



Press Release

報道資料

For Immediate Release

ACCJ Donates ¥2 Million Each to Five Charities

March 2, 2006 (Tokyo)—The American Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ACCJ) at a presentation ceremony at its office today, donated a total of ¥10 million raised at the fifth ACCJ Charity Ball to five worthy charities in Japan: HELP Asian Women's Shelter, Nonohana No Ie, Second Harvest Japan, the YMCA Challenged Children Project, and the ACCJ Homeless Fund (details on these organizations are attached below).

The fifth ACCJ Charity Ball took place on December 3, 2005, and was sold out with over four hundred guests attending. It is an annual ACCJ event that allows both ACCJ members and their companies to give back to the community.

ACCJ President Charles D. Lake II joined by the ACCJ Community Service Fund head Thomas Jordan, ACCJ Chair Debbie Howard and Charity Ball Subcommittee Co-chairs Vincenzo Lufino and Stephen Montgomery presented donation checks to Ms. Keiko Otsu, Director of HELP Asian Women's Shelter, Mr. Masaki Togami, Vice Executive Director of Nonohana-no-ie, Mr. Charles E. McJilton, Executive Director of Second Harvest Japan, and Mr. Nick Masee, Chairman of YMCA Foreign Community Supporting Committee.

"We are extremely pleased to present these donations to such worthwhile charities," Lake said. "The ACCJ has targeted these funds to where we saw the greatest need. In 2006, as part of the Chamber's CSR Initiative, we will be providing additional opportunities for companies to contribute to the local community as we highlight CSR best practices among U.S. and Japanese companies."

About the ACCJ

The mission of the American Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ACCJ) is to further the development of commerce between the United States of America and Japan, promote the interests of U.S. companies and members, and improve the international business environment in Japan. Established in 1948 by representatives of 40 American firms, the ACCJ has grown into one of the most influential business organizations in Japan, with close to 3,000 individual members representing more than forty countries and 1,400 companies.

ACCJ PRESS CONTACT: Media Relations Officer Mina Takahashi (phone: 3433 6542; email: mtakahashi@accj.or.jp).

[ABOUT THE ORGANIZATIONS]

HELP Asian Women's Shelter

HELP Asian Women's Shelter was founded in 1986 on the centennial of the Japanese Christian Women's Organization, *Kyofukai*, to provide hotline services and emergency shelter to women and children regardless of nationality, religion, or visa status. HELP assists many women escaping from human rights abuses including domestic violence, human trafficking, and homelessness.

Contact: Naoko Owaki, Public Relations
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Nonohana-no-ie

Nonohana-no-ie Children's Home is a government-supported children's home located in Chiba Prefecture that has provided a secure, home-like environment for hundreds of Japanese and non-Japanese children who are victims of child abuse, neglect, and other inhumane treatment.

Contact: Misao Hanazaki, Founder & Executive Director
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Email: nonohana@sweet.ocn.ne.jp

Second Harvest Japan

Second Harvest Japan continues to break new ground in the nonprofit sector. In 2005, it gave over ¥105 million back to the community and saved companies an additional ¥17 million. Today's donation will deliver over ¥30 million in food and save companies a little more than ¥5 million.

Contact: Charles E. McJilton, Executive Director
Tel/Fax: 03-3838-3827
URL: www.itadakimasu.org/current/english/index_e.html
Email: info@fbj.or.jp

YMCA Challenged Children Project

The YMCA Challenged Children Project (CCP) began in 1987 with funds raised from the first YMCA International Run, by the YMCA Foreign Community Supporting Committee (FCSC) in cooperation with the [National Council of YMCAs of Japan](#) and the Tokyo YMCA. These proceeds were distributed to some two dozen camps and programs of the Tokyo YMCA. The project has since grown to thirteen charity runs, two embassy charity events, corporate partnerships, and other activities which distributed over ¥50 million in support of over 4,500 young people through such things as 110 local camps and programs, Special Projects, and the Douglas Kenrick Memorial Award for outstanding volunteers.

Contact: Nick Masee, Chairman, YMCA/FCSC
Tel : 03-5367-6640 Fax : 03-5367-6641
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ACCJ Homeless Fund

The ACCJ Homeless Fund is a new fund maintained by the ACCJ for charities that focus on helping the homeless in Japan. Through the ACCJ Homeless Fund, the ACCJ financially supported the "Onigiri" project, where volunteers distributed one rice ball each to hundreds of homeless in areas such as Ueno Park and Shinjuku.

Contact: Aron Kremer, ACCJ Deputy Executive Director
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