

【PRESS RELEASE】

- The World Stands by Tohoku -
American High School Students Visit the Disaster Area in Kesennuma with Tohoku Youths to Learn about the Disaster

February 17, 2012

Global Fund for Education Assistance

The Global Fund for Education Assistance will hold the Boston Boys and Girls Club/BEYOND Tomorrow Kesennuma Program in Kesennuma, Miyagi Prefecture, on the 24th to 25th of February 2012. The program aims to convey the envisioned future of Tohoku to 11 high school students from Boston, the United States, who are studying Japanese language and culture. The program provides opportunities for the students from the two countries to jointly think about the future of Tohoku by visiting the disaster areas and learning first-hand the voices of the residents.

◆ Program Outline ◆

Participants : 11 students visiting Japan from the “Boston Boys and Girls Club” in the United States, and 8 high school students affected by the disaster from the Kesennuma area.

Objectives: To visit Kesennuma, one of the cities most severely devastated by the disaster and learn about the Great East Japan earthquake, guided by BEYOND Tomorrow students from Kesennuma. The students from the two countries will jointly think about Tohoku’s future and reconstruction plans needed and act as ambassadors of their countries.

Program:

24 th February	
8:30	Breakfast at a local restaurant and conversation with the owner
9:30 - 12:30	Visit to the “Hobonichi Kesennuma Office” and leaders in Kesennuma’s reconstruction activities, lunch with the reconstruction leaders
13:00	Visit to Toryo High School and its students
16:00	Introduction – BBGC and BEYOND Tomorrow students
	Orientation, ice breaking
	Leadership Program
19:00	Dinner
25 th February	
7:30	Breakfast
9:00	Disaster area site visit

11:00	Presentation preparation
12:00	Presentations on “What we want American people to know – what we saw in Tohoku today and what we wish to see in Tohoku in the future”
13:00	Lunch at the “Recovery Food Stall Village”
13:00 – 18:00	Making of “HOPE” (filming/recording)

* HOPE the new song written and produced by Nick Wood is a duet with Julian Lennon & Nick Wood and is dedicated to children affected by the Great East Japan earthquake. The song will be released in March 2012 by Syn Records and the BEYOND Tomorrow and Boston Boys and Girls Club students will join the background chorus for the upcoming promotion video clip to be filmed and recorded during the program on February 25.

Julian Lennon Julian Lennon, eldest son of of the late John Lennon is a musician, songwriter, actor and photographer and support several charities including his own White Feather Foundation.

Nick Wood Nick Wood was signed to Virgin Music and has been composing and producing music since the age of 19. In 1988, Simon Le Bon of Duran Duran and Nick established Syn in Tokyo. Over the past two decades, Nick has produced and composed thousands of scores for Japanese TV commercials and written several hit songs.

◆ Press Registration ◆

The program is open to media. Should reporting press wish to register for the program, please inquire via the contact details given below.

◆ About BEYOND Tomorrow ◆

BEYOND Tomorrow is a non-profit initiative with the mission to support the young victims of the Great East Japan earthquake and tsunami who, despite facing great adversity, did not lose hope and continued to embrace a dream to give back to society in the future. By offering scholarships to attend top-class schools domestically and abroad, as well as providing leadership training, BEYOND Tomorrow aims to give these young men and women the opportunity to continue pursuing their dreams and become leaders of tomorrow.

◆ About Boston Boys and Girls Club ◆

The Boston Boys and Girls club is a 501(c)3 based in Boston, Massachusetts, whose mission is to help young people build strong character and realize their full potential as responsible citizens and leaders. (Website: <http://www.bgcb.org>)

◆ Supporters ◆

Fish Family Foundation

Syn

Tokyo Itoi Shigesato Office

More detailed information regarding BEYOND Tomorrow can be obtained through our website at :

<http://www.beyond-tomorrow.org>

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**** The project name "BEYOND Tomorrow" refers to the mid- to long-term perspective 'beyond tomorrow' of cultivating those young people who will build the future ****