



For Immediate Release

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Contact: Sara Hiatt
801-535-6035

Salt Lake City Reaches Out to Japanese Sister City
Matsumoto to Receive Aid for Tsunami and Earthquake Victims

SALT LAKE CITY – Salt Lake City is urging citizens to donate to the Matsumoto, Japan Sister City Relief Fund. Japan is still feeling the aftershocks of the March 11 earthquake and tsunami, recording earthquakes of 7.1 as recently as Monday.

Salt Lake’s sister city relationship with Japan began 53 years ago – with Salt Lake City on the receiving end of their generosity when disasters struck the United States. After the United States experienced the tragedies of September 11, 2001, Matsumoto hosted a fundraiser for relief efforts. The Japanese city donated over \$36,000 to Salt Lake City, asking the City to place the contributions wherethey were most needed. Salt Lake City delivered those funds to then New York City Mayor, Rudy Giuliani. Salt Lake City hopes to repay Matsumoto’s kind gesture by providing assistance to a community it holds dear.

AlthoughMatsumoto was not in direct line of the tsunami, the city is monitoring radiation levels daily and is experiencing limited power and rationed supplies. Matsumoto is located approximately 200 miles from the compromised nuclear facilities in Fukushima.

The Sister Cities program was established under President Eisenhower to establish “Peace through People.” Matsumoto was Salt Lake City’s first Sister City, and is the fifth oldest Sister City in the nation. Since 1958, these two cities have shared student exchanges, art exchanges, teacher and municipal employee exchanges, economic development efforts and other activities.

All funds raised through the Matsumoto, Japan Sister Cities Relief Fund will be sent directly to Matsumoto with the request that the funds be placed where they are needed most. “This is a great opportunity for Salt Lake City to show how much we care and support our friends in Japan,” said Mayor Ralph Becker.

DonationInformation:

Contributions can be made online at www.slcgov.com or in person at any Wells Fargo location.

Checks can also be mailed to:
Wells Fargo Bank
381 E. Broadway
Salt Lake City, UT 84111

Checks should be made payable to Matsumoto, Japan Sister Cities Relief Fund, Account #7631654311.

For questions regarding Salt Lake City's Sister Cities program please contact Sara Hiatt at (801) 535-6035, sara.hiatt@slcgov.com or visit www.saltlakesistercities.com

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