



Tyson Davis clutches gifts from a volunteer for his 13th birthday. He has lived with his family for three weeks in a ShelterBox tent. Waveland and Biloxi, Mississippi, USA — "It's my birthday today," Tyson Davis says softly as he hugs a toy piano, a gift from a volunteer. "I'm 13, ma'am," he adds.

With the exhausted gaze of a Depression-era migrant worker, his mother, Karen Davis, struggles to comfort her daughters, a sobbing 18-month-old and a shy six-year-old. It's nearly 100 degrees today, but it feels much hotter on the vast treeless parking lot in Waveland, where the family has camped for nearly three weeks. There is no running water, and the stench of decay and rotting garbage hangs thick in the steamy air.

"I don't know how we could have lived without this tent," she says. When asked if the family needs anything, she replies quietly, "No, ma'am. I just need to get my kids out of this heat."

Since Hurricane Katrina battered the U.S. Gulf Coast on 29 August, Rotarians in several districts have delivered 1,400 ShelterBoxes, which can accommodate 28,000 people. Here in Waveland, a town of 7,000 devastated by a 30-foot wall of water, the tents are home to evacuees, volunteers, and emergency personnel.

Across a line of yellow tape on the same parking lot, Sheriff Kevin Widner, a member of the Rotary Club of Lakeland, Florida, USA, stands by his department's encampment. Several of the tents, by sheer coincidence, bear the Rotary wheel and beneath it, the words "The Rotary Club of Lakewood Ranch, Fla., USA." The club administers ShelterBox, along with the Rotary Club of Helston-Lizard, England.

"I've been through six big hurricanes, and I've never seen anything like this," he says. "When they turned the water back on, the parking lot was flooded again. Everything here, including the tents we brought, was washed away. Fortunately, we got these tents somehow. I was so proud when I saw the Rotary wheel."

In Biloxi, 45 miles east, local Rotarian and ShelterBox coordinator Tracy DeDeaux helps pass out the green cases at the Salvation Army's relief center. She counts herself among the few lucky ones in the area, even though a blue tarp covers her water-logged home and her childhood home in nearby Pass Christian, where her mother still lived, was demolished.

Long before the announced 10 a.m. start time, people begin lining up, while police work to keep order. Those in front include a Vietnamese crab fisherman and his wife, an African American woman and her elderly mother, and a white single mother. Most of the people waiting here had jobs and homes before the hurricane struck. Now, they carry their few belongings in grocery bags and cardboard boxes.

By all reports, it will be weeks before the masses of homeless can expect to receive trailers, let alone replacement housing. DeDeaux, who has set up her home phone as a ShelterBox hotline, says the number of requests for emergency shelters far outweighs the number available. She says simply, "We need a lot more tents."

She walks a few blocks with Marion Bedlington to help sweep the debris from his carport and help set up his tent. His house is still standing, just barely, but the inside is rotted from the tidal surge. Most of his neighbors couldn't afford to leave, and several drowned or later died in the terrible days after the storm. He applied for assistance from FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency), he says. "But they told us we weren't eligible. I don't know why. My wife cried when they told us that. I never cry, but I almost did. These tents came through when nobody else did."



The Four Way Flasher

**Rotary Club of
MeadowRidge Newsletter**

**Vol. 12 Issue 46
May 16, 2006**

Web-site: www3.telus.net/MeadowRidge_Rotary

Meetings: Tuesday 12pm, Gourmet Hideaway Restaurant

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INVOCATION

| | | | |
|---------------|-------------|----------------|----------------|
| May 16 | Sharon Kyle | May 23 | Lynda Lawrence |
| May 30 | Ron LePore | June 06 | Debbie MacRae |

BINGO SCHEDULE

| | | |
|----------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| | 6:15 - 8:15 | 8:00 - 10:00 |
| May 18 | Vivian Hatiras | Debbie McRae |
| June 15 | Mina Park | Brian Bekar |

Call Peter at 604-465-3392 for assistance or email peter.boekhorst@telus.net

TODAY'S PROGRAM: Main Stage 2006- Rick

NEXT WEEK'S PROGRAM: British Isles Project – Chris Cooper

CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT 5050 EVENTS:

| Date | Time | Event | Venue |
|------------|-----------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| May 19-21 | | District 5040,5050 Conference | Whistler |
| May 23 | 6:30 p.m. | Youth Diversion Dinner | Gourmet Hideaway |
| May 24 | | Haney Rotary Golf Tournament | Swan-E-Set |
| June 11-14 | | RI Convention 2006 | Malmo and Copenhagen |
| June 13 | 6 p.m. | Fireside at Shantz residence | 22696 132 nd avenue |
| June 14 | 6 p.m. | Haney Rotary Ladies Night | TBA |
| August 19 | 4:00 p.m. | BBQ at Vladimir and Zdenka's | The Bee Farm ! |

50 / 50 draw - Jackpot at \$102.00+ 1/2 of today's sales, 48 cards left, Jackpot on "Queen of Hearts" only!



SERVICE Above Self

LAST WEEKS MEETING

GUESTS WERE: Dawn Illerbrun of The Carribean Festival, Irena Shantz, wife of Bob Shantz, Const. Rob Lemon of the RCMP, Mitch Baker of the Esteem Team, Lyla Trewiel wife of Marco, Gerlinda Barth, cousin of Doris Gagel and Kyle and Nash Johnson, children of Cheryl Johnson.

