Club Supports the GLOBAL Humanitarian Efforts of ShelterBox
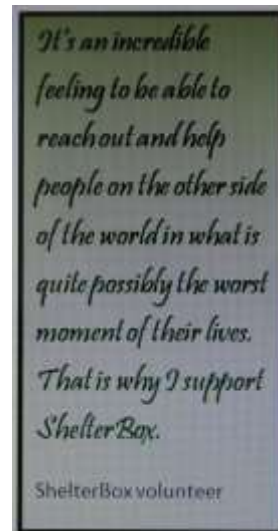
Story by Ed Kolybaba on Nov 01, 2022

In response to the ever increasing need for global support for humanitarian disasters and conflicts throughout the world, the Rotary Club of Kelowna Sunrise, once again has responded with the financing of a second ShelterBox in the current Rotary year, 2022-23. On October 28, the members of the club approved an additional $1200 for a second ShelterBox which will be distributed to one of the many areas in the world needing temporary shelter.

The club has been an active supporter of the ShelterBox humanitarian program since the early 2000's having financed one or more Boxes per year since the beginning of the program which started in April of 2000.

The global support from the Rotary International network is the cornerstone upon which ShelterBox is built. In April 2000, the Rotary Club of Helston-Lizard in Cornwall, England adopted ShelterBox as its millennium project. Little did they know that it would become the largest Club project in the world, responding to disasters and conflict across the globe and providing emergency shelter to over one million people. In 2012, ShelterBox became Rotary International's first Project Partner and remains the only disaster relief charity mobilizing its expertise to support long-term recovery and rebuilding efforts. (ShelterBox USA)

Rotary International's logistical support through its membership provides financial support, invaluable support in field operations, and in ensuring that the emergency aid is delivered specifically to those in need, as quickly as possible. Local and/or international Rotarians and Rotary clubs are often the first to arrive to the area of a country that has been devastated by a disaster to provide this assurance and to provide the logistical support needed for the delivery, disbursement and set up of ShelterBoxes and support systems for the families in need.

Since 2000, the ShelterBox has helped families survive and rebuild their homes and lives in the aftermath of more than 300 disasters in over

It's an incredible feeling to be able to reach out and help people on the other side of the world in what is quite possibly the worst moment of their lives. That is why I support ShelterBox.

ShelterBox volunteer

100 countries worldwide. In 2021, ShelterBox reached the milestone of providing life-saving aid to more than two million people. Each year, ShelterBox through Rotary goes further, supports more people and access more areas that would otherwise be impossible to reach.

By clicking on "READ MORE," learn about a few of the places in our world where ShelterBox is providing Emergency Humanitarian service.

Conflict in Ukraine: On February 24, 2022, Russia launched an unprovoked, inhumane and criminal military operation (genocide) on Ukraine which has resulted in nearly 10 million people fleeing Ukraine to other countries, 6.5 million people now estimated to be displaced within Ukraine and more than 12 million people thought to be cut off in places most ravaged by the conflict. Many are unable to leave because of damage to infrastructure, lack of resources, and the increased security risk. The situation is developing rapidly, and the death toll is rising.

ShelterBox is focused on three projects in response to this conflict – two within Ukraine and one to support refugees who've fled to neighboring countries like Moldova.

Flooding in Pakistan: Severe monsoon flooding in Pakistan has left thousands of people with nowhere to live. The disaster has affected more than 33 million people and around one million houses have been damaged or destroyed.

A ShelterBox response team is in Pakistan working to support thousands of people left with nowhere to live, focusing attention on the most affected areas of Sindh, Punjab, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP).

Conflict and Drought in Ethiopia: Millions of people have been forced to flee their homes due to violent conflict, rising hunger and economic instability.

ShelterBox is working with its partner IOM, supporting people with emergency shelter, household essentials and hygiene items. In 2021, people received tarpaulins, rope, blankets, sleeping mats, mosquito nets, water carriers, carry sacks and kitchen sets. The organization is now working on another project with IOM to help 60,000 people.

Drought in the Horn of Africa: After four consecutive failed rainy seasons in parts of Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia, people are living on the brink of famine, now facing its worst drought in more than forty years. Across East Africa, almost 36 million people have been affected by the drought. More than 1.5 million people are displaced, and many of them are on the move as they desperately search for food.

ShelterBox is responding in Somalia at this time, where the drought has affected 7.8 million people. Vulnerable communities who are in urgent need of support will be receiving ShelterBox aid items.

Conflict in Yemen: As a result of a bitter civil war, the country and its citizens are experiencing starvation and a failing economy, which has currently become the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

ShelterBox is partnering with BCHR (Benevolence Coalition for Humanitarian Relief) to support vulnerable communities as violence continues to flare up. Together they are providing tents, tarpaulins, water filters, soap, masks and other household items.

Other Areas of the WORLD receiving ShelterBox Humanitarian Service:

Syria: Conflict
Haiti: 7.2 Magnitude Earthquake in 2021 .
Lake Chad Basin, Africa: The forgotten crisis, Boko Haram waging an insurgency through violence since 2009
Northern Mozamique conflict: Ever since driving one of the world's fastest-growing displacement crises.
Burkina Faso Extremist Violence: Now becoming one of the fastest-growing displacement crises in Africa.

Despite the many challenges in providing humanitarian support, Rotarians and others around the world continue to support ShelterBox knowing full well that they are bringing hope, independence, and a sense of normalcy to the most vulnerable people.