



# Volunteer to rebuild Japan

Work in disaster recovery or social projects



United Planet, with deep roots in and long connections to Japan, fills a special void in today's U.S.-Japan relations. United Planet addresses cultural education and development, and has a commitment that is both short-term (disaster relief) and long-term (forging and sustaining lasting relationships and understanding).

## Program Description

On March 11, 2011, Japan was hit by a 9.0 magnitude earthquake; within minutes, a 33-foot high tsunami hit northeastern Japan – sweeping away infrastructure (bridges, railroads, pipelines), destroying homes, and killing thousands. The situation was complicated by a nuclear disaster in Fukushima.

Currently, the Tohoku area is still devastated, and thousands are without homes. Volunteers are needed to help rebuild disaster areas, assist children in struggling local schools, and lift the spirits of the Japanese people. United Planet's Tohoku program offers volunteers the opportunity to form meaningful and lasting relationships with locals who have lost everything. (See other side for details.)



The Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership (CGP) has provided funding for United Planet to launch the J-Initiative, J-Center Volunteer Leaders Program.

## What's Included?

- > Accommodations
- > Meals
- > Excursions & Cultural activities
- > Language Lessons
- > Extensive pre-departure training and support from United Planet head office
- > Full orientation upon arrival by United Planet In-Country Coordinator
- > Support from United Planet In-Country Coordinator available 24/7
- > Medical Insurance
- > Roundtrip airport transfers in country



# Volunteer in Japan

Live with a family, work in a social project

**Disaster Relief in Tohoku:** The area hit hardest by the tsunami is still devastated, and thousands are without homes. Volunteers are needed to help rebuild, assist children in struggling local schools, and lift the spirits of the people.

**Social Projects in Nagoya:** Volunteers are needed in the beautiful city of Nagoya in the Aichi Prefecture to support schools and the elderly.

## School Support Quests

United Planet offers many different volunteer projects in the Tohoku region. Volunteers can work with survivors in elementary schools, junior high schools, and high schools in Sendai, Ishinomaki City, or Higashi Matsushima City. Volunteers will participate in a variety of activities which enable them to spend valuable time with the students, including teaching/mentoring English, sharing their country/culture, playing sports, and assisting with activities.

## Supporting Survivors through Companionship

United Planet works closely with the education board and community centers in Ishinomaki City or Higashi Matsushima City. Volunteers will spend time with evacuated survivors at community centers and temporary housing facilities. Volunteers will be called upon to share their time and companionship with survivors. Volunteers will have an opportunity to interact with survivors, share cultures, enjoy cultural activities together (cooking lessons, language learning, sports, etc.).

## Giving Physical Labor to Rebuild

United Planet works with local non-profit organizations involved in cleaning up and recovery in Ishinomaki City. Volunteers will be transported to clean up areas to assist with clearing debris and refurbishing damaged areas. Volunteers taking part in this type of physical labor will stay in a volunteer camp in Ishinomaki City. Volunteers may opt to spend up to 50% of their Quest time at the volunteer camp doing physical labor. The remaining time should be spent giving companionship to the survivors through personal interaction.

**“Right now, we really need your help; without volunteers, we cannot rebuild our lives and Japan. I beg you, please, please send volunteers from abroad.”**

*– Japanese survivor who lost his job, house, family members*