FINEMASTER: Vladimir's creative idea to ensure we all feel great about not getting stung by bees, except for Stan Wade who saved \$1. Good one ☺

FIRESIDE- SHANTZ RESIDENCE- JUNE 13

We are meeting in the evening at Robert and Irena Shantz's home for our upcoming Fireside. Their address is 22696 132nd avenue. Phone no: 604.463.9319. There will be no regular meeting on June 13.

G.S.E. TEAM – THAILAND VISIT



Ken Patterson introduced the Thailand GSE Team. The team is led by Dr. Sanguan Kunaporn (Sagi), and with him are: Mr. Maitree Kaewtubtin (Mike), Ms. Hathairat Rangsansarit (Janny), Ms. Ratchada Thepnana (Mummy), and Ms. Sani Chartudomdej (Sani).

Dr. Sanguan Kunaporn (Sagi) Team Leader

Dr. Kunaporn thanked the Rotary Foundation and District 5050 for the opportunity for the team to travel 8000 miles to North America. In the last 2 months, the GSE team from our District 5050 visited Thailand. This team was led by Marco

Trewiel and was an excellent team full of optimism and spirit.

This GSE Team comes from District 3330. There are 76 Rotary Clubs in Southern Thailand with 2091 active members. In Thailand there are various religious beliefs such as Buddhist, Islam, Shieks, etc. There are efforts to modernize the country and agriculture is one of the main vocations in Thailand.

Sagi has a wife and son and daughter, 9 dogs, 10 cats and 2 rabbits, and they all live in Bankcock. Sagi is a renown Plastic Surgeon and he enjoys bicycling and sailing in his free time.

Rotary club plays a major role in assisting Tsunami victims and the Tsunami has been the most challenging relief effort the Rotarians in Thailand have ever faced. The Clubs supply volunteers, building materials and money. One US man who was helped during tsunami by Thai citizens gave back by building 200 permanent homes for the people of the distressed areas. The Rotary club has been focused on providing the tools needed by the people to resume their occupations such as providing fishing buoys to enable fisherman to keep fishing. The Rotary Club has also provided a mobile eye clinic.

Sagi belongs to Rotary Club of Tongkah and was past president of the Club in 2004-2005

Ms.Hathairat Rangsansarit (Janny)

Janny is from Phuket, the biggest island in Thailand, which is somewhat connected to the Mainland. Phuket is world renowned for its beautiful beaches and idyllic location. Jenny lives with her sister and her parents. She graduated from nursing college in Patong and is now the Chief Nurse of Maternal and Child department. She is a midwife for 14 years and a scrub nurse in the O.R. During the tsunami disaster the wave almost damaged the hospital where she works. She was appointed to nurse manager at Patong Hospital to deal with the dead bodies from the disaster. She said it was a terrible experience. She was awarded "Outstanding Citizen Award 2005" from Rotary Club of Bangkok South, Thailand. Janny is a member of Rotary Club of Junkceylon

Ms. Ratchada Thepnana (Mummy)

Mummy says it is too cold here! Mummy is from Southern Thailand a unique cultural and communication center. There are many attractions and beautiful Thai handicrafts such as "Puppet Shadows" which come from her home area. She lives uphill with her parents in a home with a mountain view. Teak is readily available in Thailand and they use teak throughout the home in flooring and furniture. They have an in house pool which she enjoys. Mummy is a avid sportswoman who enjoys scuba diving, snorkelling, shooting, camping, hiking and canoeing. She travels extensively. She has a Masters of Science in agribusiness. She owns a Herbal Business which is used in Spa treatments, and she is the General Manager of a latex glove factory. After Tsunami, she was encouraged to take her vacation in the ravaged region as a volunteer which she did. She supported the medical personnel and rescue teams. The Tsunami experience really demonstrated the "Service above Self". She saw live participation in the "Polio Plus" Rotary campaign and based on these and other experiences, Mummy would like to join Rotary Club. She did not know any of the GSE Team Members before this trip and she is sure they will be life long friends.

Ms. Sani Chartudomdej (Sani)

At 27 years old Sani is the youngest GSE team member. She was born, raised and educated in Bangkok. She has a masters degree in English and is a University English Professor. She travels over 100 kms per day (2 hours trip) to her University. Bangkok has over 300 canals and is the Venice of Thailand. Part of her travel includes a boat trip along a canal from her home. She feels that being a teacher allows her to put the knowledge she has gained into practical application. She has 120 students in class now.

There are many beautiful temples including the Grand Palace Temple which is a symbol of the country's civilization. Sani is a member of the Rotary Club of Sanamchandra.

Mr. Maitree Kaewtubtin (Mike)

Mike was born and grew up in Suratthani. He received his Masters degree in agricultural Science at Prince of SongklaNakarin University. Mike is married and lives in a beautiful home. He collects and displays decorative palm which grow plentifully in district 3330. Mike showed us pictures of beautiful temples through the region. He showed us pictures of exotic fruit such as mangosteen, pimento and coconuts. Mike works in Pattani province which has frequent insurgency in the past few years. He loves to play golf and to travel. He has a strong expectation that this GSE trip will broaden his vision of agriculture technology.