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www.nsrcfund.org



NISEI STUDENT RELOCATION
COMMEMORATIVE FUND, INC.

19 Scenic Drive, Portland, Connecticut 06480

Fall, 2016

Dear NSRC Fund Supporters:

Life is marked by moments that become indelible memories. This seems to be occurring more with age now, and not a day goes by without some special moment popping into mind.

September, 2000 Moment. For the 20th anniversary celebration of the NSRC Fund in Waltham, Massachusetts my daughter Courtney and I accompanied my mother to the event. It was the "moment" we learned a Tribute Fund to my parents Shim and Chiyo Hiraoka had been established by Ann Graybill Cook and Michael Hoshiko. They wished to honor them because they knew the story of a "camp" wedding in 1943, of dad's enlistment and deployment with the 442nd RCT, and of mom who was left on her own to live and work in the National Japanese American Student Relocation Council's Philadelphia office.

March, 2016 Moment. A congratulatory e-mail was received from Jean Hibino (a friend since that 20th Anniversary "moment") informing me that henceforth, the original fund bearing my parents' names had at last reached Named Scholarship status. That led to the joy of traveling to Chicago in June to present our first Shim and Chiyo Hiraoka Scholarship to Christopher Rattanasamay. Having my daughter join me was a bonus as she was with me from the beginning.

Future Moments. There are still many who have never heard about Executive Order 9066 and the West Coast evacuation that uprooted our families and forced them into internment camps carrying their "world" including hopes and dreams in just one suitcase. Now it is up to us to carry that "world" - that legacy and history - still so near and dear. I want my family's generations to know, remember, and keep it close to heart. The NSRCF scholarships will be, at the very least, an annual reminder of Shim and Chiyo, who they were, what they endured, and how they lived.

The original Nisei founders of this Fund and now 36 years of "ongaeshi" ("pay it forward") have positively impacted the lives of Southeast Asian students through the scholarships and the history lesson that is the story of our Issei and Nisei forebears during a time of panic, prejudice, and fear. The legacy of the Fund, while philanthropic by nature, continues to teach this history and is a reminder to the rest of us to never forget and to keep talking about it.

In the span of those 16 years, I no longer have any of this Greatest Generation of Nisei left in my family to talk about this unimaginable period of history which has left a huge void. With the Fund and our shared stories, the conversation will go on.

Sincerely,



Shelley Kurata

✂ _____

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I/we would like to "extend a helping hand." Enclosed is my/our tax-deductible contribution of \$_____.
(Please make check payable to NSRC Fund)

Name(s) _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____ Phone: _____

- Add to an existing Tribute, Legacy or Named Scholarship Fund called: _____
- Send information about how to establish NSRC Fund Tribute, Legacy and Named Scholarship Funds
- Send the annual NSRC Fund newsletter to me by email: _____
(print your email address)