



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

## Earthquake and Tsunami in Japan

March 11, 2011 – In response to the devastating earthquake and tsunami that struck Japan today, YMCA of the USA (Y-USA) sent a message of support to the **National Council of YMCAs of Japan**, expressing our solidarity during this time of great loss and suffering. While the extent of the devastation is not known at this time, Y-USA, in coordination with the global YMCA Movement, is standing by to provide assistance to the impacted communities and our colleagues at the Japan YMCA.

Initial reports from **Mr. Shigeru Shimada, National General Secretary** of the National Council of YMCAs of Japan, indicated that national Y staff members (located in Tokyo) are safe and accounted for. There are more than 30 YMCAs across Japan including the Sendai YMCA, which is located in the coastal city closest to the earthquake's epicenter. Media reports indicate that the tsunami has devastated this region resulting in great loss of life and significant damage to land and area's infrastructure.

In the coming days, 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 National Council of YMCAs of Japan to assess the situation and provide support to the Ys in Japan.

## DONATIONS

As a leading nonprofit for strengthening community, the Y is committed to giving people the support needed to thrive – especially in times of great need. If you would like to support the Japan YMCA, please donate through **YMCA of the USA's World Service** web site at <https://donate.ymca.net/world-service-donation.aspx> or by calling the YMCA of the USA International Group at (800) 872-9622. **(Please note:** When donating online, it is important to specify "Japan YMCA Earthquake Support" in the "Comments/special instructions" box at the bottom of the online donation page to ensure immediate designation of your contribution.)

To **contribute by mail**, please send a check (payable to YMCA World Service with "Japan YMCA Earthquake Support" noted in the memo line) to YMCA of the USA, attention YMCA World Service, 101 North Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60606.

Updates will be posted on YMCAexchange ([www.ymcaexchange.org](http://www.ymcaexchange.org)) when available. Thank you for your support of the global YMCA Movement.

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## 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 124 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.

## ABOUT THE JAPAN YMCA

The YMCA has long history of service in Japan. The first Japanese Y was established in 1880 (in Tokyo) and the National Council of YMCAs of Japan was founded in 1903. Today, the National Council of YMCAs of Japan consists of more than 30 local YMCAs nationwide. According to the National Council of YMCAs of Japan's web site:

*Each YMCA is managed through the cooperation of volunteers and professional staff, and volunteer leaders are central to the success of its programs.*

*When the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake hit in 1995, record numbers of people joined the YMCA's volunteer activities for emergency relief and reconstruction for six months. The earthquake energized volunteerism in Japan, and the YMCA has gained a reputation as an organization that can raise and coordinate volunteers.*



*Alongside of Volunteerism, Wellness, and Internationalism, Lifelong Learning is one of the four key areas of YMCA programs and services. Education and fitness programs are available to members and non-members alike, of all generations and genders, in a commitment to the development of people throughout their lives.*

*At its center, however, is the YMCA's commitment to the upcoming generation. As symbolized by the Y's red triangle, the YMCA's purpose is to help develop balanced spirits, minds, and bodies in young people.*

To learn more, visit [www1.ymcajapan.org](http://www1.ymcajapan.org).

To learn more about the Japan YMCA, visit [www1.ymcajapan.org](http://www1.ymcajapan.org).

To contact the **YMCA of the USA International Group**, call (800) 872-9622.