



ShelterBox and Rotary International sign project partnership



'Historic moment for ShelterBox'

ShelterBox and Rotary International (RI) have formed a project partner agreement this month, signed by John Hewko, Rotary International's General Secretary, and Tom Henderson OBE, ShelterBox Founder and CEO.

The formalisation of this partnership cements a 12-year relationship providing emergency shelter and life-saving humanitarian aid for hundreds of thousands of families around the world, who have been made homeless by disaster.

ShelterBox began as a Rotary Club Millennium Project in 2000 and today continues to have a significant input from Rotarians in its governance Board, senior management, operational capacity and international development.

'Rotary and Rotarians have been integral in the operational development of the organisation, from being eyes and ears on the ground during deployments, to providing logistics, accommodation and translation services, right to assisting with the pitching of tents,' said Tom. 'Many of our global Response Team volunteers are Rotarians. Others have joined the Rotary family having seen the difference that Rotary and ShelterBox make on the ground. They have always helped us in endless ways.'

Not only have Rotary clubs and Rotarians historically contributed a significant percentage of ShelterBox's income but members of the Rotary family have also founded each one of its 21 affiliates. This support remains key for the charity to be prepared for a disaster of any scale and to be in a position to assist the most vulnerable families at the time when they need it the most.

Through the new partnership, the two organisations will assist Rotarians to be part of a critical solution at times of disaster through providing humanitarian service when disasters occur in their area; engaging with ShelterBox in disaster preparedness initiatives within their country or District; and supporting ShelterBox readiness, awareness and capacity building.

'For more than ten years, ShelterBox has given light to over one hundred thousand families worldwide in their darkest hour,' said John. 'This project partner agreement represents our mutual goal of helping those in need. It gives RI a forward-facing approach to immediate disaster relief.'

'It's an historic moment for us to become a Rotary project partner,' said Tom. 'It's the first of its kind and is a great opportunity for us to engage with our Rotary friends around the world to increase awareness of what we do with Rotary and, of course, an opportunity for Rotarians to increase our avenues of service worldwide.'

About Rotary International

Rotary is a global humanitarian organization with more than 1.2 million members in 34,000 Rotary clubs in over 200 countries and geographical areas. Rotary members are men and women who are business, professional and community leaders with a shared commitment to make the world a better place through humanitarian service. Rotary's top priority is the global eradication of polio. For more information visit: www.rotary.org or www.rotary.org/mediacenter.

About ShelterBox

Based in Cornwall, United Kingdom, with 21 international affiliates, ShelterBox is an international disaster relief charity that delivers emergency shelter, warmth, and dignity to people made homeless by disasters worldwide. For more information, visit www.shelterboxaustralia.org.au

Photos - high resolution photos available upon request

There are hundreds of images available on the ShelterBox Flickr site, and these can be used for any news stories related to ShelterBox ([FLICKR](#))

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SHELTERBOX AUSTRALIA NEEDS:

- * **Directors**
- * **Ambassadors**
- * **Club Contacts**
- * **Response Team Members**
- * **Donors & Supporters**

As the Official Rotary International Project Partner, ShelterBox aims to rapidly grow its capacity to assist more survivors of disasters and advance the mission of both ShelterBox and Rotary.

ShelterBox Australia is currently seeking committed supporters to lead and drive our growth, and take the organisation to the next level. Vacancies exist for:

- **Directors:** Our Board needs visionary business leaders with proven leadership skills in Sales & marketing, Communication, Finance, Fundraising, Networking, Business Management, & Disaster Relief. If you have the skills & experience to help drive ShelterBox Australia's growth please contact Chairman John Lawrence at john9600@me.com
- **Ambassadors, Club Contacts & Response Teams:** ShelterBox Australia needs volunteers wishing to assist our mission in assisting victims of disasters. If you want to be part of an inspiring project that has provided life saving emergency shelter and humanitarian aid to over a million people, please contact Craig.Tobler@shelterbox.org.au
- **Donors & Supporters:** Help our readiness & preparedness for the 'next' major disaster. Donate or Contact us on via our website www.shelterboxaustralia.org.au to see how you can assist this innovative & inspiring Rotarian led project.

ShelterBox Mobilises to Help Flood-Struck Fiji

ShelterBox Australia is working closely with its New Zealand counterparts and the Rotary Club of Suva East to coordinate a response to the heavy flooding that has hit the South Pacific Islands of Fiji. A ShelterBox Response Team, comprising, Lyndon Tamblyn (NZ) and Sallie Fletcher (NZ) will fly out to assess needs and facilitate the importation and distribution of emergency aid.



SRT Lyndon Tamblyn (NZ) in Suva, November 2011, following Cyclone Thomas

With a state of emergency declared in the West of the island nation, some 12,000 people are currently housed in evacuation centres, and nearly 3,000 households affected thus far. Although the rains eased over the weekend, the threat posed by the approaching Cyclone Daphne gives cause for grave concern.

ShelterBox Australia Director, Lasse Petersen said,

"We are consulting with several key players, including Rotary in Suva, DISMAC (Fijian disaster management), The Red Cross and the New Zealand Government to coordinate an appropriate and rapid response.

We anticipate this situation will call upon most of our ShelterBox reserves stored in both Auckland and Melbourne – so we will need to replace that stock – and we ask that Rotarians ask their communities for donations! Tents are already being shipped in anticipation of Fijians needs.