

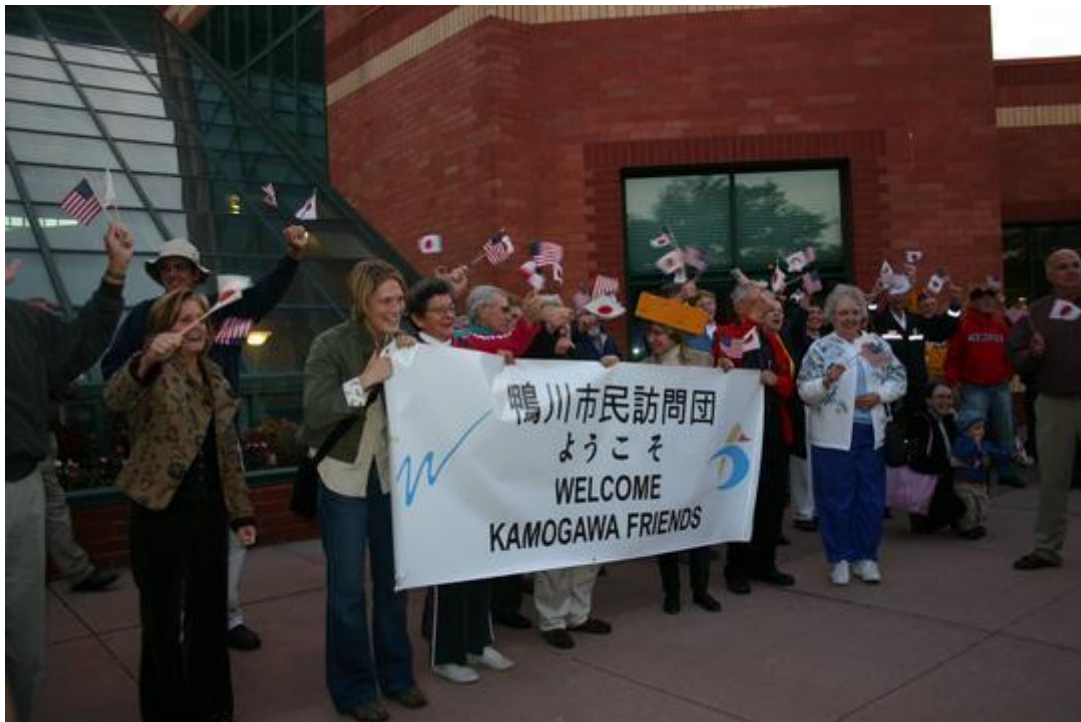
# Off to Sister City Manitowoc!

## The Journey of 2006 “Wings of Friendship” Delegation

“The vast span of green grass...the smiles!!!...”

From Oct. 6th to Oct. 10th, 29 members of the “Wings of Friendship” Delegation visited Kamogawa’s sister city in Manitowoc, Wisconsin (USA). On the first day, Mayor Kevin Crawford and a number of Manitowoc citizens welcomed the delegation with lots of clapping, warm smiles and many hugs.

Over five days, the delegation visited facilities in the city, attended a high school football halftime show, and visited a local elementary school. Many friendships were formed and deepened as the delegation members were able to interact with many Manitowoc citizens, from little children to elderly folks. Some commented on the “beauty of old America” in Manitowoc and the wonderful people there. One person vowed to go back to Manitowoc because he wants to see the heartwarming smiles of the Manitowoc people again.



(A very warm welcome by our Manitowoc friends.)



(Halftime show at a high school's homecoming football game.)



(Everyone excited at watching American football for the first time.)



(Visiting a stamping factory.)



(Getting to know the elementary school students.)

## Comments from Participants

- Seattle and New York don't look any different from Yokohama or Tokyo. But in Manitowoc we were able to see the sceneries of "old America" and the way it used to be. It was a rare opportunity as I got to see something that one would never see on a normal tour.
- All the houses had beautiful green lawns and nicely kept yards. I was very envious of the big property that everyone owned. I would love to live in Manitowoc forever.
- No matter where we were, people always greeted us with a kind "hello." Everyone was friendly and it felt like we were all part of one big family.
- When we visited the elementary school, I was touched by how the children sang the national anthem with so much heart and I could see how much their respected and loved their country. I think that Japanese people can learn a lot from them.
- At the high school football's half-time show, the girl that I hosted in the summer came across the field just to say hi to me. Then during the farewell party, her father was delighted that I was in Manitowoc and invited me to their house. I told the father that in a few years there would be another citizen's exchange and that he should come to Kamogawa. He responded, "I can't wait a few years. I will go see you in Kamogawa next year!" I was so happy and overwhelmed. Even though there was the barrier of language, but I know that we communicated through our hearts. In the true sense of the word, the friendship between Kamogawa and Manitowoc continues to thrive and grow.