

2HJ Disaster Relief Report



Second Harvest Japan responded quickly to the disaster

Since the great earthquake hit Japan on March 11, 2011, Second Harvest Japan (2HJ) has distributed food and supplies in affected areas such as Sendai, Kesenuma, Minami Sanriku, Minami Soma, Ishinomaki, and Ofunato. As of May 31, 2HJ has sent more than 60 truck deliveries to the region. From all over Japan, individuals and corporations have sent us food and supplies. From all over the world, we have received monetary donations. We deliver your donations and encouragement to the people in the disaster area. We thank all the supporters who have made this possible.

One of our staff members said, "Everything had been swept away. It was so catastrophic—as if it had been bombed—that you couldn't believe that there had been a town, houses and people living there just a

few days before."

However, we believe that the long-term support for the people in the region will lead to the reconstruction. Now the early emergency phase has ended, and evacuees are starting to move from shelters to prefabricated temporary houses. The situations of the evacuees are changing. 2HJ will keep responding to the change flexibly. We are planning to build a local food bank network to provide long-term support in the region. Now we are selecting candidate agencies for the partner food banks we will support. In order to build this network, in which we will be able to provide better support in the region, we need your continuous help. Thank you very much for your generous support!

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What is Second Harvest Japan?

Second Harvest Japan is Japan's first food bank. It collects food from food manufacturers and farmers, and redistributes them to people in need and agencies that serve them, such as orphanages and shelters.

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Stories from Our Disaster Relief Blog

Since the March 11 earthquake, 2HJ has reported about our disaster relief report on our blog. We would like to share some stories here. Please check the blog (<http://2hjdrbloge.blogspot.com/>).

May 21: Distributed Food in Minami-Soma!

On 21st of May, Second Harvest Japan (2HJ) made the second round of relief supplies distribution at Michi no Eki Minami-Soma, a local community center, in collaboration with Save Minami-Soma Project, a local volunteer group.

This time we took to Minami-Soma vegetables, sausages, eggs, milk, bottled water, snacks as well as masks, towels, and adult nappies, which weighed some 10 tons all together in our 3 trucks.



About 50 people were already in the queue when our trucks arrived there at 4:30 in the morning. At 5:00 we started giving out numbered tickets. The first 200 numbered tickets were handed out to people at the age of 70 or older and those with disabilities. Others got a ticket from No. 201 on.



The last numbered ticket was No. 800. We had to warn those in the queue after No. 800 that each of them would receive a smaller amount of relief supplies. We eventually distributed relief supplies to 1,126 people from 7:00 to 9:30. Many recipients said, "Thank you very much for coming to Minami Soma all the way from Tokyo!" or "When is the next time?" We were glad to see them being happy to receive supplies but at the same time, we felt their strong expectations for us.



Besides 2HJ staff members, more than 40 volunteers came together from Save Minami-Soma Project, Kashima town in Minami-Soma city, and even from outside of Minami-Soma city. Without their cooperation the distribution couldn't have been successful. We'd like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to all of them.



We will continue to seek an efficient way for supporting Minami-Soma city, which has been affected not only by the March 11 earthquake and tsunami, but also by the trouble at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant.



2HJ Executive Director Charles McJilton (left) conducts research of the damage in Kesennuma city.



Volunteers helped unload food and supplies in Karakuwa area of Kesennuma city.



We distributed food and supplies to the evacuees in Ishinomaki.

From Our Tweets (@2hj_en)

On highway 2 Sendai, found 3 kids waving 2 us with banner saying "Thank u 4 coming 2 help us!" Unexpectedly we got encouraged.

Sendai: Saw grad ceremo of kids soccer team. Gave em choco & candy as prize. They ran 2 us and received em. They were SO HAPPY.

A thank-you from 2HJ Executive Director

One week after the disaster struck I was in Kesennuma delivering aid. The destruction where the tsunami hit was unbelievable: Whole communities washed away. Vehicles strewn about like toys. Buildings destroyed or moved as if by some invisible hand. But as I looked down on the city from the bluffs that day a powerful feeling came over me: "I love this country. I love these people." After being here more than 20 years it was quite unexpected. I felt tears come to my eyes as I recalled how people had come together. Later that day we went up to a fishing village that had been nearly wiped out. As we were unloading our supplies you could hear the people singing, "Washoi, washoi." I thought, "Who are these people?" When we finished I had to ask them about this positive, upbeat reaction. "This is the third time we have been hit by a huge tsunami. We will rebuild again." And they will.

