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**JCCC Foundation**

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**JAPANESE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY OF CHICAGO**  
**FOUNDATION DONATES \$44,500 TO VICTIMS OF TSUNAMI IN SOUTH ASIA**

Chicago, IL - Members of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Chicago (JCCC) recently participated in a fundraising drive, raising \$44,500 to benefit victims of the tsunami that devastated numerous coastal communities throughout Southern Asia on December 26, 2004.

Soon after the tsunami struck, JCCC Chairman Naoki Hidaka and JCCC Foundation President Tomohiro Matsumura decided to mount a two-week fundraising campaign that solicited donations from JCCC corporate and individual members throughout the Chicago area. In all, 72 corporate and 23 individual JCCC members donated to the fund, which will provide immediate aid as well as long-term assistance to victims of the tsunami. Hidaka and Matsumura, along with JCCC President Yoshihiro Ozawa, presented the check to Guillermo Becerra, Chief Financial Officer of the American Red Cross of Greater Chicago, on February 28 during a ceremony at the aid organization's Chicago Headquarters.

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 39 years since its founding, the membership of JCCC has grown from a small group of 64 companies to more than 400 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 disaster victims. With this latest donation to the American Red Cross, the JCCC Foundation has given a total of \$2,038,471 in grants since its inception fifteen years ago. Last November, JCCC members also donated \$30,500 to victims of the Chuetsu Earthquake that hit parts of Niigata Prefecture in Japan.

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