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The International School sends socks to Japan

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By **James Mayer, The Oregonian**

Students at the International School in the South Waterfront neighborhood are helping keep the feet of Japanese earthquake and tsunami victims warm and dry.

"The idea of Socks for Japan was brought to me by parent Carly Hirano, who read about an American businessman in Japan who thought that warm dry socks would be a very useful gift for many people in shelters right now," said Head of School Alfonso Orsini.

The school then contacted **Sock Dreams**, a specialty sock shop in Southeast Portland to see if they could come over and sell some socks to students, families and staff on site.

"Not only did the Sock Dreams staff agree to sell their wonderfully crafted socks for only \$2, they also agreed to donate all proceeds to the fund that the school has set up on the Mercy Corps website," Orsini said.

Principal Maria Abad said she was "deeply touched by the generosity of Sock Dreams."

The school will ship several hundred pairs of socks to Japan this week and anticipates raising close to \$2000 from online and in school donations. The students enclose a note with each gift, as well.

Anyone who would like to donate is encouraged to visit the **TIS Mercy Corps page**.

The Socks for Japan program was initiated by investor and author Jason Kelly.

On his **website**, Kelly says the advantages of socks are that their sizes are easy, they don't break, people need lots of them in times without running water, "and people can keep them forever and remember that somebody from far away cared."

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