

## **Rotary Club of Towcester – working with Shelterbox**

Towcester Rotary is well-known for supporting the local community but also works hard overseas where help and assistance is most needed. Whilst it is difficult to have a physical presence throughout the world, Rotary is able to work with similar organisations who specialise with working in problem areas.

One such organisation is Shelterbox which started out as a project run by a Rotary Club in Cornwall and gradually expanded into a separately run charity with its own infrastructure.

Their aim is to provide disaster relief around the world in the form of equipment and shelter for devastated areas including tents, cooking utensils, blankets, water purifiers, and tarpaulins which were originally packaged and sent in the familiar large green boxes using international transport by air from their base in the UK. In more recent times packaging has been tailored to the contents and depends on the equipment specifically needed. Also, Shelterbox have established overseas warehouses in Panama, Ghana, Kenya, Belgium, UAE and Pakistan where equipment is stored and can be quickly transported to the heart of the specific disaster.

Towcester Rotary has been involved with Shelterbox for many years and made regular donations. For the last few years, the Club has been awarded a Bronze certificate acknowledging the partnership between our two organisations and the funds that we have donated. The Club celebrates its 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year and since 2001 we are proud to see that our total donations to Shelterbox reached a grand total of £45,384 which is an amazing effort and only possible due to the support and generosity of our donors and fund-raising events.

If you would like to learn more about Shelterbox, please check out their website. If you would like to make a donation this can be made on their donation page, or you can donate by contacting Towcester Rotary and we will ensure that any funds are forwarded to Shelterbox along with our own donation.