

# PRESS RELEASE

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## TOKYO INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL DONATES FOOD TO TOKYO FOOD BANK

### TOKYO, JAPAN

[Tokyo International School](#) (TIS), located in Minato-ward, Tokyo, made its first donation of fresh 'home-grown' vegetables to food bank [Second Harvest Japan](#) (2HJ) for use in its soup kitchen in July.

The path to these donations began when TIS took on urban farming consultant Jon Walsh of [Business Grow](#) to create edible gardens, show teachers and students how to grow food sustainably, and to enable TIS to give a portion of the food grown to the community.

With the support of Head of School Des Hurst and Founding Director Patrick Newell, Jon sowed seeds and planted seedlings in the rooftop garden in early April and worked with Grade 1 students to create edible gardens in front of the main building. In early June, students carried out the first major harvest of the season from the rooftop garden, filling 10 bags with fresh, healthy vegetables including rocket, baby leaf, parsley, lettuce, radish, mizuna, French salad mix, and more – all of it grown without artificial chemicals. (Photo below).

"Collaborating with Jon on the TIS garden was an amazing experience for all," Patrick said. "Living in Tokyo, children do not have much opportunity to connect with nature and nurture something to life. Jon was amazing with the children. The TIS community is looking forward to continuing this with Jon at our new campus in September."

Sera Palmer, Advocacy & Development Coordinator at 2HJ says donated vegetables are handed out via the pantry pick up program. "This program distributes packages of food directly to individual households in need who come to our Asakusabashi office. The food provided by Business Grow in conjunction with schools like Tokyo International School helps us not only fill peoples' stomachs, but also build strong bodies. In 2013, Second Harvest Japan is working to improve the balance in the food we provide to those in need, which means we are increasing the amount of fresh vegetables, etc. that we provide to individuals. The vegetables harvested from rooftop gardens play a role in this."



Urban farming consultant Jon Walsh delivering vegetables grown at TIS to 2HJ Advocacy & Development Coordinator Sera Palmer in July

**Grow For Good** is a food-focused strategy that enables individuals, companies, schools and other organizations to become more self sufficient and support the community. Participants learn how to grow food on site for themselves and are encouraged to donate a portion to charities, food banks and community support organizations, potentially as part of existing or new CSR activities.

For a brochure, click [HERE](#).

### RESOURCES | CONTACTS

- TIS Progress Report >> [HERE](#).
- Jon Walsh, Business Grow  
E-mail: [info@businesssgrow.net](mailto:info@businesssgrow.net)
- TIS contact: Lorraine Izzard  
E-mail: [lizzard@tokyois.com](mailto:lizzard@tokyois.com)
- [Urban Farming services](#)

