

Astellas Pharma Inc.: Donation of Six Wheelchair Vans by Employee-Run Social Contribution Fund “Flying Star Fund”

Tokyo, October 6, 2011—[Astellas Pharma Inc.](#) (Tokyo: 4503, “Astellas”) announced that the “Flying Star Fund,” a social contribution fund run by its employees, has decided to donate six wheelchair vans to six welfare facilities in Japan utilizing Astellas’ matching gift system under which all donations from employees are matched by a corporate donation of the same amount. Donation of wheelchair vans under this fund has been continuing since 1997 as a social contribution activity on a scale of several vehicles being donated annually. With this donation, the number of donated vehicles will stand at 165*¹. The fund’s name “Flying Star” is the name of the Astellas’ corporate symbol meaning “a beautiful shining star moving toward the future.”

The Flying Star Fund was launched in September 1996, primarily by employees aiming to make a sustainable social contribution, at however modest a level. Its objective is to contribute to the improvement of people’s health and welfare. Employees freely participate in this fund at their own discretion. Approximately 5,300 Astellas Group employees currently contribute to the fund. Members of the fund allocate funds of 100 yen every month from their salaries. Astellas matches that amount and makes annual donations based on it.

Of the vehicles to be donated this time, three are microvans*² with the following wheelchair-adapted design: the wheelchair is hooked up by a belt hook to an electromotive winch that surely pulls the wheelchair up the built-in ramp. The other three are minivans*³. These vehicles have basically the same features as the other three but can carry two wheelchairs. The selected recipient facilities include facilities that support the autonomous lifestyles of physically handicapped people and work places that cater for such people. The donated vehicles are planned to be used as regular transportation for people traveling to and from the facility, transport for excursions and other such functions.

Furthermore, the Flying Star Fund made donations this year to NPO Japan Good Toy Committee, Japan CliniClowns Association and Japan Hospital Clowns Association. The donated funds will be used for activities operated by these groups such as the “hospital caravans” that travel from hospital to hospital with toy boxes filled with quality toys, and clown events that bring out smiles from the faces of hospitalized children struggling with illnesses. The Flying Star Fund has been supporting these groups’ efforts to assist children in areas devastated by the Eastern Japan Earthquake.

Wheelchair van donation recipients

Takasaki-shi, Gunma: NPO Sayakeki

Hamamatsu-shi, Shizuoka: NPO Handicapped-Child Support Kujira-Gumo

Okinawa-shi, Okinawa: NPO Community Yui-Yui

Yonago-shi, Shimane:, NPO Pinocchio

Yasugi-shi, Shimane: Social Welfare Corporation, Sakura-en

Miyazaki-shi, Miyazaki: NPO Society for the Healthy, Fukiya

*1: 80 vehicles were donated as a commemorative event in 2003.

*2: Daihatsu Atrai Sloper (4WD)

*3: Toyota Noah Welcab wheelchair-accessible vehicle, rear slope type (4WD/2 wheelchair specifications)

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One of the wheelchair minivans that will be donated by the Flying Star Fund (Pictured above is a Toyota Noah Welcab minivan donated in fiscal year 2010)



Boxes of toys donated to children in devastated areas through NPO Japan Good Toy Committee