

# Helping Our Brothers and Sisters Around the World

WECAN acknowledges the severe disasters that have happened recently in Brazil, New Zealand, Japan, and elsewhere. We wish to raise awareness that we are part of an international organization (the International Association for Steiner/Waldorf Early Childhood Education, or IASWECE) that is striving to bring hope and healing into struggling parts of the world. We hope to facilitate the sending of support of all kinds to our brothers and sisters around the globe. Please see the websites and addresses below for more information and opportunities to donate:

## **Brazil**

[www.valedeluz.org.br](http://www.valedeluz.org.br)

This is a direct link where donations can be made online at the site administered by the Escola do Vale de Luz.

## **New Zealand**

Checks can be made out to NZ Steiner Federation and mailed to:

Mark Thornton  
655 Findlay Road  
Miranda 2473  
New Zealand

## **Japan**

Green Meadow Waldorf School is collecting funds which it will send for Japan relief. Go to Green Meadow's web page, [www.gmws.org](http://www.gmws.org), click the link to "Japan" and contribute through the donate button, noting "Japan" in the notes field. Green Meadow is sending funds to the Freunde der Erziehungskunst and an organization known as JEN, which is doing work in the field.

One can also donate to an organization that is sending funds directly to Japan at [www.sogojapan.org](http://www.sogojapan.org). Donations can be made either through Paypal or by credit or debit card online.

**IASWECE Website:** [www.iaswece.org](http://www.iaswece.org)

The following is an excerpt from an article written in response to the Japan disaster. It has been found helpful by many teachers and parents in finding the right mood for being with children in these difficult times.

## **From "How Do I Find and Create Goodness for My Children?"**

by Susan Weber, Sophia's Hearth Family Center

*In difficult times such as these with environmental disaster of almost unprecedented scale and concern about friends and others in Japan at the forefront of our thoughts, it is not easy to feel the goodness in life. In an external crisis, our urge is often to listen and see the news and to share our feelings with other adults. As a consequence, it is easy for the children around us to be exposed to things that they cannot understand, to become fearful about situations they will never see and cannot change even if we think that the media or adult conversations are not attended to by the children. Even pre-verbal children can sense profoundly the distress in our inner being.*

*But nothing brings stamina for life and daily well being to our children more directly and strongly than surrounding them and immersing them into an atmosphere of goodness and joy. For us as adults, the message they seek from us is this: I am happy to be alive, I am interested in the world around me and I want to find a place for myself within it. Children are born with an openness to meet what their lives will bring. Despite their individual destinies and challenges, this openness is present and as the adults in the child's world, we have tremendous potential to cultivate this openness.*

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The entire article can be downloaded at [www.sophiashearth.org](http://www.sophiashearth.org).