

rise

Getting back up  
after falling downDHARURISER  
PLANNING

# “I want to inspire courage in the next generation.”



▲Mr. Takeaki Wachi (left) passionately talks about heroes and Dharuriser striking a pose.

## Interview with “Dharuriser” Shirakawa’s local hero

On August 9 we visited Dharuriser Planning in Shirakawa City and spoke with Mr. Takeaki Wachi (39), the company’s president, about what he does as a local “hero.” They operate a wide range of activities, such as movie production in 2015, “hero shows” and goods development. In addition, he actually taught us some of the movements of “heroes” using martial arts. (Arisa)

## Changing clothes rather than transformation

Dharuriser is a life-size hero played by Mr. Takeaki Wachi (39). According to Mr. Wachi, “Everyone can become a hero.” Many heroes transform from humans into “superhumans” and defeat evil. Mr. Wachi however, uses the word “changing clothes,” instead of “transformation.” Dharuriser, unlike other heroes, keeps encouraging kids to “get up after falling down.” His body doesn’t grow big and he doesn’t carry weapons. As an ordinary human being, I want to inspire courage in children.” (Reina, Runa)

## Intense punch!

There is something else Mr. Wachi is working on other than Dharuriser. It is a martial art called the Keysi fighting method. He was attracted to the unique movement of the Keysi Method, which is unlike those found in other martial arts. He is working to let more people know about the Keysi Method. It is not well known in Japan, so he incorporated it into his film and he became a pioneer in spreading it in Japan. Mr. Wachi said, “After I started using the Keysi Method, my body movements significantly changed.” The Keysi Method was a big influence on the Dharuriser’s movement. We asked Mr. Wachi to let us try the Keysi Method. He taught us how to attack while protecting our head and how to escape quickly. We were able to experience the power of the Keysi Method. (Kotono)



## Children as heroes

When he was a child, Mr. Wachi dreamed of making a bipedal robot. However, he became interested in theater in his sophomore year in high school and went on to study at an arts college. He joined the drama club, studied *Shingeki* (New drama), then returned to Shirakawa after graduation.

He had a child at the age of 27. He thought, “I want to leave something for my child.” Inspired by the famous Shirakawa Daruma, he came up with the phrase “Let’s stand up and move forward”, and in 2008 he started Dharuriser Planning. He has continued his work, with a goal to “always do something new.”

## The next challenge is “Helping children grow”

“I love my hometown, Shirakawa. However, I sometimes wished it was more lively, especially when I saw shops closing down. I was talking with my friends about what we could do.”

After the Great East Japan Earthquake, “dream” became his theme. “A dream comes from inside of you. Customers came as usual. I hope I helped get rid of the negative images of Fukushima.”

“The next challenge is helping children grow.” I want to continue activities inspiring each child to become a hero.” (Ichiha)

## Shirakawa Wind

After listening to the story of Mr. Wachi, I thought that “heroes” are those who reinvigorate others. Mr. Wachi says, “Everyone can become a hero because really, it’s just an ordinary person changing their clothes.” So, anyone who can cheer up other people can become a hero. ▶Here is the story Mr. Wachi told us. “At the end of the hero show, three brothers came up to me and asked for a handshake. The oldest brother let his younger brother and the baby in the stroller shake hands first, and he shook hands last. And said, “Thank you so much.” In my mind, he was a true hero.” ▶“A hero is someone who helps those in need. I think a person with a kind heart is a true hero. I wanted to be such a hero.” (Ayari)

## Reported by:

(From the left)

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