



NORTHERN JAPAN EARTHQUAKE RELIEF FUND UPDATE (5/27/11)

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 **\$2,637,850.66** 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.***

On April 18, we sent two volunteers to meet with the organizations that have received funds from us and other non-governmental and 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.

Donations totaling \$1,750,000 have been allocated to the following organizations working to provide services and relief for the victims of the earthquake, tsunami and threat of nuclear radiation.

Kobe YMCA

(Providing immediate relief efforts and assisting victims who have resettled in the area, providing care, mental health and post traumatic stress counseling)

Sendai YMCA

(Sustaining shelters, a volunteer center and providing childcare in the Sendai and Matsushima area, Miyagi Prefecture)

Morioka YMCA

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

Tochigi YMCA

(Closest facility to the Fukushima area, assisting victims forced to evacuate)

Japan Overseas Christian Medical Cooperative Service

(Providing immediate medical assistance and relief)

Shanti Volunteer Association

(Working to provide long-term relief and recovery in Kessunuma City for 2 to 3 years)

Kokkyo Naki Kodomotachi (KNK)

(Formerly Doctors without Borders in Japan, working to address the needs of children and schools in the Iwate Prefecture)

Association for Aid and Relief, Japan

(Focusing on the long-term needs of the physical and mentally challenged)

National Council of YMCA's of Japan

(Coordinating 34 YMCA's throughout Japan to provide volunteer support in the relief and recovery effort throughout the Tohoku region)

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

"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

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