



## **Birmingham Chinese Association Begins Drive to Help Provide Relief for China's May 12<sup>th</sup> Earthquake**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACTS:** Leda Summer 205-531-0457  
Allan Staib 205-408-9976  
Email: [info@birminghamchinese.org](mailto:info@birminghamchinese.org)

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Birmingham, Alabama: The May 12<sup>th</sup> earthquake in China's Sichuan Province was a tremendous disaster with the Chinese government now predicting as many as 50,000 lives were lost, and countless others injured and left homeless. The Birmingham Chinese Association (BCA) is leading efforts by several smaller China related organizations in Birmingham to collect funds to donate to relief agencies in support of their work to try to relieve as much earthquake related suffering as possible.

Leda Summer, BCA President, stated "The world has become one large community with all of us dependent upon the goodwill and compassion of our neighbors to help see us through disasters such as the recent cyclone in Myanmar and now the massive earthquake in China. All of us wish we could directly reach out our hands to help but since that is not possible; we will do what we can by working hard to raise funds to aid in the relief effort."

Allan Staib, BCA Vice President and President of the Birmingham Chapter of the U.S. China Peoples Friendship Association added "It is times like these when all the peoples of the world have an opportunity to come together and show our compassion, and build friendship and understanding, by doing all we can to help the many tens of thousands of people affected by these tragedies. We also feel deeply for the suffering of the peoples of Myanmar affected by the recent cyclone and are happy to see the large scale efforts being made to provide relief there."

In the weeks ahead, the BCA is planning on collecting donations in many areas around Birmingham including participating Chinese restaurants, donation tables outside of popular retail developments and universities, etc.

Anyone wishing to mail in a donation can make their tax deductible donation check out to “USCPFA B’ham” (The non-profit US China Peoples Friendship Association) and note BCA China Earthquake Fund in the memo area. Donations can be mailed to:

Birmingham Chinese Association  
P.O. Box 660576  
Birmingham, AL 35266

The BCA board is currently reviewing options for distribution of the funds collected. Their intention is to ensure that every penny collected goes directly to help the people in need. The most likely recipient of the donated funds will be the China Red Cross organization in China’s Sichuan Province where the quake occurred. BCA Past President Zhimin Yan stated “Our objective is ensure every penny collected is put directly to work aiding victims of this tragedy so we are carefully evaluating which agency will provide the most direct and transparent method for our donations.”

The Birmingham Chinese Association, with approximately 5,000 members, is an umbrella organization in Birmingham with many smaller organizations relating to specific areas of interest. Many of these smaller organizations, and some outside the Chinese community, are participating in the BCA’s Earthquake Relief Committee. Organizations participating are:

- Birmingham Chinese Association
  - Leda Summer 205-531-0457 [ledas@leda-international.com](mailto:ledas@leda-international.com)
  - Zhimin Yan 205-567-8906 [yanzhimin@gmail.com](mailto:yanzhimin@gmail.com)
  - Allan Staib 205-408-9976 [allanstaib@power-source-usa.com](mailto:allanstaib@power-source-usa.com)
- Chinese American Business Association Birmingham
  - Leda Summer 205-531-0457 [ledas@leda-international.com](mailto:ledas@leda-international.com)
- Chinese Students and Scholars Association
  - Youfeng Yang 205-887-3448 [yangyoufeng@gmail.com](mailto:yangyoufeng@gmail.com)
- Birmingham Chinese Professor Association
  - Jianhua Zhang 205 996 5153 [zhanja@uab.edu](mailto:zhanja@uab.edu)
- U.S. China Peoples Friendship Association
  - Allan Staib 205-408-9976 [allanstaib@power-source-usa.com](mailto:allanstaib@power-source-usa.com)
- Birmingham Chinese Garden and Cultural Center Foundation
  - Bob Davis 205-903-5569 [bdavis@bhmasianfound.org](mailto:bdavis@bhmasianfound.org)
- Birmingham Chinese Festival Association
  - Amy Chen 205-410-0828 [swachen@southernco.com](mailto:swachen@southernco.com)
- Birmingham Yuren Chinese School
  - Kaihong Su 205-996-4476 [ksu@uab.edu](mailto:ksu@uab.edu)
  - Hongwei Qin 205-934-2573 [hqin@uab.edu](mailto:hqin@uab.edu)
- Birmingham Chinese School
  - Percy Wang 205-445-3009 [pwangusa@gmail.com](mailto:pwangusa@gmail.com)