

# KOKORO

the heart and soul of our community  
Japanese American Citizens League – San Mateo Chapter  
**June 2011**  
www.sanmateojacl.org  
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San Mateo JACL is dedicated to promoting the historical and cultural understanding of the Japanese American experience and to protecting and advancing the human and civil rights of our multi-ethnic society through educational and community programs.

Articles must be submitted before the first Friday (one month prior to publication) [steveokamoto1@gmail.com](mailto:steveokamoto1@gmail.com)

## Chapter News

### Meet Darryn K. Wong : 2011 SMJACL Scholarship Winner

Darryn K. Wong a June 2011 graduate of Carlmont High School was selected as the SMJACL 2011 Scholarship recipient. Darryn, a top student at Carlmont High School is a talented musician who co-founded the school's excellent and energetic, "Drumline". This group plays at school sports events and activities and won first place in San Carlos Hometown Days "Drumline Competition" in 2009.



He is also an Eagle Scout, a percussionist in the Peninsula Youth Symphony, an active member in his church, and has given his time and talents to numerous community service projects.

Darryn will be attending UCLA in the Fall as a Biology major (taking the pre-med route). He aspires to be a pediatrician in the future. He also hopes to continue with his passion for music while at UCLA.

Darryn was presented with his scholarship award at the May 15, 2011 "Immigrants Day Celebration" at the San Mateo County History Museum by San Mateo Chapter President Brent Nakagiri.

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[Update: Japan Relief and Recovery Efforts by the JACL](#)



Ishinomaki, Japan- Mr Saito's home was completely destroyed. The tsunami brought water and debris throughout his home's first floor, and now his home sits below sea level. He is waiting for the army to haul away the debris from his yard, including his car.

The JACL has continued its efforts in assisting with the recovery and relief efforts in Japan. This week, JACL National Executive Director, **Floyd Mori** flew into Tokyo and then traveled to Ishinomaki, Japan to work directly with the NGO groups awarded funds from the JACL and Direct Relief International ["Japan Relief and Recovery Fund."](#)

JACL National Executive Director, Floyd Mori, had the following to report about his work with the local NGOs:

*The funds raised from the JACL/Direct Relief International "Japan Relief and Recovery Fund" are proving successful results. Ishinomaki, one of the hardest hit areas by the earthquake and tsunami, is seeing shops open in the downtown center because of the work of NGO groups funded by the JACL. I have witnessed people who have moved back into their homes that were initially damaged but now cleaned. People in shelters or without facilities are being fed on a daily basis. In addition, the environment is being cleaned as contaminated mud is being removed from the downtown city areas and, the cleaning of the ocean's shoreline is underway.*

*One of the NGO's JACL and DRI awarded, is going door to door in the nuclear danger zone helping the elderly with food. Tons of food and thousands of blankets have been provided by another local NGO.*

*While the immediate relief efforts continue for the homeless, preparations are being made for*

*recovery. It will be a long term effort before a small degree of normalcy occurs.*

*Our chapter and new member, **Carl Williams**, a retired officer from the Air Force with two decades in emergency relief efforts experience, has been engaged in helping to identify local NGOs to work with. Carl has become the JACL/DRI coordination director for the JACL's efforts. **John Ino**, the Japan chapter JACL President, has been a resource for the JACL's research in identifying local NGOs. Carl helped to author a mutual assistance process where the federal government, local government and NGO's collaborate in working on the key areas and functions of the relief effort in Ishinomaki, one of the hardest hit areas. This cooperative model will be a template for other areas.*

**Here is a list of the NGO groups so far awarded by the JACL/Direct Relief International "Japan Relief and Recovery Fund":**

AAR - Association for Aid and Relief

JVC - Japan International Center

Shanti Volunteer Association

JANIC - Japan NGO Center for International Cooperation

Shapla Ne'er - Shapla Neer-Citizens Committee in Japan for Over Seas Support

SHARE - Services for the Health in Asian and African Regions

Peace Boat

IVY - International Volunteer Center of Yamagata

Total funds committed to Japan Relief Fund: \$5 million

Total funds released to Japan Relief to date: \$1.8 Million





**JACL**  
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