

## Background of "AI Mimakun" Development

The development of "AI Mimakun" was prompted by an earnest consultation from a business owner acquaintance. This person was caring for his mother together with his wife, but his wife was having difficulty focusing on household chores because his mother would repeatedly tell the same stories. While elderly people want someone to listen to them to alleviate their loneliness, family members become tired of hearing the same stories and tend to become emotional. Although strangers might be able to respond calmly, it's difficult to expect the same from family members. In this context, robots have the ability to listen to stories repeatedly and please elderly people by offering appropriate praise. "AI Mimakun" was born to address these challenges.

### **\*\*Why is "AI Mimakun" necessary?\***

**\*\*1. Challenges of an Aging Society:\*** In Japan, the population of people aged 65 and over continues to increase. As a result, there are more elderly people living alone or spending their days alone. Even when families want to look after their elderly relatives, it's difficult to provide constant care due to work and childcare commitments.

"Mimakun" helps reduce this "sense of loneliness" and "burden of monitoring" by engaging in daily conversations with elderly people and understanding their health condition and daily situation.

**\*\*2. Protecting the Safety and Health of the Elderly:\*** Elderly people face risks such as falls and sudden health problems. Through conversations and sensors, "Mimakun" can detect abnormalities and encourage daily healthy habits (taking medicine, appropriate exercise, meals, etc.) to support their health. If any abnormalities are detected, it can contact family members or caregivers, enabling early intervention.

**\*\*3. Reducing Mental Burden on Both the Elderly and Their Families:\*** When family members live far away, they often worry about "how their parents are spending their time" and "what to do if something happens." "Mimakun" has a function to regularly notify families about the situation, providing peace of mind even when they're apart.

At the same time, elderly people themselves can feel less lonely and more secure knowing they are being "watched over."

**\*\*4. Adding Joy and Vitality to Daily Life:\*\*** "Mimakun" is not just a monitoring robot; it adds color to elderly people's lives through conversation. It engages with them about their hobbies and memories, plays music, enjoys games together, and brings enjoyment to their daily lives.