



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

Japan YMCA Update

*The Japan YMCA provides critical support to survivors;
donations to the Japan YMCA Relief Fund exceed \$135,000*

March 25, 2011 – Mr. Shigeru Shimada, National General Secretary of the National Council of YMCAs of Japan, reports that the Y is making progress in several hard-hit areas. So many people remain in crisis, reeling from unimaginable loss and uncertainty. The Y's support, especially of vulnerable populations like the young and elderly, offers hope, stability and a sense of security. Despite incredible circumstances and damaged facilities, Ys in the impacted areas provide survivors with a range of aid from basic needs (food and shelter) to Y services (day care and recreation programs for refugees of the nuclear threat zone).

Nationally, the Japan YMCA has deployed Y staff and volunteers to conduct needs assessments, support the immediate relief efforts and begin preparation for the long-term rehabilitation of impacted communities. Below is an excerpt from Mr Shimada's update from March 22.



Japan YMCA

Iwate: *The Morioka YMCA has been sending staff and volunteers in Miyako city, one of the severely damaged cities. They are working closely with the churches in the area. The Yokohama YMCA will send directors to help them for one week. Also, special mountaineers will be sent there.*

Miyagi: *The Sendai YMCA started to help people in the community by offering them a place to stay and offering food to the victims immediately after the Earthquake. Now sending a team to the affected areas for further investigation for possible activities.*

Ibaragi: *The Tsukuba YMCA is helping refugees from Fukushima Nuclear Reactor threat area by offering child care and recreation programs cooperated with social welfare council.*

Tochigi: *Offering elderly programs in eastern area of Utsunomiya and Haga area, which had damages in many houses. The YMCA is also planning to take care of the people evacuated from the Fukushima Nuclear Reactor problems. The YMCA had some damages in its buildings and facilities.*

Contact:

Boon Chin Tan
International Group
YMCA of the USA
800 872 9622
boonchin.tan@ymca.net

GLOBAL YMCA MOVEMENT

Founded in 1844 in London, England, the YMCA has grown into one of the largest volunteer organizations in the world, serving more than 45 million people in 125 countries. As an interconnected global network, the Y has the resources and solutions to build bridges and make our communities stronger worldwide. Often operating in challenging social, economic and political environments, Ys deliver innovative solutions to meet community need and empower people with the skills and opportunities to create a better future for themselves and their families.

YMCA of the USA

101 N Wacker Drive, Chicago IL 60606
P 800 872 9622 F 312 977 9063 ymca.net

Tokyo: The Tokyo YMCA has been sending their staff to the affected areas and helping them plan the rescue activities. They collaborate with Y's Men's Club to deliver emergency commodity. Some of the YMCA buildings were damaged.

Kanagawa: The Yokohama YMCA has been sending their staff to the affected areas. Some of the YMCA buildings were damaged.

Japan YMCA Relief Fund

To date, individuals and Ys across the United States have donated more than \$135,000 to the Japan YMCA Relief Fund. **100 percent of the contributions to this fund donated through World Service will be designated for the Japan YMCA.** All donations to World Service are administered by YMCA of the USA, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization chartered by the state of Illinois. All contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law and are acknowledged in writing.

If you would like to help, please give to the Japan YMCA Relief Fund:

Online: via YMCA of the USA's secure World Service web site at <https://donate.ymca.net/world-service-donation.aspx> (Please note: When donating online, it is important to specify "Japan YMCA Relief Fund" in the "Comments/special instructions" box at the bottom of the online donation page to ensure immediate designation of your contribution.)

By Phone: Call the YMCA of the USA International Group at (800) 872-9622

By Mail: Send a check (payable to YMCA World Service with "Japan YMCA Relief Fund" noted in the memo line) to YMCA of the USA, attention YMCA World Service, 101 North Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60606

The YMCA of the USA International Group will work closely with the World Alliance of YMCAs, the Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs and the Japan YMCA to respond to the immediate and long-term needs of those impacted by this disaster. **For more information**, call the YMCA of the USA International Group at (800) 872-9622 or send an email to worldservice@ymca.net.

YMCA of the USA would like to thank all who have donated to the Japan YMCA Relief Fund. Please continue to keep the people of Japan in your thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely,

Tom Valentine
Interim Director
YMCA of the USA International Group

For more information on the **Japan YMCA**, visit their web site at www1.ymcajapan.org.

To learn about the global impact of **YMCA World Service**, visit ymca.net/world-service or call the **YMCA of the USA International Group** at (800) 872-9622.

YMCA of the USA
101 N Wacker Drive, Chicago IL 60606
P 800 872 9622 F 312 977 9063 ymca.net