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**JCCC FOUNDATION DONATES \$115,395 FOR HURRICANE KATRINA RELIEF**

Chicago – The Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Chicago (JCCC) Foundation donated \$115,395.70 to the American Red Cross to benefit victims of Hurricane Katrina. Yutaka Yoshizawa, Consul General of Japan and Honorary Chairman of the JCCC, presented the check to American Red Cross of Greater Chicago CEO Francesca Maher during a ceremony on October 5<sup>th</sup> at the Rauner Center, the aid organization’s Chicago headquarters.

“We sincerely hope that our contribution will help the recovery effort and provide assistance to those who have lost loved ones in the tragedy,” said Yoshizawa during the check presentation ceremony.

The money donated by the JCCC was the result of a two-week fundraising campaign spearheaded by JCCC Chairman Koji Waki of Sumitomo Corporation of America, and JCCC Foundation President Tomohiro Matsumura of Mizuho Corporate Bank. In all, 96 corporate and 35 individual JCCC members donated to the fund, which will provide immediate aid as well as long-term assistance to victims of the hurricane.

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 victims. The JCCC Foundation has given over \$2,000,000 in grants since its inception.

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