

Japanese Students Humanitarian Exchange March 2013

The Friendship Force is a global community comprising 371 clubs in 54 countries. Its members are ordinary people of all ages who wish to better understand people of other cultures, and value one another as friends.

Cultural exchanges and home stays are the signature program of Friendship Force. A club prepares an itinerary of cultural activities, inviting members from other clubs in other countries to come for four to seven days and stay with them in their homes.

Every friendship formed across the barriers of nationality, language, religion or politics makes the world a better place.

The Friendship Force believes that, 'A world of friends is a World of Peace.' Its purpose is to create an environment in which seeds of friendship can be sown across the barriers that divide the people of the world!

In this spirit of humanitarian fellowship, the Sunshine Coast Club of Australia has embarked on a project to assist young victims of the catastrophic events occurring in Japan in 2011.



The club is to host a group of Japanese youths of high-school age, giving them a really good holiday here next March. There are plenty of willing and generous hosts who will provide all accommodation and food, together with some loving care. Most of our potential guests lost their homes in the Tsunami or the nuclear disaster and several have lost at least one parent: all suffered great personal loss.

The project has been endorsed by the President of the Friendship Force International and its Governing body of Directors with encouragement and enthusiasm.

As the club is non-profit making the most pressing need now is help with paying for the air fares which are expected to be around \$25,000 and require donations of cash to help, not only with that expense but in order to pay for transport to and from the airport and supply entertainment for them suitable for their age group We need money to take them to Underwater World, Aussie Zoo etc. and rides on the swings don't come cheap these days

If you wish to help, cheques should be made payable to Friendship Force Sunshine Coast with a note attached to say it is for the Japanese Students Humanitarian Exchange and addressed to **Mr B Laws 36/2 North St, Golden Beach, Qld 4511** . Or direct credit transfer to: Friendship Force of the Sunshine Coast Inc- Exchange Inward Account at NAB Caloundra (BSB 084 484) Account No: 13950 0018 indicating Job. No. 00036. All donations will be acknowledged/receipted.

Thank you on behalf of the members of the Sunshine Coast Club,

Tom and Jean Ledwidge

Exchange Directors