relatives in Hawai'i . . .

NW: Oh, what is it like? I was wondering about that.

KY: In Honolulu, and I had already done the one in here, but I was visiting relatives in Honolulu and I knew people who were in that other team; I had a great dinner, at some fancy, you know at a fancy hotel. They're getting drunk, they're hilarious! You know, 'cause they were done, they were finished; they had worked really hard, it was now time to you know, drink and have a good time.

NW: Yeah, yeah, and then they have done a great thing.

KY: They did a great thing.

NW: Nobody . . .

KY: They worked really hard, solid two weeks or something, so it was, yeah.

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