

Operation in Miyagi Prefecture Begins Following March 11 Earthquake and Tsunami

Categories: Emergency Assistance/Community Building/Call for Volunteers

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Emergency Assistance

JEN Begins Emergency Assistance in Miyagi Prefecture

On March 11, an earthquake hit off the coast of Miyagi Prefecture at 14:46, measured at 8.8 magnitudes. Following the disaster, JEN immediately decided to send a dispatch team to the Tohoku region in order to assess the imminent needs of the people based on the damage inflicted by the devastation. However, this was delayed by a day due to the explosion of a nuclear power plant in Fukushima.

Once the dispatch team arrived in Tohoku, they saw that entire areas were littered with cars, telephone poles, and metal beams dumped by the tsunami, as well as sludge with strong odor. This particular earthquake destroyed major infrastructure in the area and many individuals have been forced to live in cramped shelters. At this point in time, we believe that the restoration of livelihoods, non-food-items, and psycho-social assistance are the highest priorities. Furthermore, JEN will begin to provide hot meals as a form of emergency distribution to people affected by the disaster.

We are currently calling for volunteers as well as donations for the relief efforts up north. More information can be found on our website at: <http://www.jen-npo.org>

Community Building

Soup Kitchens Set Up for Evacuees

The JEN Ishinomaki Team has recently set up four teams, which include the sludge removal team, the psycho-social care team, the household visiting team, and the soup kitchen team, which specializes in distributing hot meals

for those who have trouble securing food.

JEN has been working on organizing soup kitchen activities for those taking shelter, and have set up a number of different locations such as in the yard of Nakajima Inc., and Watanoha Station. Evacuees often hear about the soup kitchens through word of mouth, and are often happy with the hot food that is served, which include udon noodles and croquettes. Sometimes, sweets such as rice cakes and red bean paste are served.



Above: People enjoying their hot meals by a cherry blossom tree

Volunteers have come from not only throughout Japan, but from all over the world. The volunteers have been able to speak to the evacuees, becoming closer to them and realizing their needs through communication. JEN's soup kitchen activities have been successful, and will continue based on the needs of the local people as recovery efforts in the northern region of Japan continue. As long as such relief efforts continue, supporters are encouraged to volunteer.

COUNTRY: Ishinomaki City, JAPAN

Emergency Assistance

Distribution of clothing from UNIQLO

On March 29, JEN distributed warm winter clothing and under garments donated by UNIQLO to disaster evacuees at three different sites in Ishinomaki City.

The distribution itself was conducted by the UNIQLO employees who had made their way to Miyagi Prefecture, and approximately 759 residents – who had heard about the distribution from a radio announcement – attended the distribution process to receive the donated items.

In addition to the UNIQLO clothing, JEN distributed items brought from Tokyo, which were donated by supporters, such as sealed and canned food and adult diapers and wet wipes for the elderly evacuees. At this point in time, JEN will strive to distribute both hot meals as well as necessities that cannot be found in the disaster stricken region in order to support the local people.

Call for Volunteers

Sludge Removal Assistance

At this moment in time, one of the most important tasks surrounding relief efforts include sludge removal. As simple as it may sound, it has become one of the recovery efforts' priority to remove the sludge brought into the city by the tsunami, as it has begun to emit pungent odors around the communities. In fact, three weeks after the tsunami, the sludge has hardened, however the dried up sludge will eventually turn into dust, which will be blown into the atmosphere and can have harmful effects on the local people's health.

In fact, approximately 20,000 people in Ishinomaki take shelter at their own homes, however because tatami mats and furniture have absorbed water, people cannot even clean up their own homes, some of which are covered in sludge. Thus, those who have returned to their own homes have opted to live on the second floor due to the fact that the ground floor has been covered by sludge.

JEN is now calling for sludge removal volunteers who would be available to remove mud and sludge from people's homes. Your participation would be greatly appreciated in Ishinomaki's recovery.

For more information, please contact: volunteer@jen-npo.org and indicate "sludge removal volunteer" in the subject of your email.



Above: An image of dried and hardened sludge, which can eventually turn into dust, ultimately becoming harmful to one's health in the long run.



The 7 EN's of JEN

- Engage
- Entrust
- Encourage
- Endeavor
- Enjoy
- Encounter
- Enable

DONATE NOW AND HELP THE CAUSE!

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