



The Janet Aiko Sekiguchi Foundation

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Board of Directors

Greetings all,

December 14, 2007

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Ever since I knew Janet Sekiguchi, she was a teacher. She helped out with children's ministry at San Diego Japanese Christian Church before coming to Stanford, and continued serving kids at Peninsula Bible Church and Abundant Life Christian Fellowship. She was a math teacher at Sierramont Middle School in Sunnyvale and King's Academy in Milpitas. She loved children and loved serving others.

Another memory I have of Janet is what I like to call "huffy Janet". It was when she said something in that mocking, annoyed tone of voice when something was happening or something was said that she didn't agree with. I know all of you who knew her can probably remember a time (or two or three) when huffy Janet came out.

It has been over five years since the passing of our friend Janet. We, the board members of the Janet Aiko Sekiguchi Foundation (JASF), wanted to update you on what has been happening with JASF. We met this summer for a weekend retreat. Although it wasn't a task-driven, agenda-laden meeting, it was an honest, sobering time as we reflected and reminisced about Janet's life. We were reminded again by the questions we still have and the friend we still very much miss. We believe this is an important part of what JASF is about: remembering who Janet was.

Many people have asked us: why does JASF exist? Simply put, we all were touched by Janet's presence in our lives and wanted some way to continue her legacy corporately. Our vision for JASF is to: "Continue Janet's legacy by working towards hope and justice; investing in urban education; and promoting racial reconciliation." And we are continuing to pursue this vision. If you would like to honor Janet in this way, would you consider supporting JASF? All donations are tax-deductible and the money raised will go to people who we think are involved in work that Janet would be passionate about.

We also want to continue to do something concretely in her honor. This year JASF is again financially supporting Matt Davis, a physical education teacher at Los Angeles Christian School who works for World Impact, an inner-city missionary organization dedicated to planting Christians among the urban poor in America. This kind of work is exactly the sort of thing we believe Janet would be a part of today.

If you are more comfortable remembering Janet privately in your own way we certainly encourage you to do so. We invite you to visit janetsekiguchi.org, which has been recently updated and redesigned, to share a story or learn about upcoming events. We've been remembering in personal ways too: Valerie Hsieh Chu became a youth group teacher at her church in part because it was something Janet would have done. After many years I have realized a long-held dream of teaching overseas. During those years when I wanted to give it up I often thought that if and when it came true, Janet would have been bouncing off the walls in excitement for me. Huffy Janet too.

Regards,

David Hong

