

P R E S S R E L E A S E

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Japanese Youth Learn About American Homelessness Harbor Interfaith Hosts Group

SAN PEDRO, CA: Shumei America announced today that on Tuesday, September 17, Harbor Interfaith Services will be a tour stop for a Japanese youth group called “The Seagulls.” The group will arrive in Los Angeles on September 2 for three weeks to learn about American culture. They also want to understand how we help the homeless population.

Pictured to the right are the four Seagulls who visited Los Angeles in 2018. A newly found American friend is in the front.



Shumei is an international spiritual fellowship based in Misono, Japan, fostering health, happiness, and harmony for all through natural agriculture and the appreciation of art and beauty. Internationally, it has over 300,000 members who see themselves as world citizens. Pasadena is home to Shumei’s North American headquarters.

The Seagulls are a group of college-age youth from across Japan. Each September, a small group of them come to Los Angeles for three weeks to experience and learn about aspects of American culture.

Homelessness is quite different in Japan. According to a nationwide survey conducted in January 2010, there were 13,124 homeless across the entire country (population 128.1 million). Ninety-five (95) percent were middle-aged and elderly men, with the average age being 57.5 years old.

In 2014, the City of Tokyo (population 9.273 million), had 1,697 homeless individuals. In comparison, Los Angeles County, with a population of 10.16 million (comparable to Tokyo’s), has almost 60,000 homeless people.

The Seagulls and their interpreter will tour Harbor Interfaith’s administrative headquarters, Coordinated Entry System program, and Family Shelter.

Harbor Interfaith Services is the South Bay’s official Lead Service Provider of homeless services. It empowers the homeless and working poor to achieve self-sufficiency by providing support services including shelter, transitional housing, food, job placement, advocacy, childcare, education, and life-skills training. Last year, it served 8,301 people.

End of Release