We are all different, and that is great.

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I have a disabled daughter. When she was born, I couldn't tell people about her disability and it took a long time for me to accept it. Later on, Ms. N, a muscular dystrophy patient I had met through a friend from when I was doing volunteer work at school helped me to be able to talk about my daughter’s disability. Her positive attitude toward life and how he tried to do everything she could by himself became the driving force that has brought me here.

Every time I attended a graduation ceremony for my daughter’s school for disabled children, I felt anxious about her future after graduation. I appealed to the relevant authorities for help, but they always replied by saying something like, “we will give positive consideration to this matter.” I finally gave up and decided to establish the Warashibe Home together with other mothers who also had disabled children.

We started out by manufacturing soap using waste oil and our circle of collaborators grew steadily. Our activities expanded so far as to add effective microorganisms (EM) to our soap products to help with the purification of water and we are also trying them in the Amanuma pond. This attempt gradually spread among residents and became an important part of the neighborhood movement.

One country we should learn from is Denmark, where the idea of "normalization" is deeply rooted, in that disabled people should be able to live on equal terms with everyone else. There is no such word as “welfare” in Denmark. This is because the things we consider as welfare here are taken for granted. The rights of all people, including the disabled, are guaranteed and they are living a physically and spiritually abundant life.

Currently, Warashibe Home has 38 users. Hoping to inform the public about the efforts of these people, we opened Sakura, a curry restaurant. We don’t serve “curry made by the disabled” in the restaurant, but rather we serve “good curry that happens to have been made by people with disabilities.” The curry represents the idea of normalization.

"We are all different, and that is great.” This is a phrase from Misuzu Kaneko’s poem *A little bird, a bell, and me*, which represents the very spirit of normalization, seeing no need for distinction or competition.