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PRESS RELEASE

**The Japan Business Association of Houston Donates \$50K in Support of COVID-19 Relief Efforts, Including Meals for Medical Workers**

**Houston, May 16, 2020** –The Japan Business Association of Houston (JBAH), a non-profit organization that has served to promote commerce and trade for over 50 years, announced it will be donating \$50,000 to coronavirus relief efforts in the Greater Houston area. Two separate donations valued at \$25,000 each will be made to the Greater Houston COVID-19 Recovery Fund and the Harris Health COVID-19 Response Fund, with contributions coming from the constituent companies and individual members that makeup JBAH. Part of these donations will be in-kind, with JBAH delivering hundreds of meals prepared by the Japanese restaurant Café Kubo’s Sushi to medical workers in Ben Taub Hospital and LBJ Hospital over the course of 15 days.

Since opening its doors in 1967, JBAH has sought to build goodwill and mutual understanding among Japanese companies operating in the Greater Houston area and local residents, businesses, and government officials. The 115 companies and 770 individual members that makeup JBAH are proud to call Houston home, and have long been committed to the economic development of the region and wellbeing of its residents. In 2017, JBAH contributed to relief efforts that supported the city’s recovery from Hurricane Harvey. Now, as Houston faces unprecedented social and economic challenges brought in the wake of COVID-19, JBAH is grateful to be able support the city again.

“We would like to express our appreciation for Mayor Turner’s vision, resilience, and leadership in guiding us through this crisis,” noted Yoshihiro Shiraiwa, President of JBAH. “We feel extremely fortunate to be able to support these response efforts which will help the most vulnerable members of our community, as well as the healthcare workers who are striving to ensure the safety of us all.”

Together, these combined donations show a strong commitment to the medium and long-term recovery efforts that will be needed well beyond the immediate challenges Houston confronts. “The city of Houston has been a wonderful home to us for over 50 years, and we are committed to supporting it and our neighbors through these trying times,” said Consul-General Hideo Fukushima, who serves as the Honorary Chairman of JBAH. “Houston has proven its resilience in the past, and I know that together, we will overcome the challenges of the present moment.”

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**About the Japan Business Association of Houston**

JBAH was founded in 1967 as a non-profit 501(c)(6) organization to promote goodwill, trade, and commerce in Houston and provide support to its members. On its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2017, JBAH

reaffirmed its mission of working in close partnership with the City of Houston, and contributed \$100K to relief efforts that supported the city's recovery from Hurricane Harvey and also donated \$100K to support the Community Design Project at the Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture at the University of Houston. JBAH also sends numerous volunteers to support annual events such as the Japan Festival of Houston and the maintenance project at the Japanese Garden in Hermann Park.

The JBA Houston Foundation was established in 1998 as a non-profit organization associated with JBAH to support charitable, scientific, literary and educational undertakings by making contributions of funds, property, or both. Part of the donation to support COVID-19 relief efforts comes from this foundation.

JBAH also serves as a parent organization operating the Japanese Educational Institute of Houston, which has 500 students and a Japanese Library with 30,000 books.

Learn more about JBAH at <https://www.jbahouston.org/english>

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