

shelter  
**BOX**

JULY 2010

# ONE VOICE

**DISASTER  
RELIEF**



*Photograph by Trannie Lacquey - Guatemala 2010*



## ShelterBox in Haiti: Six Months On



**J**ust 12 minutes after the earthquake devastated the nation of Haiti on January 12, 2010, the first ShelterBox Response Team (SRT) was formed. Two days later, with the airport shut down, the team was in Haiti working with local Rotarians to get the boxes through customs and into the field as quickly as possible.

Six months later, with just over 1,000 days volunteered by the SRTs, Haiti became the largest disaster ShelterBox has responded to in its 10-year existence. More than 18,000 ShelterBoxes have been sent to Haiti and more than 50 SRTs have left everything behind to hand deliver our green boxes of hope to people in their greatest time of need.

Beverly Hill, who has deployed twice to Haiti was touched by the resilience and optimism the people exhibited. "While their physical environment is still very much crumbled around them, there is a sense of 'life goes on' here," said Hill. "Without a doubt, there is no real 'normal.' However, I've witnessed several events that demonstrate the will of the locals here to maintain as much normalcy as they can, even though so much has been lost."

In many cases, ShelterBox tents have become bustling shops by day and homes at night as the people recreate their local economies. Children are back in school as teachers utilized the blackboard paint and essential school supplies found in a ShelterBox school box. Tents became homes as people salvaged what belongings they could from the rubble.

Day-by-day, box-by-box, the Haitian people have begun to rebuild their lives thanks to the generous support of donors across the U.S. and the world, as well as the hard work of the SRT and the Rotary Clubs and non-governmental organizations they worked with to deliver shelter, warmth and comfort with dignity.

# Message from the Executive Director

The first half of 2010 has been a busy year for ShelterBox. In the wake of one of the worst disasters to strike the western hemisphere, ShelterBox has staged its largest disaster response in the 10-year history of the organization. Close to 200,000 people were provided life-saving aid as a result of our work in Haiti.



The outpouring of support from private donors, Rotary clubs and corporate entities has allowed ShelterBox to become the largest provider of tents in Haiti. Thanks to our overwhelming support base, ShelterBox USA, of ShelterBox's 11 international affiliates, was able to provide more than half of all the ShelterBoxes deployed to Haiti.

As we move forward, ShelterBox is coming ever closer to its goal of providing shelter, warmth and dignity to half a million people each year. We always hope our boxes are not needed, but disasters, either manmade or natural, are ever present. This year alone, ShelterBox has responded to 11 disasters.

Our work is never over; there will always be more people who need a ShelterBox and the sense of dignity it provides. With your continued support, we are able to continue with our mission and as our founder, Tom Henderson says, "crack on with the job."

On behalf of the dedicated staff at ShelterBox USA, the highly trained volunteers who hand deliver our boxes in the field, our dedicated team of volunteer representatives who give presentations about ShelterBox and for all of those families who ShelterBox affects, I personally thank you for your support.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'V. Miller', is written over a light blue background.

Veronica Brandon Miller

## ShelterBox Active Deployments April-June 2010

DATE	LOCATION	BOXES SENT	DISASTER
January 2010	Port Au Prince, Haiti	18,722	Earthquake
April 2010	Mexicali, Mexico	130	Earthquake
April 2010	Qinghai Province, China	100	Earthquake
June 2010	Guatemala City, Guatemala	512	Tropical Storm, Volcano
June 2010	Gwadar & Gilit, Pakistan	1900	Cyclone & Landslides
June 2010	Alagoas, Brazil	TBD	Flooding

# Local Heroes

## **TAYLOR SPENCER**, *Teen Philanthropist*

In the days after the earthquake in Haiti, Taylor Spencer wanted to make a difference. A week before her 17th birthday, she decided to do just that. Taylor organized a birthday party and asked for donations in lieu of gifts. More than 250 of her friends attended and together they raised \$8,000. A few weeks later, the Rotary Club of Ardenmore, PA made her a Paul Harris Fellow, a high honor in Rotary. "The support I received from my friends and family for my birthday fundraiser filled my heart with happiness knowing we were able to make a positive difference in the lives of others," said Spencer.

