Nihonmachi Little Friends (NLF) was founded in 1974 with the belief that a bilingual, multicultural preschool was important for children and to the future of San Francisco’s Japantown community. NLF’s first program opened in the fall of 1975.

Each year, over 200 families of diverse income levels and cultural backgrounds are served by NLF’s two preschools and its elementary school afterschool program.

In 2002, NLF was asked to become the owner and steward of the 1830 Sutter Street building. This new responsibility brought greater stability and potential to NLF and has complemented its educational and community serving activities. The new preschool addition will be located on the site originally chosen by the Issei (first generation) women, adjacent to 1830 Sutter. NLF is proud to follow in their footsteps by creating this new building to serve the community.

Our Mission

Nihonmachi Little Friends (NLF) is a community-based, 501(c)(3) nonprofit, Japanese bilingual, multicultural and educational childcare organization committed to providing quality and affordable childcare services. Incorporating Japanese language and curriculum, NLF’s programs foster children’s self-esteem, cooperation and confidence.

NLF promotes a partnership between teachers, children and their families to build a stimulating learning environment that allows children to develop to their full potential and become active members of the community.

For more information about the Plant A Seed Campaign and for the new NLF Preschool addition at 1830 Sutter Street, please contact us at:

nlfchildcare@gmail.com | Phone: 415-922-8898
1830 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA 94115
Visit us online at www.nlfchildcare.org

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Nihonmachi Little Friends is a place where learning is joyful, staff is caring and well-trained, and new realms of discovery open young minds. NLF is rooted deeply in the Japantown community and committed to involving its families in the community’s activities, heritage and culture throughout the year.

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Nihonmachi Little Friends (NLF) is planting a seed to ensure the future stability and vitality of its preschool programs in San Francisco's Japantown.

Through the Plant A Seed Campaign, NLF is creating a new preschool building addition on the lot adjoining its historic Julia Morgan-designed building. The new building will allow NLF to increase enrollment and improve its preschool facilities while respectfully acknowledging and preserving the original 1830 Sutter building.

The Japanese phrase for “Plant a Seed” is Tané Maki.

This new preschool building will secure a permanent and vibrant early childhood education facility in the heart of Japantown, strengthening ties between this historic neighborhood and the thriving community of NLF families. It will enable NLF to increase its preschool capacity to 92 children and expand its services to meet the growing demand for its preschool programs.

Let’s Plant a Seed Together!

Let’s Build for Our Children’s Future!

In its first capital campaign, which concluded in 2009, NLF raised over $2.2 million for the purchase and rehabilitation of 1830 Sutter including important repairs and improvements such as renovation of the Noh theater stage, re-tiling the roof, and kitchen and children’s restroom remodeling.

The $3.5 million Plant A Seed Campaign is the next step in NLF’s commitment to the future of the culture and community of San Francisco’s Japantown community. Now is the time to help plant a seed and help NLF grow and support children and families in San Francisco.
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