

Doug Lavanchy's Story

Cisco Japan employee Doug Lavanchy organized the Cisco Japan Volunteer Club to aid the country's Second Harvest food bank and other charities.

Doug Lavanchy

Hi, this is Doug Lavanchy from Cisco Japan. I manage sales operations here in the Tokyo office. And I'm very pleased to talk to you today about the volunteer efforts we do here in Tokyo, Japan.

About three years ago, I started volunteering at Second Harvest Food Bank, which is a food bank here in Tokyo that takes food that is going to be thrown away by big supermarkets and other big wholesaler distributors. They gather the food and actually prepare it and then distribute it to people who need the food: for example, the homeless people in Ueno Park, every Saturday. And what I've done is been able to get a group of volunteers here at Cisco who go every month to prepare and distribute the food in Ueno Park, with Second Harvest Food Bank.

And because we now have Second Harvest, we were recognized as a formal charity of Cisco's. Every man-hour of volunteer time is matched by Cisco, so it's really great to be working at a company that's so generous. And actually it's a double-win for the food bank because not only do they get our volunteer hours, they also get money at the end. And I love being able to participate in this activity and it's great to be working at a company where it can give back and actually be part of the community.

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