## **TIM OSBURN**, *Marathon Fundraiser*

Having completed the Marathon Des Sables, one of the toughest adventure races in history where many drop out on day one, Tim Osburn lost 20 pounds and suffered blistered feet. When asked why he would brave 125 degree heat and the physical turmoil of the event, Osburn claimed his passion for ShelterBox helped him carry on. Osburn kept a blog and had many pledge support by donating to ShelterBox during his trek. Upon reaching camp each night, Osburn reflected on why he was on the trek. "There is one thing that every human should have a right to," said Osburn, "and that's having shelter over your head. ShelterBox provides that to those in need every day."

## **TRACI OLIVER**, *Dedicated Responder*

As one of the first responders in the days after the Chile earthquake where up to 10,000 people were provided emergency shelter, Traci had only been home for a few weeks before getting the call to head to Mexicali to respond to yet another earthquake where ShelterBox provided relief for up to 1,200 people. "I knew I had to go when I got the call and I am glad I did," said Oliver. "There were no shelters and people were living under tarps held up by a mishmash of materials." In all, Traci spent a total of 22 days away from her family and law practice to help deliver shelter, warmth and dignity to up to 11,200 people.



# Disaster Response Snapshot

## *Mexicali, Mexico: Earthquake*

*April 2010*

Just days after the 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck Baja California on Sunday, April 4, Florida based SRT John Mackie packed and left home to assess the situation on the ground for the need of ShelterBoxes in the region.

“As my teammate, Jen Kormendy (Canadian SRT), and I travelled the region, it was quickly apparent that there was a need for immediate shelter,” said Mackie.

Aid was dispatched both from the UK and also from the tent manufacturer into the field where Mackie and his second teammate, Traci Oliver of Denver, distributed the boxes to the most needy families.

“The dedication and hard work of the Mexican people, military, police and volunteers was really heartwarming,” said Mackie.

## *Qinghai Province, China: Earthquake*

*April 2010*

“We arrived at the epicenter at the town of Jie Gu and we were astounded by the scene in front of us because 90 percent of buildings had collapsed,” said China-based SRT, Tony Zhang.

Zhang was able to quickly mobilize and deploy to the northern region of his country near Tibet. Within days, he had tents in China to the families who had lost everything.

Zhang and two other SRT worked with volunteers from a local university who “waited up late into the night to help us transfer tents between trucks in the freezing cold.”

The next morning, the team and volunteers began erecting tents.

“I showed locally displaced people how to put up a tent and one family with five people moved into their ‘new home’ immediately,” said Zhang.

## *Guatemala City, Guatemala: Tropical Storm, Volcano* June 2010

The day before SRTs Mike Freeman of Georgia and Alan Monroe of Florida left the US in response to the twin disasters to affect Guatemala, the team was in contact with the Red Cross, Rotary Clubs and NGOs. To get to Guatemala City, the team had to go by way of El Salvador since the airport in Guatemala was shut down due to volcanic ash.

“The moment we hit the ground, plans were already in place to get into the field quickly,” said team leader, Mike Freeman. “On day one, we had donated helicopter transport to get to regions in which we could not go by car. The Rotary clubs went above and beyond to get us to the most affected regions very quickly.”

In one devastated village, families who were staying in a school repurposed as a shelter walked two and a half hours by foot up a washed out foot trail to their village to rebuild their homes. Each evening, they walked down each evening to be with their families.

One resident said, “It is good that we will have a ShelterBox. Now my whole family can stay up in our village while we rebuild our home.”


The logo for ShelterBox, featuring the word "shelter" in a white sans-serif font above the word "BOX" in a larger, bold, white sans-serif font. The "O" in "BOX" contains a small globe icon. The logo is set against a teal square background.

shelter  
BOX

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A photograph of Bill Decker, the Board Chair, sitting in a chair. He is wearing a dark suit jacket, a white shirt, and a blue patterned tie. He is smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is a large, illuminated world map.

## 2010 Board of Directors

*Bill Decker, Chair of the Board*

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*"It's such a dynamic time for ShelterBox USA as we harness the tremendous momentum generated this past year from the unprecedented service we were able to perform in Haiti. I am honored to serve ShelterBox USA as Chairman of its board, and I am confident that the organization will continue to flourish through the efforts of our incredible volunteers, world class staff and forward-looking leadership."*

*-Bill Decker, Board Chair*