



NORTHERN JAPAN EARTHQUAKE RELIEF FUND UPDATE (4/15/11)

On March 11, 2011 the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California based in San Francisco's Japantown established the Northern Japan Earthquake Relief Fund to aid the victims and survivors of the Great Eastern Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. The relief fund is a community based volunteer citizen to citizen effort to help turn hopelessness into hope.

The Northern Japan Earthquake Relief Fund has become the largest Japanese American community based relief fund in the United States with close to 9,000 donors raising \$1,593,596.00 dollars to date. The fund is supported by close to 80 fundraising events being planned by ordinary citizens, non-profit organizations, schools, businesses and professional organizations, over 20,000 members who have joined their Causes.com campaign and over 400 volunteers who help on various fundraising events and provide daily assistance to the Center's administration of the fund.

This grassroots relief effort is an action campaign not just about donations. Schools have hosted bake sales and car washes, children have sold their toys, parents have hosted birthday parties for their children asking guests to donate to the relief fund instead of buying presents, and restaurants and small businesses are organizing events throughout the bay area and beyond. People want to get involved and make a difference, that is the essence of a community based effort and the ultimate purpose of a community center.

***Our hope is that one by one we can all make a difference,
helping us all to realize we are truly citizens of the world.***

The following list shows donations that have been sent or are on their way to these affected areas:

Kobe YMCA \$130,000.00

(Assisting with 20,000 survivors who have resettled in the area, providing care, mental health and post traumatic stress counseling)

Sendai YMCA \$200,000.00

(Sustaining shelters and childcare facility in the Sendai and Matsushima area, Miyagi Prefecture)

Morioka YMCA \$200,000.00

(Working in the coastal towns hardest hit by the tsunami)

Tochigi YMCA \$200,000.00

(Closest facility to the Fukushima area, assisting victims forced to evacuate because of the nuclear radiation exposure)

On April 18, the JCCCNC will send two volunteers to Japan to meet with other service organizations to determine the changing needs, gaps in services, visit the Tohoku region and determine strategies to address the mental health needs and post traumatic stress counseling needs. But most of all they are bringing all of your thoughts and prayers of support and hope to share with the people of Japan.

***One dollar, one act of humanity at a time,
we are making a difference in the lives of so many.***

The Northern Japan Earthquake Relief Fund efforts are part of a national network in Japan called the Japan Civil Network for Disaster Relief in East Japan which consists of over 50 non-profit, non-governmental and private organizations helping to coordinate a public response to the needs of this disaster. We are represented through our partnership and support of the YMCA Japan Alliance and the Kobe YMCA.

At this time, the JCCCNC is only accepting monetary donations. All donations are tax deductible to the extent of the law and will be acknowledged. Please no relief goods or supplies at this time.

The Northern Japan Earthquake Relief Fund established by the JCCCNC is a three-fold plan over the next several months:

- **Relief** (Meeting immediate life saving and survival needs)
- **Recovery** (Creating sustainability, temporary shelters and housing needs, Post Traumatic Stress counseling, supplies for children, families and seniors)
- **Rebuild** (Supporting community and neighborhood capital and improvement projects and programs)

In 1995, the JCCCNC raised over \$600,000 towards citizen relief efforts for the Great Hanshin Awaji Earthquake that killed over 6,000 people and left over 300,000 people homeless. The donations received helped organize volunteer efforts to get food and water directly to the victims, citizen search efforts, provide clothing for those *who* lost their homes, distribute essential supplies for women, children and seniors, and we helped to feed and rebuild orphanages in Kobe. We have continued to visit and donate to the orphanage every year since 1995.

If there is one bright light in all this devastation, we know from our years of experience with the Kobe earthquake relief efforts that Japan and its people will endure and they will rise from the ashes and destruction.

The Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California (JCCCNC) was established as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization in California in 1973. The JCCCNC serves over 185,000 individuals a year and conducts numerous exchange programs between the United States and Japan. In spring of 2009, the JCCCNC lead a tour to Sendai, Japan.

To make a donation, please visit our website: www.jcccnc.org or call at: (415) 529-1322. Checks are preferred and can be sent to the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California at 1840 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA. 94115. Checks can be made out to: The Northern Japan Earthquake Relief Fund. *All donations will be acknowledged.*

Go to our Facebook Cause page: http://www.causes.com/campaigns/97128?cause_id=590211
We will be posting websites, fundraising events and other information.

"The true test of a friendship is being there during the worst of times"

"Spread the Word, Share the Love"

Northern Japan Earthquake Relief Fund

Established by the

Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California

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