I relate these stories because if anything these last three months have been an emotionally powerful experience for all involved. We began this year knowing we would have to tighten our budget and make changes in order to remain sustainable. But March 11 changed all that. The outpouring of support both in Japan and from overseas has left us speechless. This newsletter is our way of saying thanks and letting you know what your aid has meant.

The picture here has been constantly evolving. In the early days we asked our major donors to hold off on large donations until the situation stabilized. In fact, for three weeks we had a statement on our website saying we were not accepting large donations until we formulated a concrete plan for the region. We became a bit famous in the NGO world here for this position, but it matches our approach to our work. We aim to operate this organization using basic business principles to maintain sustainability while providing basic assistance to those in need. We started this process back in 2001 when we made our first business plan and later in 2004 when we created our first financial model to manage our operations. We continue now with our plan for the Tohoku region.

Thank you. Just two words. In English it seems so inadequate to express our deep gratitude for the support we have received and continue to receive. Please know that your support means so much to us and the people we serve. Together, we will build a better Tohoku.

Charles McJilton
Second Harvest Japan Executive Director



On the night of the earthquake, we served hot soup to about 4,000 commuters who had to walk home from their offices because no trains were running (Left). Since March 14, we started receiving supply donations from all over Japan. Volunteers sort the supplies and our trucks deliver them to the disaster area almost every day.

2HJ's Long-term Plan for the Disaster Relief

Over the next two years we will work with local agencies and relief organizations to establish a food lifeline and food safety-net in the region. Our work will always be linked to long-term recovery and economic development. We have begun the process of identifying these organizations and determining their immediate needs and ability to carry out these goals. We believe that as many as five locations will be needed to cover the area from Iwaki-shi in the south to Miyako in the north. While it is too early to provide precise estimates on funding needs, we believe this project could cost upwards of 80 million yen over the next two years. We want to thank all of our donors for their continuous support.

Numbers

Since the earthquake, we have received many donations. These are the numbers regarding donations as of May 31.

Food and supply donations

* From individuals - About **3,800** packages. This is the equivalent of **74** tons.

* From corporations - More than **400** tons.

Monetary donations

Between Mar 11 and May 31, we have received **95,961,058 yen**. We are greatly thankful to all the donors.

The amount of the distribution

We have sent our 4-ton trucks **64 times** to the disaster area. Our partner agencies sent more than **40 trucks** with food and supplies provided by 2HJ.

Donations to 2HJ

Over the next two years, Second Harvest Japan will continue the support for the people in the disaster area. In order to make this possible, we need your help. Your donations will help us deliver more food and supplies to those in most need in the region. Thank you very much for your help.

You can donate to Second Harvest Japan online. Please visit www.2hj.org. If you have questions, please contact us at donation@2hj.org or 03-3838-3827.

2HJ in the Media

May 25 - A Japanese newspaper, *Kahoku Shinpo*, covered the story of a Japanese lady's efforts to send allergy-friendly food to the disaster area in Japan. The story mentions Second Harvest Japan as a transportation-aid organization.

Apr 1 - The Japan Times - "Second Harvest rallies support for Tohoku."

Mar 31 - CNNGo - "Tokyo's first food bank mobilizes for earthquake and tsunami victims."

Mar 30 - The Corbett Report, an online news media, interviewed 2HJ Executive Director Charles McJilton about our disaster relief efforts in Northeast Japan.

Jan 10 - CNN - "Redirecting unwanted food."

To donate by bank transfer

Bank account

Bank: Citibank (Address: Ote Center Bldg, Otemachi 1-1-3, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-004; Phone: 03-3215-7331)

Account number: 92688391

Account name: Second Harvest Japan

Bank Swift Code: CITIJPJT

When using bank transfers, please send an email to donation@2hj.org including the information about your donation amount and your name. We will send you a confirmation.