



For Immediate Release  
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**FUNAI ELECTRIC AND BOSTON RED SOX ANNOUNCE SIXTH YEAR OF THE  
RED SOX U.S./JAPAN YOUTH BASEBALL EXCHANGE**  
*Young Japanese Baseball Players to Visit Boston*

**BOSTON** -- The Red Sox Foundation and global electronics giant Funai today announced the sixth Red Sox US-Japan Youth Baseball Exchange Presented by Funai Electric. The program allows children from Japan and the United States to visit one another's homelands and explore their customs and culture through their shared love of baseball.

On July 26<sup>th</sup>, a dozen Japanese youngsters from Kyoto, sister city of Boston, and Chiba, a suburb of Tokyo, travelled with two coaches to Boston for a 10-day stay with 5 host families in Greater Boston through Monday, August 4<sup>th</sup>. The Japanese teens will participate in baseball clinics by Harvard and Northeastern University baseball coaches and will play games with several of the Red Sox Foundation's RBI Youth Baseball teams of the same age. Funai executives and the dozen Japanese boys and their Boston hosts will be honored at Fenway Park prior to the Red Sox vs. Yankees game on Friday, August 1<sup>st</sup>.

In the past six years, the exchange has run in both directions, with Boston boys traveling to Japan as well as Japanese teens traveling to Boston to participate in various baseball and cultural activities while living with Japanese or American host families.

“Funai Electric is very pleased to support this program which will continue to provide life changing experiences to all involved in this program,” said Yoshikazu Uemura, President & CEO of Funai Electric Co., Ltd. “It serves as a wonderful reminder of how much we can share through the beloved American pastime of baseball. We sincerely wish that we can pass on such values of friendship, sportsmanship, fairness, and tenacity to our younger generation.”

“Funai’s continued commitment to this exchange speaks volumes about their vision as a championship company with a true global reach,” said Red Sox Chairman Tom Werner. “We are honored that Red Sox fans here in Boston have opened their hearts and homes to the Japanese youngsters, who not only share their love of baseball, but also have the courage and perseverance to travel halfway across the globe to learn about American history and culture.”

This is the sixth year that Funai Electric is the presenting sponsor of the Red Sox US-Japan Youth Baseball Exchange program, which is coordinated by the Red Sox Foundation. Gena Borson, Executive Director of the Red Sox Foundation said “We are particularly proud to host the young Japanese players here in Boston this summer and thanks to Funai, these teens can enjoy America’s favorite pastime while they make new friendship we know will last a lifetime.”

## **ABOUT PRESENTING SPONSOR FUNAI ELECTRIC CO., LTD.**

Funai Electric Co., Ltd. Founded by Mr. Tetsuro Funai, the company was established in 1961 in Osaka, Japan. Funai Electric Co., Ltd. in Japan is engaged in development/design, manufacture, marketing and distribution of Audio/Visual Products such as LCD TVs, DVD/Blu-ray related Products. Funai also produces Printers and Ink Cartridges. Funai has the manufacturing sites in Japan, China (consignment), Mexico (consignment), Thailand, and Philippines. For more information on Funai Group, please visit: <http://www.funai.jp/en/>

Funai Corporation in the United States was established in 1970 as a wholly-owned subsidiary of Funai Electric Co., Ltd. Funai Corporation, Inc. was reorganized in May 1991, and is engaged in the import, export, servicing, marketing and distribution of Funai products in order to serve customers across United States. For more information, please visit <http://www.funai.us/>.

## **ABOUT RED SOX FOUNDATION**

The official team charity of the Boston Red Sox, the **Red Sox Foundation** has distributed over \$68 million to support programs serving children and families across New England. The Foundation's efforts are primarily focused on five cornerstone programs: the *Red Sox Scholars Program*, which provides tutoring, mentoring, enrichment programs and a college scholarship to academically talented but economically disadvantaged Boston public school students; the *Red Sox Foundation's RBI and Rookie League* youth baseball and softball programs serving more than 2,000 inner city teens each summer; the *Red Sox Foundation and Massachusetts General Hospital Home Base Program* for veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan with combat stress and traumatic brain injury; *The Dimock Center* in Roxbury, serving more than 40,000 low-income families in Boston's most disadvantaged neighborhoods; and *The Jimmy Fund*, supporting breakthrough cancer research at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

A 501(c)(3) nonprofit, the Red Sox Foundation raises funds through special events, corporate sponsorships, and grants. Founded and initially funded by Red Sox Principal Owner John Henry, Chairman Tom Werner, President/CEO Larry Lucchino and their partners, the Red Sox Foundation has won numerous awards for the impact of its innovative programs. In 2010, the Foundation's Red Sox Scholars program was recognized by Major League Baseball with the first-ever "*MLB Commissioner's Award for Philanthropic Excellence*." In 2009, the Red Sox Foundation was honored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Sports Philanthropy Project with the Patterson Award as the nation's "*Best Team Charity in Sports*." For more information about the foundation, visit [redsoxfoundation.org](http://redsoxfoundation.org).