



Sister Cities of Greenfield To Present Gift for Earthquake Relief

Donated funds to be presented to mark anniversary of Japan Quake

GREENFIELD, Ind. (February 18, 2012) – The Sister Cities of Greenfield is preparing to conclude a nearly year-long effort to collect funds for earthquake relief in our sister city of Kakuda City, Japan.

The March 11, 2011 earthquake centered off the Pacific coast of Japan caused extensive damage to the city of Kakuda City, including buildings, roads and other infrastructure. The people of Kakuda City continue to work to rebuild their homes and their lives a year after the earthquake.

The sister city partnership between Greenfield and Kakuda, which was started in 1990, has led to years of personal and professional relationships between the residents of the two cities. Keihin IPT, a major employer in Greenfield, is based in Kakuda City. Each year since the program began, a group of Greenfield-Central High School and Junior High School students and their chaperones have traveled to Kakuda City to live with local residents and learn more about their culture. Those visits, along with return trips by Kakuda City residents, have formed life-long relationships between the people of Japan and Indiana.

In the weeks following the devastating earthquake in Japan, the Sister Cities of Greenfield organization created a fund to send relief to the people of Kakuda City, with the assistance of the Hancock County Community Foundation. In that time, nearly \$15,000 has been donated to the relief fund from local businesses and residents.

The Sister Cities of Greenfield is in the process of planning an event to commemorate the anniversary of the earthquake locally, including a planting ceremony at the Japanese Garden along Pennsy Trail on March 11, 2012, the anniversary of the earthquake. The organization will continue to collect donations for the fund and will announce the final gift at the anniversary event.

The Sister Cities of Greenfield welcomes any opportunity to let the public know about the Earthquake Relief Fund and members of the organization's board of directors can be made available to discuss the fund, the anniversary and the heart-warming stories about their connections with the people of Kakuda City.

Please contact Sister Cities of Greenfield President Robert L. Young, Jr. with any inquiries about the fund and the anniversary. He can be reached by phone at 317-462-3307, or by email at ryoung@nationalroadinsurance.com.