

ShelterBox Australia

eNewsletter March 2016

ShelterBox is proud to be a Project Partner of Rotary International



Dear Mike

Welcome to the March 2016 eNewsletter for ShelterBox Australia

I recently returned from an evaluation deployment to Nepal. The team conducted in-depth interviews with ShelterBox beneficiaries, with questions going far beyond things like "how do you like the tent?" We heard stories of people losing family members, of survivors having to be dug out of the rubble of their own homes, tales of struggle and moments of personal triumph. We shared a few tears and, such is the nature of the warm-hearted Nepalese, more than a few laughs. The thing that struck me the most was the stoicism of the Nepalese people, despite all they had been through, they still carried on their tough rural lives with a smile on their face, farming the terraced hills and looking after their families and livestock. We were often embarrassed by the gratitude shown to ShelterBox for helping them in the hour of their need, for it wasn't us alone that had helped them, it was you, the donor.

There are many problems still facing the people of Nepal. All of the families we spoke to were still living in the tents we provided or the shelters they had built using the Shelter Kits we gave them. Rebuilding will take a long time.

I returned home just as Cyclone Winston was tearing Fiji apart. Right now, in Fiji we are providing aid that is both desperately needed and appropriate. Tents were never designed to be a long-term solution to people's shelter needs but in an emergency, they can be lifesavers. Due to government restrictions, ShelterBoxes were not allowed into Nepal. In Fiji, the government has requested them. This illustrates our need to be flexible, to have the ability to respond to the needs of the beneficiary and each individual situation. Sometimes a box of aid; sometimes a tent; sometimes the means to rebuild. Something as simple as a solar light can have a huge impact on an island with no electricity.

We have received great support in the wake of Cyclone Winston. I offer my sincere thanks to all those that have donated so far. Your generosity has real impact on the lives of people who have lost everything. If you've yet to do so, please consider making a donation today. The next disaster is just around the corner and we need to be ready to respond.

This month's quote comes from Mahatma Gandhi, "You must be the change you wish to see in the world."

Please feel free to contact me if you have any queries.

Many thanks for your support.

Mike

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DEPLOYMENTS



Fiji - Cyclone Winston

The strongest storm to ever make landfall in the South Pacific hit Fiji on 21st Feb. The cyclone wreaked havoc, leaving 42 dead and over **120,000 homeless**. A ShelterBox Response Team was on the ground as soon as commercial flights resumed. ShelterBox is working with the Fijian Government and through the Shelter Cluster to provide emergency shelter and other essential items. Pre-positioned stock was immediately distributed with the help of US-based NGO, **Sea Mercy**. The **New Zealand Government** facilitated the movement of 200 boxes from Auckland and last week,



The **Australian Government**, via **DFAT**, coordinated with ShelterBox to fly 209 boxes from Richmond Air Base. At the request of the government of Fiji, ShelterBox is sending **2,000 boxes** and is concentrating their efforts on the outlying islands. **2,000 LUMINAid solar lights** arrived last week and are being warmly received by island residents who have been without electricity for weeks.



Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Over **5,000 households** were displaced by severe flooding in DPRK last August. Coordinating with International Federation of the Red Cross, DPRK Red Cross and the World Federation of the Deaf, ShelterBox is distributing **500 Flex 3 tents**, winterisation kits, stoves, mini boxes and additional **2,000 blankets** to affected families in four counties. As you can see from the picture (left), Flex 3 tents can be fitted with a wood-burning stove.



Paraguay - Flooding

ShelterBox received a request for shelter assistance on 24 December following months of flooding, which have been declared the worst for 50 years. 170,000 people have been displaced. Working with the **Paraguayan Red Cross**, the team has distributed **1,591 Shelter Kits** in Asuncion and San Pedro. Further requests for Shelter Kits, mosquito nets and ShelterBoxes have been received.



Syria - Conflict

Five years after the conflict in Syria first broke out, there are now **6 million children in need** of humanitarian assistance. Thousands have died, many more live under siege with precious little food, and almost half of those in need have had to leave their homes. In Aleppo, which is currently under siege, we have just finished distributing winterised shelter kits, comprising mattresses, tarpaulins, plastic sheeting, solar lights and water carriers. You can help by donating here:

[Syria Refugee Appeal](#)

FUNDRAISING

WOMAdelaide



ShelterBox Australia was privileged to have a display at this year's WOMAdelaide festival. The 4-day music festival attracts approximately **80,000 people** from overseas, interstate and locally every year. 15 volunteers were involved in manning the display in 5-hour shifts over the 4 days. The team aimed to raise awareness about ShelterBox work as a leading emergency relief organisation, provide an opportunity for people to learn about ShelterBox and donate to help families in need. Over **\$5,000 was donated on the spot**, with more expected after newly qualified Response Team member, Lucy Dodd was interviewed on **ABC Adelaide**. Thanks to all that volunteered their time and to all those that visited the stand and gave so generously!



Berrima District Rotary - Telethon

Berrima District Rotary hosted a lunch for its members and special guests to learn more about the work of ShelterBox. The lunch was prompted by the significant donation of more than **\$30,000** made by Southern Highlands Rotarians and members of the public in response to last year's earthquakes in Nepal. Veteran Response Team member, Peter Pearce gave a memorable presentation and personally thanked those donors present for their generous support.

Photo © Dominica Sanda



RC of Kent Town - Comedy Hypnosis

On 6 February, 150 show goers filled the seats of the Goodwood Institute Theatre in Adelaide to see 12 audience volunteers got up on stage to BE the show at Kent Town Rotary's Comedy Hypnosis Fundraiser for ShelterBox. They came to witness the master of mind games, Isaac Lomman, hypnotise 12 eager volunteers right before their very eyes and create a show of hypno-hilarity. The event was hailed as a great success, enjoyed by all and raising a fantastic **\$2616.50** for disaster relief!

**Have you held a successful fundraising event or are you planning one? Please send me the details, including images, for inclusion in the next newsletter and promotion on the ShelterBox Australia Blog at:
mike.greenslade@shelterbox.org.au**

Support the 'ShelterBox Solution' and help families who have lost everything to disaster. Please

DONATE NOW

All donations above \$2 are fully tax-deductable



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