

PRESS RELEASE: Consulate General of Japan in Detroit

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Shiga, Japan Donates 10,000 Masks to Sister-State Michigan**

On July 27, 2020, Michigan received a donation of 10,000 masks made in and sent by its Sister-State of Shiga Prefecture in Japan. The masks were accepted by the COVID-19 Donation Team for the State of Michigan.

Michigan and Shiga Prefecture have been Sister-States for over 50 years. Michigan also has 14 Sister-City relationships with cities located in Shiga Prefecture. The donated masks were manufactured by Proctor & Gamble in the Shiga city of Yasu, which is a Sister-City with Clinton Township.

Shiga Prefecture Governor MIKAZUKI Taizō addressed the people of Michigan, “Today, I’m sending you 10,000 masks with the hope that they will help your fight against the pandemic. This gift was made possible by Proctor & Gamble’s understanding of how strong our bond is, and I’m proud to be able to send something made in Shiga to an irreplaceable friend such as you. As citizens, as governments, and as partners, together, we will move forward.”

“The goodwill that we’ve established over the years has been highlighted by this action,” commented Michigan-Shiga Sister-State Board President Jim Berryman. “It shows the importance of the relationships that have been built up for 52 years. Especially during a pandemic, a gesture such as this is truly appreciated. It greatly strengthens our resolve to continue our exchanges moving forward.”

Consul General NAKAGAWA Tsutomu offered his appreciation for the donation. “As Consul General of Japan in Detroit, I am grateful for Shiga’s generosity in this time of need. This donation shows the shared solidarity between the people of Michigan and Shiga, and it is proof that the Sister-State bond built by the efforts of so many dedicated individuals remains ironclad.”

Since their establishment as Sister-States in 1968, over 30,000 people have been involved with the Sister-State program and in deepening the friendship between Michigan and Shiga. Both renowned for their iconic bodies of water (the Great Lakes of Michigan and Lake Biwa of Shiga), these Sister-States have forged a connection that spans environmental, economic, cultural, academic, and other activities.

***About the Consulate-General of Japan in Detroit***

*The Consulate-General of Japan in Detroit was established in 1993 by the Government of Japan to serve in the states of Michigan and Ohio. The Detroit office is one of 14 Japanese Consulates General in the United States. The Consulate strives to promote better understanding of Japan and Japanese culture through educational and cultural programs. The office protects the interests of Japanese citizens and strengthens the Japan-U.S. alliance through furthering relations with local governments, companies, educational institutions, cultural organizations and the general public. For more information, visit [www.detroit.us.emb-japan.go.jp/](http://www.detroit.us.emb-japan.go.jp/) or call (313) 567-0120.*

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*Attachments:*



*Photo Caption: Group outside the Shiga Prefectural Office assists in loading masks to send to Michigan, July 22, 2020.*