

## Mall 'crane party' to benefit Japan quake victims

Saturday, April 2, 2011, By JAKE BERRY Staff Writer



*Nina Mahalingam, a Nashua resident and a first-grader at The World Schools in Nashua, poses with the 1000+ cranes folded at a "Wish Upon a Crane" event to benefit Japan. Courtesy photo*

NASHUA – Organizers of a paper crane party scheduled for today at the Pheasant Lane Mall hope their birds make it all the way to Japan.

Students and other volunteers from across the region will have the opportunity to make origami cranes to benefit victims of last month's tragic earthquake and tsunami in Japan.

The Bezos Family Foundation, a private charitable group, has pledged to donate \$2 for every crane mailed in to support Japan's rebuilding efforts. So Lil' MDGs, a Derry-based nonprofit group, is hosting the crane-making party to contribute to the national effort.

Across the country, organizers are hoping to collect 100,000 cranes to raise \$200,000 for the reconstruction of a youth facility in Japan.

The cranes will be crafted into a permanent art exhibition to be displayed at a school or other building, according to Lil' MDGs.

Students from 15 countries, including Haiti, Romania and New Zealand, have already contributed to the effort.

Today's event will run from 1-4 p.m. outside the Lowell General Hospital play area at the mall.

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