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JCCC Foundation

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JAPANESE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY OF CHICAGO DONATES
\$30,500 TO VICTIMS OF EARTHQUAKE IN NIIGATA, JAPAN

Members of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Chicago (JCCC) recently banded together to raise a total of \$30,500 to benefit victims of the Chuetsu Earthquake that rocked Niigata Prefecture in Japan on October 23, killing 40 people and injuring over 3,400.

On November 2, JCCC Chairman Kazuhide Matsuda and JCCC Foundation President Yoshihiro Ozawa decided to mount a two-week fundraising campaign that solicited donations from JCCC corporate and individual members throughout the Chicago area. In all, 75 corporate and 36 individual JCCC members donated to the fund, which will help the Niigata Prefectural Board of Education to rebuild schools and other educational facilities that were damaged by the earthquake.

Soon after the earthquake hit, the JCCC Board of Directors felt compelled to assist the people of Niigata in their rebuilding efforts, since the JCCC shares a special relationship with Niigata, an official Sister State of Illinois. Each year, the Japanese Chamber of Commerce sponsors the JCCC Educational Exchange Program, which enables a small group of educators from Chicago-area schools to visit elementary, middle and high schools in five Japanese cities over a two-week period to learn about the country's educational system. Because of the special Sister State relationship with Illinois, Niigata is always the first and longest stop on the program's itinerary. As in the past, this years delegation of educators, from Community Consolidated School District 59 in Arlington Heights, met with the Lieutenant Governor of Niigata and participated in a formal idea exchange with members of the Niigata Board of Education. Each of the delegates also spent one night with a homestay family during their time in the Japanese prefecture.

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