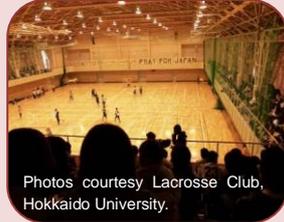


Lacrosse Match



Photos courtesy Lacrosse Club, Hokkaido University.

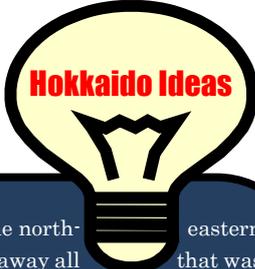
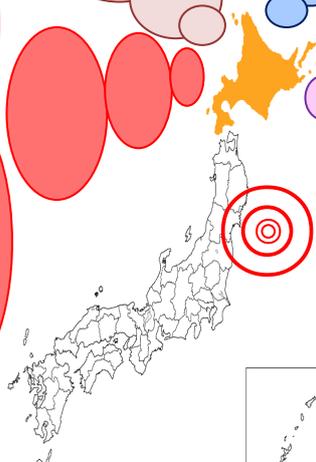
Having family and friends related to fellow club members, the Hokkaido University Lacrosse Club was aching to make a contribution. The result was a day-long series of lacrosse fundraising matches on April 9. Spectators were treated to a day of competitive lacrosse featuring about 80 members of both current and past mens' and womens' teams from Hokkaido University, Sapporo Gakuin University, Rakuno Gakuen University, and Hokusho University. Voluntary admission fees which totaled around \$5500 were donated to the Japanese Red Cross Society.

T-Shirt for Disaster Relief

The Hokkaido Association for Japan Exchange and Teaching (HAJET) serves the local and wider communities of Hokkaido through its membership and impressive initiatives. Most recently, former President Simon Daly of New Zealand put his t-shirt designing skills to good use and designed a brilliant t-shirt reading 'I love Japan' using Japanese characters. Serving as a springboard for a HAJET-led relief efforts fundraiser, 173 t-shirts were sold and over \$3000 was donated to the Japanese Red Cross Society.



Photos courtesy Hokkaido Association for Japan Exchange and Teaching (HAJET).



On March 11, a magnitude 9.0 earthquake struck the northeastern region of Japan. A series of resulting tsunamis swept away all that was in their path and left behind unimaginable destruction. Waves reaching Hokkaido's Pacific coast measured 2.1 to 4.2 meters high, and resulted in the loss of a 67 year old man and minor damage along the Pacific coastline.

However, very extensive damage was experienced in prefectures to the south, most notably Fukushima, Miyagi, and Iwate where the highest waves reached over 37 meters. Recent figures reporting on the affected area confirm that over 15 thousand people are dead and nearly 9 thousand others are missing. Tens of thousands of homes have been destroyed and well over 100 thousand people have been evacuated.

In light of these conditions in northeastern Japan, a diverse range of creative individuals across Hokkaido have come up with an equally diverse range of ideas about how to help the affected region move forward. Above are just a few of the stories which reflect the resourcefulness of Hokkaido's helping hands.

Benefit Concert

Heart filled performances filled halls of the Sapporo City Education and Culture Center during a Fundraising Benefit Concert on the evening of April 3. Determined to help those in need, a variety of musicians in Sapporo worked together with countless other volunteers to entertain hundreds of spectators and make possible a donation of over \$12,000 through the Hokkaido Shimbun Press.

Photos courtesy Chizu Nishi.



5toSurvive

Although in very different regions of Hokkaido, Toye Ogisi of the UK, and Alyson Carr and Jonathan Mason of the US all decided that organizing a local '5toSurvive' 5 km run on April 10 was a great idea. Dozens of participants of all ages raised a total of roughly \$950 for Smiles and Dreams: The Tohoku Kids Project.

Photo courtesy Toye Ogisi (second from the right).



Art Market



Photos courtesy Ayato Wakana.

Triggered by a high school student's Twitter remarks, an Art Market fundraiser was held first from March 28 to 31 and again on April 9 and 10. Coordinated by Ayato Wakana, the event featured works of roughly 50 local artists and also offered passersby the opportunity to participate in drawing workshops. Along with the cooperation of Aeon Naebo Shopping Center in the east ward of Sapporo and dozens of student and non-student volunteers, a total of about \$8000 was donated to the Aeon-administered relief efforts fundraising initiative.





