KOKORO

the heart and soul of our community
San Mateo Chapter Japanese American Citizens League May 2011
www.sanmateojacl.org
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San Mateo JACL is dedicated to promoting the historical and cultural understanding of the Japanese American experience and to protecting and advancing the human and civil rights of our multi-ethnic society through educational and community programs.

Articles must be submitted before the first Friday (one month prior to publication) steveokamoto1@gmail.com

Community Center Corner

The Community Center will hold its annual Rummage Sale on Saturday, May 21, 2011, from 10am to 4pm. In the meantime, donations are accepted Mon. to Fri 10am to 4pm, and they should be clean and saleable. Please no magazines, videos, shoes, or clothes hangers.
Your support will be appreciated. Tax deductible forms are available.

National News

Thanks to all of you we have raised over $1.5 million for Japan!

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. Our 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 our 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, we sent 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. Please continue to "Spread the Word, Share the Love."

JACL HealthBenefitsTrust

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