

## CONTRACT WRITING SAMPLE – 2011

### Introductory text in currently active grant application – All original work of Ray Wilson – Confidences protected with occasional “**DELETED**”

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The “best” approach to any problem or crisis is one that (1) predicts it, (2) prevents, avoids, or minimizes it, (3) optimizes rescue and recovery, (4) learns from it, and (5) applies the lessons learned to maximize readiness for any future occurrence. Ideally, we would always begin with Step #1, but not all problems are predictable, preventable, or avoidable. Some are not even minimizable, at least in their initial impact, such as the 2011 Japanese earthquakes and tsunamis. In such things, Step #2 reduces to immediate *resourcefulness* in finding the safest obtainable location and hanging on.

Pure luck will be a factor in the survival of some, but events will likely reveal the resourceful to be statistically more “lucky” than others. In cataclysmic events and social catastrophes, Step #3 (Recovery) is one in which the on-scene resourceful – i.e., those *there* with personally accessible resources – will not only minimally consume critical community resources, but – being on site – lend personal assistance to the rescue and recovery of others. To the degree that they can act together, made ready by the lessons of Step #4 and applications developed in Step #5, the “best approach” and real service to humanity then emerges from disaster.

Among the millions caught in the March 2011 Japanese earthquakes and tsunamis was someone with personal experience assisting large populations coping with crisis – in her particular case, the social catastrophe of economically deprived families in the **DELETED** sections of New York, and specifically in organized efforts to build both individual and community resourcefulness within those crises populations. In the turmoil of the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami aftermath, **DELETED** drew on her own resources, including her experience and knowledge, her status as an American student connected to many others like her there in Japan, in communication with them and contacts in the United States, her understanding of the Japanese people and language and what they were facing, and the very fact of her presence there actually on scene. And with that, she saw *opportunity*, to do what resourceful people do to aid in the moment and aftermath of disaster, but also in the very fact that, as a “SAC (Study Abroad College) student,” she was part of a virtually untapped resource network covering a significant portion of the planet. SAC students are typically young, educated, energetic, intelligent, bilingual, cross-culturally aware, and connected to a population beyond the geographic locus of the calamity. The clear resource value of SAC students is extraordinary – not just for future exploitation, but to be galvanized now, on the ground in Japan where they are, and where the ongoing need continues.

Over 260,000 American college students study abroad each year, with nearly 6,000 in Japan. The top 10 countries in terms of SAC population are the United Kingdom, Italy, Spain, France, China, Australia, Mexico, Germany, Ireland, and Costa Rica. While each college has its individual network for sharing ideas and cultural study, no reliable system yet exists to coordinate simple family inquiries and answers about the safety of loved ones in catastrophic crises, let alone to mobilize and focus this extraordinary resource of the entire SAC population of a given host country. Consequently, **DELETEDs**, Inc. is established with the primary mission of mobilizing students and youth to “**DELETED**” with experienced adult leaders to directly and indirectly bring services and resources to national and international communities in crisis, beginning with Japan.