

Little Tokyo Rotary Foundation

**About Toshio and Toshiko Handa Youth Scholarship 2019**

Toshio and Toshiko Handa Youth Scholarship was established in 2019 to recognize and award the youth who have overcome adversity and made accomplishments in the areas of academics, sports, culture, or volunteer service. This was made possible because of the generous donation by Toshio and Toshiko Handa. Toshio Handa was a charter member of the Rotary Club of Little Tokyo and Founding President of the Little Tokyo Rotary Foundation. He held many leadership positions in the Japanese American community in Southern California, including the presidency at the Japanese Chamber of Commerce of Southern California and at Nikkei Pioneer Center. He was also the recipient of the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays in 2014.

While Mr. and Mrs. Handa lived in Pasadena, they hosted the college students from Japan for many years who had lost parents because of sickness or natural disaster. They also supported many projects for youth in the LA area, including the scholarship for the Japanese American high school seniors bound for college and the Terasaki Budokan athletic complex construction. This scholarship reflects their passion and devotion to support the youth in the Los Angeles area. After more than forty years in Southern California, they decided to move back to their home country and now live in Tokyo.

Each year, $1,000 will be awarded to one or two youth, including but not limited to the Japanese or Japanese Americans, between the ages of 16 and 24 living in L.A. County.

Rotary family members are not eligible.