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Japanese Chamber of Commerce & Industry Raising Funds for Japan

CHICAGO – In the days immediately following the large earthquake and tsunami in Japan on March 11, The JCCC Foundation, the charitable arm of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce & Industry of Chicago, initiated a fundraiser to raise awareness and funds for relief efforts. On April 15, the JCCC Foundation brought the matching portion of the fundraiser to a close. The JCCC Foundation received \$680,898.70 in donations which, when matched, will total \$1,361,797.40. 100% of the proceeds will be donated to the Japanese Red Cross.

Takeo Aoyama, JCCC Chairman, and Kentaro Tsuchiya, JCCC Foundation President, reached out to corporate and individual members as well as the public at large in the days following the earthquake and tsunami asking for donations for relief efforts in Japan. Individuals and corporations, members and non-members, all responded to the call for contributions. 189 different corporations donated a total of \$512,390.49 while 782 individuals donated \$168,508.21.

While the matching initiative by the JCCC Foundation has come to a close, the fundraising efforts will not stop. The JCCC plans to continue accepting donations but without the offer of a match.

The Japanese Chamber of Commerce & Industry of Chicago (JCCC) was founded in 1966 to promote good will and understanding between the Japanese and American business communities in the Chicago area. In the 45 years since its founding, the membership of JCCC has grown from a small group of 64 companies nearly 500 corporate members.

In addition to promoting business exchange and supporting the Japanese community, the JCCC operates a major Japanese philanthropy, the JCCC Foundation. Established in 1991, the Foundation annually awards grants to local institutions and programs involved in education, culture, and the community, and has also responded in times of disaster with fundraising campaigns to benefit victims.

Information on the JCCC Fundraising Drive can be obtained by calling the JCCC at (312) 245-8344 or by visiting their website at www.jccc-chi.org.

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