

ROTARY WORLD PEACE FELLOW THANKS SHELTERBOX

Xiaomei Liu, the People's Republic of China's first **Rotary World Peace Fellow**, expressed her thanks for ShelterBox's aid efforts in China last year at the Rotary District 1290 conference in Bideford, Devon, England on Saturday 7 March.

Liu comes from the town of Chengdu, only a few miles from the epicentre of the Sichuan earthquake that killed 69,000 people in August last year, and saw at first hand the ShelterBox relief effort. ShelterBox sent out more than 2000 relief boxes together with separate tents to the disaster area giving shelter to more than 40,000 people.

"We are very honoured that someone as distinguished as Liu addressed the conference," said ShelterBox founder **Tom Henderson**. "The disaster in China was on such a scale that we devoted a huge amount of resources to alleviating the suffering it caused. It was an emotional experience meeting Liu and learning from someone who lived through the earthquake and saw the contribution we made to those who had lost their homes."



Xiaomei Liu has been sponsored by the Rotary Club of Shanghai and is committed to resolving the problem of communication between different cultures, in particular between China and Tibet. She is "determined to apply her business know-how, her volunteer experience and more importantly, her training in cultural anthropology, to work towards harmony between the Chinese and Tibetan ethnicities." Liu feels that the **Rotary Peace and Conflict Resolution program** will give her a set of real-life skills towards fulfilling her goal.

Footnote

Donations in response to the loss and devastation caused by the earthquake in May 2008 were extraordinary. Australian-funded ShelterBoxes were included in the relief aid, and Australian volunteer ShelterBox Response Team [SRT] members assisted with deployments. *These photos are from the Sichuan Province last year.*



NEWS UPDATE – 10 March 2009



URGENT APPEAL TO REPLACE AUSTRALIAN STOCKS OF SHELTERBOXES

ShelterBox Australia has stocks of boxes stored in Melbourne (as one of a number of strategic global locations): many of those were used in areas affected by the recent Victorian bushfires. They were requested by the Department of Human Services and deployments assisted by the Army, Police and other volunteers, including our own SRT members. This local response was made under unprecedented circumstances that we never see again in this country. We need to fund replacement stocks so we can respond to the next, sadly inevitable disaster in developing countries in this region.

Donation details at: www.shelterboxaustralia.org.au



ABOUT SHELTERBOX



Each ShelterBox contains up to two 10-person dome tents, thermal blankets, water purification tablets, a multi-fuel stove, tools and other essential equipment. An initiative of Rotarian **Tom Henderson**, a former Royal Navy search and rescue diver, ShelterBox started in 2000 as a project of the Rotary Club of Helston-Lizard, Cornwall and is supported by Rotary clubs worldwide. ShelterBox, the largest Rotary Club project in the world has raised over \$50 million and sheltered over 600,000 people in 54 countries.

ShelterBox *Australia*

A project of the Rotary Club of Endeavour Hills (Melbourne) since 2003, ShelterBox Australia is the authorised Australian affiliate of the ShelterBox Trust. With a small office in Doveton (near Dandenong Vic), ShelterBox Australia now has representatives in each of Rotary International's 23 Districts in Australia. Since 2003, donations to ShelterBox Australia have topped \$5.5 million.

The cost of a ShelterBox is **\$1,200** – a small price to provide humanitarian aid in the form of shelter, warmth, dignity ... and perhaps survival, for up to ten people.

Donations can be sent to ShelterBox Australia, PO Box 790 Endeavour Hills Vic. 3802 or by accessing the donation section at www.shelterboxaustralia.org.au

For further information, please contact **Jenni Heenan** on 1300 881 913 or 0419 135 635 info@shelterboxaustralia.org.au - www.shelterboxaustralia.org.au or www.shelterbox.org



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ShelterBox Australia is a project of the Rotary Club of Endeavour Hills



ShelterBox Australia, a company limited by guarantee [ABN 55 129 338 825], is an accredited international affiliate of the ShelterBox Trust a registered charity founded and operated by the Rotary Club of Helston-Lizard in Cornwall UK.

ShelterBox is a global Rotary Club humanitarian program.

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