

## **California Lions Emergency LCIF Call**

Fellow Lions:

Today, we (MD-4 all past officers, directors & the council of governors) are launching an effort titled California Initiative for Japan Earthquake/Tsunami Relief. Quite simply, it is a "quick response call", for our California Lions to help those in Japan who are suffering from the devastating effects of the Earthquake & Tsunami that struck Japan this past week.

This morning a father awoke, after watching his family go to bed hungry last night, not knowing how he would feed them, house them, or care for them in the future. A mother is searching frantically for her lost child. An elderly couple is wandering helplessly in search of food, water and shelter. We, as the World's Number One (#1) NGO, can help. Not only can we help, we have a humanitarian obligation to assist our brothers and sisters in Japan during this time of crisis. It is not enough to stand idly by wondering how we can be of assistance. We Lions never have and we never will.

I am requesting each LCIF Chairperson to contact their District Governor, Vice Governor & 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice District Governor (District Leadership Group) within the next 48 hours to start the wheels rolling. Decide the best strategy to get your Clubs, Zones Regions and District involved. A simple Melvin Jones Breakfast, Lunch or Dinner, at the Club, District or Individual Lion level is a great place to start. Maybe each club in the District would agree to "pass the hat" for a special Japan collection at their next meeting. Each District Leadership Group will need to act as they see fit and develop a strategy that will work for them. However, whatever the efforts, we need to move with speed and dispatch to make this happen in meaningful manner and with the gusto we California Lions are capable of. If you need a speaker for an event, our past officers and directors, to the extent possible, are willing to make speaking engagements on short notice. Give anyone of us a call, we are ready to help.

In making this call for help, I want to share with you a story passed along to me by PID Dr. Bill Iannaccone: In 93-94 PIP Jim Coffee, while visiting Japan, was ask what the Lions of Japan could give him that would be a meaningful gift. President Jim requested a donation to California to assist in their recovery from the Northridge Earthquake. The Lions of Japan "passed the hat" and collected \$55,000.00 that evening which was then sent to California for Earthquake relief.

**ALL CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO LCIF (Note Japan Relief on the check)**

Sincerely

MD-4 Council of Governors, ID Bob Smith, PIPs Kay Fukushima, Bill Biggs, PIDs Warren Green, Joe DiDuca, Bill Iannaccone, Bill Crawford & Dana Biggs.