



Darwin Youth for Japanese Disaster Relief

Media Release

Rice ball making to raise funds for Japanese quake victims

One of the quiet heroes to emerge in this time of grave crisis in Japan is the humble little white ball of rice called onigiri, which has been distributed to the quake and tsunami victims.

This Sunday, a group of Darwin youth is holding a rice ball making event at Rapid Creek Japanese Restaurant from 8.30am until 12.30pm.

Darwin Youth for Disaster Relief is a group of youth volunteering their time to raise funds for the for the International Youth Exchange Office of Japan, which is distributing funds directly to victims by providing first aid kits, meals and other daily necessities.

Sachi Hirayama originally from Nagasaki is a member of the Darwin Youth for Disaster Relief and is helping to organise the rice ball making event.

"Throughout my time in Japan I survived many typhoons and floods by making Onigiri," Sachi said.

"We will cook rice and show how to make onigiri, which are rice balls made from nori seaweed, freshly steamed white Japanese-style rice and onigiri Umeboshi (pickled plum).

"As we've seen in the disaster relief, onigiri are a perfect food in difficult times, lasting well without spoiling.

"Onigiri is also comforting food, speaking straight to the heart of eater and maker alike. They are Japanese soul food and extremely easy to make."

The Rapid Creek market has donated their shop to support the event and Nightcliff Woolworths have donated some rice. Any businesses looking to provide in kind support can contact Anania Tagaro on 0406 648 865.

To participate in onigiri making and help raise money for the Japanese quake and tsunami victims come along to the Rapid Creek Japanese restaurant this Sunday between 8.30am and 12.30pm.

Ends

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