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JCCC FOUNDATION GRANTS SURPASS \$2 MILLION MARK

CHICAGO – The Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Chicago (JCCC) Foundation awarded over \$121,000 in grants to 20 Chicago area educational, arts and civic organizations as part of its annual grant-giving program. This year’s awards bring the total amount that the JCCC Foundation has donated since its inception to over \$2 million. Foundation President Tomohiro Matsumura of Mizuho Corporate Bank formally presented the grants at an award ceremony on October 18 at the Chicago Club. Consul General of Japan Yutaka Yoshizawa and Illinois State Senator Miguel del Valle offered words of congratulations to the recipients.

“The Chicago area community has warmly welcomed Japanese businesses and people over the years, and the \$2 million in grants is a concrete expression of our gratitude toward the communities in which we live,” said Takayoshi Negoro, Secretary of the JCCC Foundation. “The Foundation is honored to be a part of the community by sponsoring quality educational and cross-cultural programs.”

This year’s JCCC Foundation educational grants will fund programs in a wide range of areas, including literacy, arts education, museum programming and after-school tutoring. Recipients of this year’s educational grants include the Marwen Foundation in Chicago, Child’s Voice School in Wood Dale, DuPage Children’s Museum in Naperville, and Literature for All of Us in Evanston. The JCCC Foundation will also award U.S.-Japan Partnership Grants to six cross-cultural programs that promote friendship and understanding between Japan and the United States. Recipients of this year’s partnership grants include The Art Institute of Chicago and the Japan America Society of Chicago.

The JCCC Foundation also made two donations to the American Red Cross this year for disaster relief. In October, the Foundation donated over \$115,000 to the Red Cross to aid victims of Hurricane Katrina, while earlier this year the Foundation contributed \$44,500 for tsunami relief.

Founded in 1991, the JCCC Foundation is the charitable arm of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Chicago (JCCC). Funding for the JCCC Foundation grant program is derived entirely through JCCC member contributions and member-supported fund raising events. For more information on the JCCC Foundation’s grant giving program, visit www.jccc-chi.org/foundation.

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