

From Japan with Love
By Yuriko "Takko" Kotani



"Thank you for Clown Camp." It was 1994 when I participated in the Clown Camp for the first time. There were only four Japanese participants then. No one could have ever imagined that the Clown Camp would come to Japan. Now, I am very happy that we'll welcome the Clown Camp to Japan.

When I talk about my life, I can't do so without telling about the Clown Camp. It gave me a lot of things important to me.

First, I would like to talk about the course of my clown job. After graduating Clown College Japan, I had to face the gap between what I had learned in the college and what I was practically doing as a clown. In those days, the contents of shows were mostly composed of just skills of magic and juggling. By watching various activities of American clowns

at the Camp, I was enlightened on what I should do. Mostly I had performed in Tokyo area before attending the Camp.

I started to perform in my hometown after coming back from the Camp. I performed as much as and as often as I could at schools, kindergartens, local festivals and wedding receptions, and so on. I tried to make every effort to show how the real clown was to as many people as possible in Japan.

Secondly, it gave me many wonderful friends. I keep in touch with them, I got to see them again and performed together in the US. Especially, I have great friendship with the Abells from Wisconsin. I met them in 1998 and we joined the Great Circus Parade in Milwaukee. I was very glad to join the parade I had wanted to see.

Lastly, the most important things, the Camp gave me my family. I met Kota, who is my husband now, at the Camp 1998.



Although we both were clowning in Japan, we didn't know about each other, for he performed in Tokyo area, and I performed in my hometown. If we had not participated in the Camp, we would not have met. We got married in 2002, and our baby "the little clown Moto" was born in 2004.

Taking care of our son Moto is the most important thing for me to do. So I am stopping clowning for the moment. It is like as if I were clowning when I take care of Moto because looking after a baby needs what you need for clowning such as wit, cheerfulness, skills, and

so on. Babies are naturally the most critical audience and genius clowns. My clown life has been enriched by having my own family. I'm very happy now. I am deeply grateful to the Clown Camp®, that has given me the wonderful life.

I sincerely wish you more successful than ever and great years to come.