



## TÔHOKU

*Maison Blanche Chef Jose Martinez's kinzuna with the Japanese people*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Longboat Key, Fla. Thursday April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2011** - Chef Proprietor Jose Martinez of Maison Blanche ([www.themaisonblanche.com](http://www.themaisonblanche.com)) on Longboat Key announced today that he will hold a fundraiser dinner to benefit the American Red Cross Japan Disaster Relief Fund. The dinner, entitled Tōhoku, will be held at the restaurant on May 10 2011 from 5:30 pm to 9:30 PM. 100% of all net proceeds will be donated to the American Red Cross Fund.

Chef Martinez is organizing the dinner in remembrance of the quality and productive time he spent in Japan, teaching and demonstrating and on behalf of his Japanese friends.

"Tōhoku is my gesture of tomodachi (Japanese for "friendship") with the Japanese people," said the chef. "I am turning over my restaurant for the entire evening to support the American Red Cross efforts and cause. 100% of the funds and any other donations are offered as my kizuna ("bond of friendship") with the Japanese in this time of need."

In addition to the funds raised, Maison Blanche will create a book of condolences, which will be delivered to the Japanese Consulate in Miami.

**WHO** Chef Jose Martinez and the staff of Maison Blanche and The American Red Cross

**WHAT** TÔHOKU: Maison Blanche dinner benefiting those affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami

**WHERE** Maison Blanche, 2605 Gulf of Mexico Drive, Longboat Key, free and ample self parking in a private lot

**WHEN** May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011, seating begins at 5:30 pm through 9:30 pm

**HOW** \$150 per person, plus tax and gratuity  
For reservations please call: 941 – 383 – 8088 or go to: [www.Opentable.com](http://www.Opentable.com)

**WHY** Tōhoku helps people affected by the Japan Earthquake and Pacific Tsunami by donating all net proceeds of the May 10 2011 fundraiser to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund.

**NOTE** 100% of all net proceeds will be donated to the American Red Cross **Seating is limited**

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### **The American Red Cross and Tōhoku**

Tōhoku helps people affected by the Japan Earthquake and Pacific Tsunami by donating all net proceeds of the May 10 2011 fundraiser to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund. The American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund enables the Red Cross to provide shelter, food, counseling and other assistance to victims of disasters. On rare occasions when donations exceed Red Cross expenses for a specific disaster, contributions are used to prepare for and serve victims of other disasters. The American Red Cross name and emblem are used with permission, which in no way constitutes endorsement, express or implied, of any product, service, company, opinion or political position. Information on the American Red Cross at: [www.redcross.com](http://www.redcross.com) The American Red Cross local headquarters in Sarasota is located at 2001 Cantu Court, Sarasota, FL 34232. For information concerning this event or general information on the American Red Cross call 941-379-9300. Your contact is Nicole Rissler, Director, and Financial Development & Community Affairs.

### **About the Tōhoku disaster**

The **2011 Tōhoku earthquake and tsunami** officially named the **Great East Japan Earthquake** was a 9.0-magnitude undersea mega thrust earthquake off the coast of Japan that occurred at in the morning of Friday, March 11 2011 The epicenter was approximately 72 km (45 mi) east of Tōhoku The earthquake triggered extremely destructive tsunami with waves of up to 124 feet that struck Japan minutes after the quake, in some cases traveling up to 6 miles inland three nuclear reactors suffered explosions due to hydrogen gas that had built up within their outer containment buildings after cooling system failure. On 18 March, citizens were evacuated Estimates of the Tōhoku earthquake's magnitude make it the most powerful known earthquake to have hit Japan, and one of the five most powerful earthquakes in the world overall since modern record-keeping began in 1900. The Japanese Prime Minister Naoto Kan said, "In the 65 years after the end of World War II, this is the toughest and the most difficult crisis for Japan." The earthquake moved Honshu 8 feet east and shifted the Earth on its axis by almost 4 inches early estimates placed insured losses from the earthquake alone at up to \$34.6 billion dollars. The disaster left more than 28,000 people, including foreign citizens, dead or missing. The Great East Japan Earthquake and the resulting tsunami are the worst natural disasters that Japan has faced since the end of the Second World War.