



## 2022 foodbank started 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan!



A lot of milk distributed from Milk Center.



Radishes and turnips from a farmer in Gotemba.

The year 2022 has begun. My heart is filled with hopes and aspirations for the new year.

In 2021, as in the previous year, COVID-19 severely restricted our activities, forcing us to live in a completely different era and lifestyle from the one described in the term "previous COVID-19. Fear of infection has caused people to lose their minds, and "interaction" and "conversation" have become top banned words. Our association has been unable to hold seminars, cooking classes, and other events that have been popular for many years, but our food bank activities have been increasing.

On January 2, early in the New Year, we distributed a large amount of milk and yogurt to prevent the loss of dairy products. The "iMUSE" yogurt, which claims to have immunity effects, and "fat-free milk" jumped into the scene of a festive meal with slaughterhouses. This year's SDGs activities have started energetically again.

The following week, we distributed radishes and turnips provided by a farmer in Gotemba, Shizuoka Prefecture, along with soup ingredients to the delight of the participants. The turnips from Gotemba, which look like the ones in the Russian folktale "The Big Turnip," were firm and fresh and perfect for stewing and soup. When the volunteers delivered the turnips and milk to the homes of the elderly, we received a report that they were grateful, saying, "I can't carry heavy things by myself, so I ask my daughter to buy them for me when she comes, but today I really appreciate it. It is very important for the distribution volunteers to be attentive to those who cannot come to the meeting place.

Also, on Wednesday, January 19, we held the second food bank event at Susukino Danchi. Since it was a weekday, there were not many people who used the food bank, but it is not bad to know that there are not many people who use the food bank. There is also a mobile supermarket in Susukino Danchi, so we are working on a plan with the residents' association to start a free food delivery service as a food bank. We hope that this will make the town a better place to live, and we look forward to working with colleague on this project.