

Press Release
Hancock County Community Foundation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Mary Gible, President

PHONE: (317) 462-8870

**Headline: Community Organizations Partner to Help Kakuda, Japan
Greenfield's Sister City**

In light of the tragic events unfolding in Greenfield's Sister City Kakuda, Japan, located just south of the epicenter of the earthquake, Sister Cities of Greenfield along with the City of Greenfield, Keihin IPT, Caring Community Partners of Hancock Regional Hospital, and the Hancock County Community Foundation are partnering to encourage the community to give generously to an emergency fund that has been established for the purpose of providing earthquake relief.

In 1990, the City of Greenfield and the City of Kakuda, Japan entered into a formal Sister Cities partnership. This relationship allows our community to creatively learn, work, and solve problems through cultural, educational, municipal, business, professional, and technical exchanges and projects. Keihin-IPT Corporation has been a gracious partner in this successful program.

Since 1990, hundreds of residents from Greenfield and Kakuda have become lasting friends by staying in each other's homes, attending social gatherings, and touring the respective communities. Every year, Japanese students and chaperones visit the homes of Greenfield residents. A return trip by students from the Greenfield-Central Schools is made each June.

The disaster of Japan is deeply affecting the Japanese friends that have been made over the years through the Sister Cities Program. In recognition of the immense struggle that many Kakuda families will be forced to face in the coming weeks and months, organizers feel it imperative to respond with a robust relief effort through the newly established Earthquake Relief Fund. Funds raised will go directly to Kakuda to address the city's needs.

To make a donation, make checks payable to HCCF-Sister Cities Earthquake Relief Fund, 312 E. Main Street, Greenfield, IN 46140. On-line contributions can be made at www.hccf.cc. The Hancock County Community Foundation is a local tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization providing donors with flexible, efficient, and tax-effective ways to ensure their charitable giving achieves the greatest possible impact.

About Sister Cities

Sister Cities of Greenfield is a member of Sister Cities International, a nonprofit citizen diplomacy network that creates and strengthens partnerships between U.S. and international communities. Sister Cities International is a leader for local community development and volunteer action. Sister Cities programs involve two-way communication and should mutually benefit partnering communities.

Goals are to:

- ***Develop*** municipal partnerships between U.S. cities, counties, and states and similar jurisdictions in other nations.
- ***Provide*** opportunities for city officials and citizens to experience and explore other cultures through long-term community partnerships.
- ***Create*** an atmosphere in which economic and community development can be implemented and strengthened.
- ***Stimulate*** environments through which communities will creatively learn, work, and solve problems together through reciprocal cultural, educational, municipal, business, professional and technical exchanges and projects.
- ***Collaborate*** with organizations in the United States and other countries which share