

Contractors support Red Cross relief work in Japan

DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

Members of Associated Builders & Contractors held a chili cook-off and made other donations totaling \$5,000 to support the Red Cross in its relief efforts following the Japan earthquake and tsunami.

The presentation took place Thursday as officials were preparing for disaster relief for the tornadoes that struck Alabama and Georgia.

Gary Stout, past chairman of the ABC's North Florida Chapter and president of Ingram Enterprises Inc., said 15 member companies participated in the fundraising effort, with Ingram matching their contributions. The money was designated for the Red Cross Japan Relief Fund.

"We started shortly after the earthquake, and the chili cookoff was April 7,"



SPECIAL TO THE DEMOCRAT

Mia Stout, age 3, helps present a check for \$5,000 to Chrys Goodwyne, fund-development director of the Capital Area Chapter of the American Red Cross. The money was raised by area members of Associated Builders & Contractors to support the Red Cross Japan Relief Fund that assists earthquake and tsunami victims there. Pictured from left are Katie Sherk, Red Cross senior director of emergency services; Goodwyne; local ABC Chairman Brian Zettle, Gary Stout, president of Ingram Enterprises Inc; and Bryan Stout, Ingram secretary-treasurer.

said Stout, whose daughter-in-law Junko is from Yokohama.

Katie Sherk, the Red Cross senior director of emergency services, said the financial support helps the ongoing effort to feed, house and care for the disaster victims in Japan.

"It will take years for them to recover and some villages will take five to six years to return to what they were," she added.

For information on current Red Cross needs or to donate, call (850) 878-6080 or visit the website www.tallyredcross.org.