

# MEMO

Date: March 15, 2011

To: All Clubs

**RE: LCIF Providing US\$1.25 Million for Lions' Relief for Devastated Japan**

In the case of disasters, we Lions are often the first to respond, and continue to provide for as long as it takes until all work is done. Lions Clubs International Foundation and Lions are providing relief in devastated Japan.

Lions – Loving Individuals Offering Needed Service – responded immediately alongside our fellow Lions of Japan. Within hours of the disaster, LCIF committed \$1.25 million, or 100 million Japanese Yen, for immediate relief for Japan. This includes a major catastrophe grant, six emergency grants and designated donations from Lions worldwide. LCIF also established a designated Fund for Lions to directly support this disaster.

The Tohoku Region Pacific Ocean Coast Earthquake is the worst earthquake to hit Japan in over 100 years and triggered a powerful tsunami throughout the Pacific Ocean.

LCIF is also monitoring the impact to other Pacific Ocean nations. Lions in Japan are coordinating their relief efforts via social media and are using the Japan Lions Office in Tokyo as emergency relief headquarters.

Financial support of LCIF for earthquake and tsunami relief is critical in meeting the long term needs of the most vulnerable families. Monies donated are not given to the government but administered by Lions through Lions Districts in Japan. There are no funds allocated to administration. Administration is all done by Lions.

We encourage all clubs to put news releases out in their community soliciting support for Japan Earthquake & Tsunami Relief and make checks payable to respective clubs designating their donation to “Japan Earthquake Relief”. The District is donating \$3,000 from its existing Disaster Relief Fund. All monies collected by the clubs must in turn be forwarded to the District Treasurer, Gina Stansbury, which in turn will be forwarded to LCIF through MD-4. Multiple District Four LCIF Coordinator, PID Bill Crawford, has asked the Council of Governors to support a California initiative to encourage Lions Districts & Clubs to support the LCIF Japan Relief Fund Appeal with a goal of \$100,000.00. I have endorsed the initiative.

We encourage all clubs to solicit support for the Japan Earthquake & Tsunami Relief Fund.

The International Board of Directors is considering these donations to count towards Melvin Jones Fellowships and will be retroactive to the first donations received.

Thanking you in advance for your support of this initiative.

Norm MacKenzie, District Governor

PDG Elizabeth Warren, LCIF Coordinator 4-L4