



## SERVICE PROJECT SHEET Rotary Shelter Box



Ref: /Int/Shelter/Mar 2006  
First published by RIBI: 2001/2002

Project name:

**The Rotary Shelter Box**  
(Registered Charity 1084932)

Project goal:

To provide on a world-wide basis humanitarian relief and aid in the form of materials and equipment that provides shelter, warmth and comfort to those displaced by natural or other disasters.

Rotary service type:

Club/International based activity by fund raising, community involvement and joint participation with other organisations.

Unique selling proposition:

One pre-packed, self contained, easily transported unit provides shelter, warmth and sleeping facilities for ten people. All "badged" with the Rotary logo/wheel.

Background to the project:

Following a series of natural and man-made disasters world-wide and the harrowing reporting of the homelessness, The Rotary Club of Helston-Lizard in District 1290 adopted an individual member's idea as an ongoing Millennium (2000) project. The idea was to rapidly provide pre-packaged shelter after the disaster and to help eradicate the "tented slum cities" which rapidly grow up with their associated squalor. The scheme is intended to supplement the existing schemes of Aquabox and Emergency Box and so allow Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland to provide integrated "disaster relief aid" to areas world-wide. By May 2000, Shelter Box had been advanced to Trust status and a Registered Charity. By mid-2003, the Shelter Box scheme had been taken up by Rotary clubs in the USA, Australia and Canada. Publicity material (leaflets and videos) are available if required as knowledge of the Trust grows, a rapid expansion is envisaged.

Description of the Shelter Box:

A fully equipped Shelter Box costs £490.00. It consists of a "multi-purpose" 185 litre capacity rigid plastic container, which contains one new ten-person tent, ten new sleeping bags (family orientated) and useful ancillary equipment, including water-purifying material, water carrying bags, cooking pots, rope, tools, etc. All equipment is new and purchased at favourable rates and is designed for extended use in rigorous conditions. The box is reusable as storage, furniture, food or water container, etc. When funding is received, the box is packed and documented with an audit trail that informs the donor of its creation, storage, despatch and destination. The recipient is also informed of their benefactor. The box is despatched as appropriate to disaster areas world-wide. The cost of despatching, delivering and distributing the Shelter Box is included in the £490 cost.

Benefits to clubs:

This is a project to direct existing funds into, or organise events to support the project. The opportunity also exists to involve community groups and others within the club's sphere of influence. International involvement can also be pursued from feedback noting the progress of the box in transit and at its final destination.

Feedback from other clubs:

Considerable support has evolved as a result of articles published in the *Rotarian* magazine and the viewing of videos and leaflets, which were circulated to all districts. The response in the first 30 months of the project has seen donations in excess of £500,000 with 1,000+ "Shelter Boxes" (material to assist and accommodate over 10,000 people) being dispatched to various disaster relief projects in India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Russia, Iraq, Angola, Algeria and Liberia.

Personalities associated with the Trust:

- Kate Adie, Broadcaster, as Patron
- Commodore, R.N.A.S. Culdrose

Promotional material:

Leaflets and video presentation on request free of charge.

Demonstration box on request.

Contact for further information:

Mail: Shelter Box Trust, Unit 1a, Water Ma Trout Estate, Helston, Cornwall, TR13 8TA

Tel: 01326 569782

E-mail: [tom@shelterbox.org](mailto:tom@shelterbox.org) (for enquiries/questions)

[eddy@shelterbox.org](mailto:eddy@shelterbox.org)

Internet: [www.shelterbox.org](http://www.shelterbox.org) (for full information)

or your District International Service Chairman.

Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland has adopted this statement of policy for its work with children, the elderly, the vulnerable and those with disability. The needs and rights of the child, the elderly, the vulnerable and persons with disability take priority. It is the duty of every Rotarian to safeguard to the best of his or her ability, the welfare of and prevent the physical, sexual or emotional abuse and neglect of all children, the elderly, persons with disability or otherwise vulnerable persons with whom they come into contact in their Rotarian duties. Rotarians should refer to the detailed "RIBI Protection Policy" when planning events and activities.