

Infomail von FFI aus Atlanta zur Lage in Japan

Von: no-reply@thefriendshipforce.org Datum: 15.03.2011
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Betreff: Regarding the situation in Japan



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Dear friends

Just as our friends in Christchurch, New Zealand, began trying to recover from the earthquake there, the terrible disaster struck Japan. Our hearts go out to all the people in the areas affected by the earthquakes.

This is a devastating tragedy for Japan. The Friendship Force family in Japan stretches across the entire nation and includes the Friendship Force of Miyagi, which is located in and around the area of Sendai the area that has been hit hardest by the earthquake, the tsunami and now the radiation leak from the nuclear power plant.

The most recent reports we have received from our leaders in Japan indicate that the Friendship Force members in the area are safe, but some have suffered damage and all are in shock over the devastation.

Now the entire Japanese nation is not only mourning the destruction of the earthquake and tsunami, but they are also living with the unknown outcome of the damage to the nuclear power plant. We are all hoping and praying that this problem is quickly solved without any more damage.

We understand that the months ahead will be difficult ones for our Japanese members. The staff of FFI is already working directly with all clubs that have exchanges to or from Japan in the weeks ahead, and we will make any necessary adjustments.

Many people around the world are asking how they can help. We encourage those people who want to provide financial support to make donations to organizations like the Red Cross that are already organizing major relief efforts. We know those donations will be well spent. In the long run there may be other ways for Friendship Force members to get personally involved with the recovery process, but that will come later.

Friendship Force International: Responding to National and International Disasters

One of the results of developing global friendships is the desire to help others in times of trouble. When natural disasters strike a region of the world, no matter how remote, Friendship Force members are eager to respond and they are encouraged to do so.

In the event of a natural disaster or other national crisis, Friendship Force members should contact their friends in the area to determine if they have been directly affected by the crisis and to provide whatever personal support they can in a time of difficulty. Clubs close to but not affected by the disaster may be able to provide direct support in the way of material goods or accommodation.

Friendship Force members wishing to make a donation to relieve the suffering in the area should contribute to a national or international relief agency such as the Red Cross/Red Crescent societies or other well-established organizations. These are easily located on the Internet and offer convenient online payment procedures.

Please Note: FFI is not a relief organization and does not have the means for evaluating and supporting direct humanitarian aid efforts in times of crisis. Furthermore, FFI's tax status with the US government is based on educational and cultural exchanges, not fundraising for disaster relief. Therefore, it is not possible for FFI to directly sponsor relief efforts or collect and distribute money for this purpose.

In friendship, George Brown, President, FFI, Friendship Force International
233 Peachtree St. Suite 2250 | Atlanta, Ga 30303

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