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Festival to Benefit Earthquake and Tsunami Victims

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Lindenwood University - Campus News

Festival to Benefit Earthquake and Tsunami Victims

04/04/2011

Lindenwood University will host a benefit Japanese Festival from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Friday, April 15, in the Spellmann Center on the main St. Charles campus. The free event will feature demonstrations of Japanese cultural traditions to raise relief funds for Japanese earthquake and tsunami victims.

"The event is an opportunity for students and visitors to immerse themselves in the beauty of Japan," said Michiko Nohara-LeClair, Ph.D., professor of psychology and event organizer. "Our students, faculty, and the many members of the community who are participating are looking forward to sharing their skills and talents in the hopes of helping those dealing with the aftermath of recent events."

The festival will begin with welcoming remarks by Nohara-LeClair, which will be followed by a performance by the Tozan Ryu dance group. Members of the audience will be invited to participate and receive instruction from members of the group.

Other activities will include balloon artistry, a spinning top performance, a children's playroom, origami and calligraphy stations, a tea ceremony, flower arranging, and martial arts demonstrations. Food will be served, and a variety of merchandise will be available for purchase.

"We hope everyone who attends has a wonderful time and gains some knowledge about Japanese culture that they may not have had before," Nohara-LeClair said. "We hope it not only raises awareness of the struggles of those affected by the earthquake and tsunami, but also generates a sense of hope and purpose and inspires people to help if they can."

Donations will be accepted throughout the event. All proceeds will benefit Japanese victims through the American Red Cross disaster relief fund.

For more information, please contact Nohara-LeClair at mnohara-leClair@lindenwood.edu.