



DATE: 12-29-04

TO: US ROTARY DISTRICT GOVERNORS

RE: TSUMANI / EARTHQUAKE RELIEF
UPDATE

**UPDATE INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM THE SHELTER BOX
ASSEMBLY/DISTRIBUTION FACILITY IN CORNWALL, ENGLAND:**

WE HAVE LEARNED THAT DISTRIBUTIONS OF SHELTER BOXES WILL BE LIMITED TO REQUESTING ROTARY CLUBS, DUE TO THE MASSIVE SCOPE OF THIS MULTI-NATIONAL DISASTER.

- **200 BOXES** ARE IN-TRANSIT, VIA AIR SRI LANKA, TO THE ROTARY CLUB OF COLUMBO AND ARE EXPECTED TO BE ARRIVE THIS FRIDAY.
- **200 MORE BOXES** ARE BEING PREPARED TO BE SHIPPED TO SOUTHERN INDIA- IT IS NOT COMFIRMED YET, BUT MOST LIKELY THE ROTARY CLUB OF MADRAS WILL SUPERVISE THIS DISTRIBUTION.
- THERE IS INVENTORY ON HAND TO ASSEMBLE AND DISTRIBUTE **500 MORE SHELTER BOXES AS SOON AS FUNDS ARE RECEIVED.**

WE ARE MAKING A NATIONAL ROTARY APPEAL FOR FUNDS. DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE AND CAN BE CONTRIBUTED FOR EITHER PARTIAL OR COMPLETE BOXES (@ \$900, including transportation). PLEASE MAIL TO:

**SHELTER BOX USA
8374 MARKET ST. #203
LAKEWOOD RANCH, FL 34202**

**Website: (US) www.shelterboxusa.org
(UK) www.shelterbox.org**

Yours in Rotary Service,
Beth Palmer, Executive Director
SHELTER BOX USA
941-358-7676 / bethp@shelterboxusa.org

**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
CONTACT:**

**Stella Olinger, PR Director, SHELTER BOX USA
941-907-3437 (phone/fax) smoling@tampabay.rr.com**

***SHELTER BOXES TO PROVIDE HOUSING AND COMFORT TO
5500 TSUNAMI VICTIMS—MORE ARE NEEDED***

In response to the overwhelming need for emergency housing and subsistence supplies, Rotary clubs and individuals throughout the United States are providing support to a most unique humanitarian project—Shelter Box. The first three shipments, totaling 600 Shelter Boxes, are leaving Cornwell, England for Sri Lanka, Indonesia and India to provide housing, shelter and comfort to 6000 victims of the devastating tsunami that hit coastal areas in the India Ocean. Additional shipments of boxes will be leaving within days for island areas.

Shelter Boxes are large green heavy-duty plastic boxes that each contain a 10 ft x 20 ft three-room ten-person tent, ten sleeping bags, water purification equipment to support the needs of 10 people for six months, a multi-fuel cook stove, cooking equipment, eating utensils, tools, and assorted other survival items. Shelter Box has become an international grass-roots service project of Rotary clubs worldwide. Headquartered in Cornwell, England, with support centers in the United States, Australia, Canada, and Japan, Shelter Box has provided housing and comfort to more than 25,000 people after natural and man-made tragedies have struck. Since its inception in 2001, Boxes have been shipped to Iran, Pakistan, Granada, Uganda, Iraq, Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, and Liberia.

A single, complete Shelter Box is supported by a tax-deductible donation of \$900. Requests have been made for many hundreds more Shelter Boxes to help tsunami victims. Donations from businesses, individuals, civic, religious and Rotarian groups support the efforts of the Shelter Box Trust, housed in Cornwell, England, from where all shipments are sent. Requests from recognized international aid agencies are processed through the office of Shelter Box Trust. Shipments are airlifted by commercial, humanitarian, and governmental organizations—usually at no charge to Shelter Box.

Urgently needed pledges of support are now beginning to reach the Rotary Club of Lakewood Ranch in Bradenton, Florida, the US headquarters of Shelter Box USA. Rotary District 6150 in Arkansas has pledged immediate support of 100 Boxes; the Rotary Club of Lakewood Ranch has donated an additional 25 boxes for immediate commitment to tsunami victims; New York Rotary District 7210 is donating 66 Boxes, one per club, to tsunami relief. Individuals and clubs are challenging others to match or exceed additional pledges of support. Donations of any amount will be combined to fund the \$900 necessary to purchase a box.

For further information, go to the Shelter Box website at www.shelterboxusa.org, call Shelter Box USA at 941-358-7676 (for credit card donations). Mail check donations to Shelter Box USA, 8374 Market St. Box 203, Lakewood Ranch, Florida 34202. Website on-line credit card transactions will be possible later this week. Shelter Box USA is a Florida registered 501-c-3 charitable corporation. All donations are acknowledged and are tax-deductible.

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