

# In the Shelter

E-newsletter for the Rotary Clubs of District 5180 and beyond - January 2018

## 2017 Year in Review

**24 disasters, 21 countries, 160,000 people (32,000 families) served.**



ShelterBox is transforming despair into hope by providing emergency shelter and tools for families robbed of their homes by disaster or conflict. In 2017, we have seen unprecedented disasters. From Hurricane Harvey in Texas, to Hurricanes Irma and Maria in the Caribbean, to the Rohingya refugee crisis in Bangladesh, ShelterBox Response Teams have been on the ground during these disasters and many others, hand-delivering emergency

humanitarian aid to the most vulnerable people in need.

Thanks to clubs and individual donations in Rotary District 5180, items such as shelter, blankets, water filters and more have been delivered to families as they begin to recover. This month's newsletter summarizes the ShelterBox USA year in review. For a full review visit [www.shelterboxusa.org](http://www.shelterboxusa.org)

With the 2018 change in tax laws please remember that donating to ShelterBox USA isn't about a tax deduction, it's about helping the most vulnerable families and people get through the worst days of their lives.

Please continue to support the efforts of ShelterBox USA so together, we can help even more people in 2018. Thanks.

— Bill Tobin

## TEXAS- Hurricane Harvey

**“There are no words to describe it. I mean I can’t believe these people coming to help us like this, it’s so great. I feel like I’m in a home” - Cindy, Crosby, TX**



Immediately after Hurricane Harvey’s destruction, a ShelterBox Response Team was on the ground to assess the need for emergency shelter in Houston and other impacted areas. ShelterBox coordinated with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, local city and state agencies, and other nonprofits to determine urgent shelter and aid needs. At the George R. Brown Convention Center, the largest evacuation shelter which housed 10,000 people, ShelterBox set up its Shelter-in-Shelter humanitarian tents. The tents served as critically needed private spaces for healthcare, lactation stations, AA meetings, and places of

worship. ShelterBox also distributed blankets, solar lights, groundsheets, and school kits.

In smaller communities like Crosby, TX and Freeport, TX, ShelterBox distributed tents

for displaced families, half of whose homes washed away in the hurricane. Many of these vulnerable families had young children and were living in a shelter set up at the local hall, school or church.

## CARIBBEAN- Hurricanes

ShelterBox Response Teams are continuing to deliver aid to the most vulnerable and remote communities devastated by Hurricanes Irma and Maria in the Caribbean. Relief efforts have been focused on Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Antigua and Barbuda, the British Virgin Islands, and St. Kitts. A variety of aid is being

provided across the Caribbean: 250 ShelterKits, 2,300 solar lights, and 1,500 tarpaulins have been distributed in Dominica; 600 ShelterKits have been distributed to households in the Dominican Republic; in Barbuda, 1,500 solar lights, 550 water carriers, 125 tents, and 150 water purification units have been received by households; 22 ShelterBoxes and 22 tents have been distributed in the British Virgin Islands; and in St. Kitts, 200 families have received tarpaulins to help shore up damaged structures or construct temporary shelters.

## IRAQ- ISIS

**“Your help touched our hearts and made us feel there are still people who care about us. We would like to thank you for this noble humanitarian aid.”**  
**Ali- a ShelterBox recipient.**

Through the scorching heat of summer and the desolate winter, ShelterBox is working to provide shelter in Iraq. We have the materials to create shade from the sun and shelter from the wind, along with blankets and groundsheets to make the long, cold nights comfortable.

In 2017, ShelterBox has helped over 3,500 households in Iraq

by providing a range of aid that included tents blankets, groundsheets, water carriers, solar lights, and more.

Additionally, 2,000 customized ShelterKits were deployed to assist families living in damaged buildings.

### **SYRIA - Conflict**

To help bring protection and comfort to those who have been forced to flee, or to those whose homes have been badly damaged by the ongoing violence, ShelterBox has dispatched tents, ShelterKits and other essential items like blankets, groundsheets, cooking equipment, and solar lights. In 2017, we sheltered over 12,000 Syrian families.

As is the case in any disaster, many people without shelter will inevitably be children. Many schools have been destroyed in Syria and children eager to learn often lack the supplies they need. To help bring refugee children back into the classroom, ShelterBox delivered School Boxes in Syria. Each box contained essential supplies for teachers, including blackboard paint and chalk, and school kits children. Working with our partners, Hand in Hand for Syria, over

15,000 children have returned to or have started their education.

