

# ABOUT TOHOKU TOMO

On March 11, 2011, while the rest of the world watched, much of the northern coast was washed away by the massive tsunami, triggered by a 9.0 earthquake. The tragedy was devastating to Tohoku, Japan, and the entire world. People lost loved ones, their homes, and even their way of life. Now, three years later, while the world's attention may have moved on, the people of Japan are still struggling to pull their communities back together.

In the months after the disaster, countless volunteers rallied from around the world and came to Japan's aid to help begin the long process of rebuilding. Whether by donating money, organizing events, or coming to volunteer, these individuals showed they truly care about Japan and about the people of Tohoku.

This is their story.

In March 2013, Wesley Julian launched and successfully funded a Kickstarter campaign to create Tohoku Tomo – a documentary film telling the story of true friendship and commitment to Japan's recovery by the international community following the Great East Japan Earthquake.

Julian and a small team traveled across the United States and Japan to interview individuals who have made and continue to make a difference in Tohoku.

Many of these people dropped what they were doing and dedicated themselves to Japan's recovery. Many of these them even took it upon themselves to establish non-profit organizations aimed at connecting with and rebuilding Tohoku and its communities. At the core of all of these organizations are individuals. Many of these groups were founded by members of the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET Program). What started as a love of Japan through teaching blossomed into a true friendship and commitment to the Tohoku region. These founders and many other volunteers have truly become friends of Tohoku. They are, in Japanese, Tohoku Tomo.

113 PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS A FILM FUNDED BY **KICKSTARTER** DIRECTED & PRODUCED BY WESLEY JULIAN  
ASSOCIATE PRODUCER: DANIEL MARTIN ASSOCIATE PRODUCER: ELIZABETH GORDON DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: PHILIP HOLBROOK SCREENWRITER: ELIZABETH GORDON MUSIC BY: OVERCOAST MUSIC, LLC  
BRIAN OLUMBA CAMERON PEEK CANON PURDY ETSUKO NAKAMURA GALILEO YUSECO JANE SUH JASON ISHIDA  
KRISTINE MILLER JON HOI LUKE HAPPLE MAYNARD PLANT STU LEVY TAKENO SUZUKI TROY WEISNER

# 東北友

TOHOKU TOMO

TOHOKUTOMO.COM

# THE BEST WAY TO NOT FEEL HOPELESS IS TO GET UP AND DO SOMETHING.

# 東北友

TOHOKU TOMO

EXCLUSIVE PREMIERE  
MARCH 12, 2014  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

# TONIGHT'S PROGRAM

6:00 PM	Doors Open & Refreshments
6:25 PM	Introduction & Welcome Mark Scott, JETAA Chicago
6:30 PM	<i>Tohoku Tomo</i> Exclusive Premiere
7:30 PM	Q&A Session with Wesley Julian, Elizabeth Gordon, and Tim Schraeder
8:00 PM	Program Concludes

We invite you to stop by our Resource Table before or after this evening's program to learn about ways you can support Tohoku. Also, be sure to get your photo taken in our photo area and help us send a message to people in Tohoku that they are loved and remembered. All photos from tonight's premiere will be uploaded on the Tohoku Tomo Facebook Page. Tag yourself and spread the word about the film.

## A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Thank you for coming this evening to the premiere of *Tohoku Tomo*. This project was made possible by the support of hundreds of people around the world.

One year ago, I launched a Kickstarter campaign that aimed to share the stories of volunteers, who made and continue to make a difference in the Tohoku region of Japan. What started out as a simple idea has transformed into what you will watch this evening due to the hard work and dedication of a great team. A big thank you goes to Philip Holbrook, Tim Schraeder, Daniel Martin, Elizabeth Gordon and the rest of the production team. Without their support and the support of our backers, we wouldn't be here tonight and these stories would go untold.

It is my hope that this film encourages you to think about Tohoku, its ongoing recovery, and how you can help. The recovery is going to take years and you can make a difference by traveling there, volunteering, and supporting the region.

We all have the ability to make a difference and need to take that first step. I truly hope you will leave tonight inspired to get up and do something.

  
Wesley Julian  
Producer

# WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

## Tohoku Tomo T-Shirts

One way to show your support of Tohoku Tomo is by purchasing one of our t-shirts! Created in partnership with our friends at SEER Outfitters, these shirts will help you spread the word about the film and raise awareness of the ongoing efforts to rebuild Tohoku.

## Donate to Tohoku Tomo

With your support, we can share this story across the United States and Japan, and create greater awareness for Tohoku. Donations will be accepted tonight at our Resource Table or you can donate online at [TohokuTomo.com](http://TohokuTomo.com).

## 113 Project... The Future of Tohoku Tomo

A major theme of the film is the ongoing recovery in Tohoku. One of the key ways you can make a difference is by traveling to the region, volunteering, and enjoying its natural beauty. The 113 Project aims to encourage tourism while volunteering and assisting in the physical rebuilding and emotional recovery. By traveling and enjoying this beautiful region of Japan, survivors of 3/11 will be able to rebuild their businesses and know that others care. More information will be available soon. Visit [113Project.com](http://113Project.com) or sign up for email updates at the Resource Table. A trip is planned for later in 2014 and we would love for you to join us.

## Host a Screening

Now that you've seen the film, share it with others! If you know of a group, organization, or university that would be interested in hosting a screening of *Tohoku Tomo*, please let us know, [info@tohokutomo.com](mailto:info@tohokutomo.com).

## ORGANIZATIONS PROFILED IN TOHOKU TOMO



Eyes for  
Fukushima



SEND

