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Title: Geri Handa Interview
Narrator: Geri Handa
Interviewer: Naoko Wake
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<Begin Segment 1>

NW: So probably, I could ask you about how you see the, the role of the Friends of Hibakusha, including, you know, members like yourself in this larger project. So, you mentioned earlier that you have to work with the CABS; then you have to contact those people and there's a planning committee. But, how do you see the, the importance, the significance there of the Friends of Hibakusha in this entire picture?

GH: Well, you know, one of the things that . . . we participate in this project is because we want to continue to support the survivors in a way that fills their needs and at the same time, work with others who, um, who perhaps feel the same way. And the whole idea, the bigger picture of this is the whole humanitarian aspect of it. And I think that we're all in agreement with, all the people that we, you know, from the medical society to the hospital, the, the medical center, all the volunteers, you know, that's—there's—I mean, everyone's view is that: the humanitarian aspect of it. And the caring, you know, providing them an actual service that is needed. And I, I think that's what keeps everybody going. You know?

NW: Sure.

GH: Yeah. And I think that's what everyone sees as the benefit of working on this project together. Because without everyone working on it together, it wouldn't be as successful as it has been over the years. And, also, I think we've developed enough relationships and friendships so that it becomes very personal. So when it becomes very personal, uniquely *hibakusha* themselves, we have the interaction with them, we meet the medical team members, and also the other supporting organizations and all the different individuals. It becomes a very personal project too, and that's, makes it even more meaningful. Yeah.

NW: Yeah.

GH: And I think Barry, it was so sweet of him. Barry Loller, he's the, you know, medical director at the medical health clinic, and he was saying that this is, this is our mission, this is why we're here, you know?

NW: Right.

GH: This is the purpose of what we do; to serve others and especially those in need. And this is probably one of the more important projects that we participate in, and they've been involved since 1995.

NW: Right.

GH: So . . .

NW: It's been long time.

GH: I was—I really appreciated him saying that.

NW: Yeah. Yeah. Like you said, the same project really involves different kinds of people from all kinds of different backgrounds . . .

GH: Right.

NW: . . . and, my understanding, correct me if I'm wrong, but my understanding is that Friends of Hibakusha is just that. So, they are friends of *hibakushas* . . .

GH: Yes.

NW: . . . not necessarily *hibakushas* themselves . . .

GH: No.

NW: . . . right? And then there are CABS, who is the organization . . .

GH: Of survivors.

NW: . . . of the survivors themselves, and then there are medical teams, both from American and Japanese sides.

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