### **BANGLADESH – Flooding / Rohingya Crisis**



**Shelterkits arrive in NW Bangladesh**

ShelterBox is one of very few humanitarian actors responding to the massive displacement of families in Northwest Bangladesh where more than 500,000 homes have been damaged by flooding. A ShelterBox Response Team has been focusing on the flood affected area of Kurigram. 2,960 households have received aid including 1,000 ShelterKits, 6,000 blankets, 2,000 tarpaulins, 2,000 mosquito nets, and 2,000 solar lights.

At the same time, recent violence in Rakhine State in Myanmar prompted a rapid exodus of ethnic Rohingya across the border into Southeast Bangladesh. It's estimated that more than 600,000 Rohingya have crossed into Bangladesh since

August 2017. ShelterBox is providing emergency shelter and other essential items as quickly as possible to Rohingya communities arriving in the Cox's Bazar region of Bangladesh. ShelterBox is partnering with International Organization for Migration (IOM) to import and distribute 8,000 solar lights, 8,000 water containers, 8,000 blankets, 8,000 tarpaulins, and more to support 4,000 households.

### **SOMALILAND – Drought**

Extreme drought in Somaliland has brought more than one and a half million people to the brink of famine. Half of Somaliland's population of 3 million are nomads who depend on livestock for food and income. Due to the drought, more than 70 percent of livestock are estimated to have died, leading to high levels of displacement as families search for food and water. Complicating matters further, Somaliland is a self-declared state and is not recognized as an independent nation, leading to considerable challenges in accessing aid. Day-to-day survival needs are overwhelming, with few aid organizations focused on shelter needs.



Working with our partners at Action Aid, ShelterBox distributed 441 ShelterBoxes to families across three regions in Somaliland in 2017. These ShelterBoxes were adapted to meet the specific needs of nomadic communities. For example, the standard family relief tent was replaced with two tarpaulins to waterproof existing shelters.

A team has recently returned after meeting families to see how their lives have started to improve since receiving ShelterBox support. Once our evaluations are complete a second and larger shipment of aid is due to take place.

### **LAKE CHAD BASIN- Conflict**

**"It means the world to be able to be together as a family once again, it's with assistance like this that we feel we may just be able to recover and start life again...after everything. We will never forget what ShelterBox has done for us."  
- Muhammed Satum,  
Cameroon**

Since 2009, Boko Haram has been waging an insurgency in Northern Nigeria, and since 2009, ShelterBox has been working in the region, providing shelter and essential aid to families

fleeing into Niger and Cameroon.

In 2017, we extended our support to families who have fled to Chad.

We're working hard with partners across this region, delivering SchoolBoxes, tents, tarpaulins, tools, solar lights and equipment as well as hygiene kits to people living in some of the most violent, inhumane and unhealthy conditions on the planet.

Our 2017 assistance in Cameroon included 2,640 hygiene kits, 100 SchoolBoxes, as well as water containers, solar lights, groundsheets, blankets, and kitchen sets supporting over 750 households. In Nigeria, 896 households received heavy duty tarpaulins to create and reinforce shelters. In Chad, more than 450 families have been helped through the provision of aid that includes 3,500 blankets, 1,500 groundsheets, 500 kitchen sets, 1,000 solar lights, 2,000 water containers, and 1,500 mosquito nets.

### **PERU-Flooding**

Throughout March, all but one of Peru's 25 regions were hit by sudden flooding that overwhelmed defenses and gutted whole villages. Intense rains caused widespread

flooding and landslides, leaving 94 dead and around 1.2 million exposed to the elements. Thousands of families were left without even basic shelter, losing their homes and their livelihoods.

Working in partnership with Rotary and World Vision, ShelterBox delivered vital aid to over 2,000 of the most vulnerable families. Unsupported, households affected by disaster will attempt to self-recover. Due to a lack of resources or other vulnerabilities such as poor health, some families will not have the capacity to self-recover and therefore need assistance from organizations like ShelterBox. The aid and training ShelterBox offers provides relief and supports recovery.

ShelterBox distributed 1,000 ShelterKits and non-food items (NFI's) including 2,000 solar lights and water carriers and 1,000 mosquito nets and groundsheets to households who suffered partial damage to their homes in municipalities around Trujillo, in the district of La Libertad. A further 3,030 solar lights and 2,061 mosquito nets were provided to households residing in a displacement camp near Piura city.

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[www.shelterboxusa.org](http://www.shelterboxusa.org)