

GUATEMALANS RECEIVE VITAL SHELTER

Recent flooding, mud slides and torrential rainfall has left the South American country of Guatemala in a state of emergency, with thousands of locals deprived of proper housing and basic survival supplies.

With the assistance of onsite SRTs, families who were in desperate need for shelter have now set up temporary homes in ShelterBox tents.

ShelterBox representatives were initially deploying aid in Southern Mexico where they successfully dispatched over 600 ShelterBoxes, providing emergency supplies for up to 6000 people. They then travelled to Guatemala to assist in the recovery efforts there.

ShelterBox secured the release of 200 boxes to families who had lost everything in the spate of the disasters, with the first boxes deployed to the villagers of Santa Catarina Palopo who lost their homes in devastating landslides.

SRTs reported that the locals were extremely grateful of the assistance they received and were even taught how to set up tents so they can be prepared for future disasters.



Donations can also be made via an electronic funds transfer to the following account:

SHELTERBOX DONATIONS ACCOUNT:

Westpac
BSB: 032 189
Account: 230 147
Deposits to be marked clearly and/or email to advise to shelterboxjc@optusnet.com.au



PHILIPPINES UPDATE

ShelterBox Response Team Member Peter Pearce has provided us with updated information on the current situation in the Philippines after Typhoon Megi (locally known as Juan) swept through the country's northern region in late October, leaving a path of destruction in its wake.

Peter, who is currently onsite in the Philippines, reports that the Isabella Province has been worst affected, with some 30,000 homes completely destroyed.

SRTs have been hard at work and the first consignment of ShelterBoxes is currently being deployed to the ravaged region.

Teams are working on strategies to access remote areas where locals are in desperate need of assistance.

"These areas have experienced total destruction and have no road access or communications in play. It is quite a logistical nightmare," said Peter.

Despite these obstacles, the ShelterBox Response Team is determined to find a way through.

The need for further team members and ShelterBoxes will be determined when the SRTs arrive in these areas.

DISCOVERY IN MEXICO DEEMS SHELTERBOX A LASTING CAUSE

As SRTs continue to respond to the recent flooding, landslides and hurricane damage in Mexico, a recent discovery has demonstrated the worthwhile nature of the ShelterBox cause.

When entering the village of Rancheria Los Idols, SRTs were happy to find ShelterBox tents already in use, which had been delivered to the locals in a 2007 deployment.

Jennifer Kormendy, an SRT member from the United States, said that the team was welcomed with opened arms by villagers.

“The villagers told us the tents had been lived in for the past three years, on average for five months a time and they were still in good condition,” said Jennifer.

The tents were sheltering 90 families from the flooding when the SRTs discovered them, proof that a ShelterBox can be utilised years after a disaster strikes.

ShelterBox has now committed 600 ShelterBoxes to southern Mexico, emergency shelter for up to 6,000 people.

SRT members will continue to monitor the situation and need in Mexico over coming weeks.

SHELTERBOX AUSTRALIA: MAKING IT OUR OWN

You may have noticed that ShelterBox Australia's image is changing as we are currently in the process of reviving our brand.

Initiatives such as distributing specialised ShelterBox Australia newsletters which focus on Australian efforts in ShelterBox campaigns and new ShelterBox brochures with donation slips, are improving ShelterBox Australia's communication and fundraising efforts.

We have also recently established a new donation hotline for ShelterBox Australia, providing even more ways for the public to donate to our cause.

We are creating a range of promotional material and stationery that clearly identifies and reinforces the Australian brand. These projects are helping us refresh our image as the Australian affiliate branch of ShelterBox.



SHELTERBOX STAMPED IN HISTORY

The Rotary Club of Dee Why Warringah is raising funds for ShelterBox by selling limited edition collectable ShelterBox stamp sheets. This unique incentive is part of a bid to purchase 100 ShelterBoxes.

With each stamp sheet costing \$22 and containing iconic ShelterBox images, including Tom Henderson the organisation's founder, it's a great way to raise awareness of our cause – the ShelterBox message will literally travel around the nation!

We commend Dee Why Warringah Rotary Club for their commitment to ShelterBox and wish them luck in achieving their goal of 100 boxes.

If you're interested in purchasing some limited edition ShelterBox stamp sheets, visit Rotary Club 4204's website at <http://www.rotarynews.info/3/Club/4204/5165>



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Our goal is to help 500,000 people every year. So far we have sent out this many ShelterBoxes.

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