Photos courtesy Japan Society of Boston.

Candlelight Vigil

A candlelight 'Vigil for Japan' was held at Boston's Old South Church on March 21. Among the 600 plus in attendance was Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick who also spoke. During the vigil, the creation of the Japanese Disaster Relief Fund-Boston (JDRFB) was publicly announced. Established immediately following the March 11 disaster, the JDRFB is a partnership of The Japan Society of Boston, The Boston Foundation, and The Fish Family Foundation. Already having collected over \$500,000 and given initial grants to the Boston-Japan Medical Initiative, All Hands Volunteers, and Volunteer Architects Network (VAN), the JDRFB intends to continue its work for two years.



Japanese Art

Organized by the Springfield Museums, 'An Evening for Japan' drew approximately 125 people to the George Walter Vincent Smith Art Museum on March 30. Museum staff and volunteers led tours of the outstanding collection of Japanese decorative arts, arms, and armor. Guests also had the chance to make paper cranes and enjoy fresh sushi.



Photo courtesy Shota Kobayashi.

Pray for Japan

University of Massachusetts students Shota Kobayashi, Motomi Fukada, Asami Terashima, and Aaron Packard spearheaded the 'Pray for Japan in Five College' initiative. Support from Holyoke Court officer Mr. Okamura, UMass Japanese Culture Club President Eriko Stronach, Tea Table President Rebecca O'Neil, and at least 70 other individuals made various fundraising events possible between March 28 and April 30. By the end, 1422 paper cranes had been donated to 'Students Rebuild', and over \$5000 had been donated to the Japanese Red Cross Society.



Photos courtesy Japan Society of Boston.

High School Heroes

Learning that friends may be in danger, Concord-Carlisle High School and Thoreau Elementary School students, faculty, and their families organized an array of fundraising activities including a benefit concert, a talent show, and bake sales. The Concord Nanae Network also made contributions, and the fond sister city relationship between Concord and Nanae was highlighted by a conversation between Concord Selectman Jeff Wieand and Nanae Mayor Yasukazu Nakamiya during the benefit concert. A donation of \$15,254 (about 1.3 million yen) was made by Concord-Carlisle High School to the Japanese Disaster Relief Fund-Boston.



Photos courtesy Springfield Museums.

The roughly 200 paper cranes made by the guests remain on display at the museum, and a donation of \$798 was made to the Red Cross Relief Fund.



Massachusetts

United States of America



Photos courtesy Lori Snyder.

Longmeadow Love

The '1000 cranes project of hope' was triggered by Longmeadow High School history teacher Lori Snyder's deep connection with Japan and the presence of a Tokyo-native Longmeadow resident skilled in the art of origami. The goal was to make 1000 paper cranes and sell them to raise money for Japan relief efforts. Lori began by teaching students in her East Asia Club how to make paper cranes; these students taught those in the Key Club, who taught others in the Community Service Learning Club. Before long, students at the Longmeadow elementary and middle schools joined in the fundraising efforts by running events such as bake sales and car washes, in addition to the paper crane making and selling. By May 17, nearly \$3400 had been raised for the American Red Cross Japan Relief Fund.

Sister City Solidarity

As has been done since 1989, the Kanegasaki Sister City Committee (KSCC) in Amherst was ready to welcome a group of middle school students from Kanegasaki, Iwate, in late March. After hearing of the disaster and subsequent cancelation of plans, however, the KSCC has been devoted to relief effort fundraising activities which began with a potluck dinner on March 28. Thanks to culinary contributions of KSCC members and local restaurants, and about 75 participants, the event raised nearly \$2000 to be donated to the Kanegasaki Relief Fund, the American Red Cross, and the Japanese Red Cross.



Photo of 2011 'Welcome' banner courtesy Kanegasaki Sister City Committee (KSCC).

Variety Show Extravaganza



Photos courtesy Boston Higashi School.



With over 150 people in attendance, a remarkable show of support for Japan relief efforts was made on the evening of March 31 at Boston Higashi School's 'Spring for Hope' Benefit. From tambourine to tap and kendo to karate, the evening was full of diverse and talented acts in addition to fun raffles and a successful fundraising campaign. Over \$16,400 was donated to the American Red Cross (Tohoku earthquake/tsunami disaster relief).

Find The Red Brick Bulletin at http://www.pref.hokkaido.lg.jp/ss/tsk/akarenga_eng.htm