

A New Hospital Rises Amid the Resounding Hammers of Reconstruction! Children's Voices Ring Out in the New Hospital, Shizugawa Elementary School



▲ Vocal warm-ups

Photo courtesy of Toyota Kids Meet Artists



Making Everyone Smile

Lyrics & Music by
the 4th Grade, Classes 1 & 2,
Shizugawa Elementary School

1

The scenery keeps changing day by day; look at all the traffic
The Sanriku Expressway, new shops and houses rise up quick
Dump trucks in a long parade, hauling dirt in the blowing wind
They keep on working through the heat
—big thanks to all who build!

RAP

We all come together in Minamisanriku
Rebuilding our town, we do what we gotta do
Dad's at the town hall, Mom's cookin' our meals
Grandma's boilin' akamoku, Grandpa's out fishin' for real
Big brother's working part-time, Grandpa's out mowin' the grass
High school kids swingin' baseball bats, giving it all they have
Dads clock in at the company, painters do their thing
Volunteer firefighters, moms who care—tirelessly they bring
Fish-cake factory, bento shop, calligraphy taught by Mom
Dump trucks roll in from Aizu, Aomori, Akita, Nara
—everyone gets along

2

A brand-new hospital stands on the hill, with ocean views so blue
Now grandmas, grandpas, babies, too,
can feel safe through and through
We move our bodies every day, staying happy and fit
Friends everywhere, chattering away, laughing bit by bit

RAP

Gather 'round, everyone, in Minamisanriku
Shizugawa Elementary, we've got spirit—woo!
Baseball, soccer, piano, dance, Omori Taiko's the beat
Abacus, swimming, marathons—no challenge we can't meet
Volleyball, wind ensembles, let that music soar
We even play hanetsuki—always ready for more

3

We want to make everybody smile, even if you're feeling down
We want to bring you all our energy and send it 'round and 'round
So let's head for tomorrow on a happy track
Each day we move forward, and there's no turning back

The children wrote these words inspired by the changing townscape they see every day and by all the people working so hard for the town's recovery. Their ideas turned into a fun rap, capturing the spirit of rebuilding and the everyday lives of families in Minamisanriku.