



Press Release

For immediate release
February 23, 2008

EXTREME FUNDRAISER FOR VICTIMS OF NATURAL DISASTERS

Stittsville Rotarians are taking their fundraising efforts to extreme levels by spending 48 hours outdoors **beginning February 27 at 4pm until 4pm on March 1**. One of the club's priority initiatives is Shelter Box, www.shelterbox.ca, which is a registered charitable organization founded in 2000 by a Rotarian from the U.K. Each Shelter Box includes all the essentials necessary for up to 10 people to survive the aftermath of a natural disaster or any other major event/conflict that has displaced them from their homes.

Each Shelter Box includes a large tent, winter sleeping bags, cooking supplies, a multi-fuel stove, a bag of tools to help in rebuilding, water jugs and purification tablets etc.

According to Leo Maiorino, Stittsville Rotarian and Ottawa Area Ambassador for Shelter Box Canada, "our goal is to raise \$10,000 from our community to purchase additional Shelter Boxes to provide a means of survival to people in need. Our club will raise awareness of this worldwide need by spending 48 hours in the heart of Stittsville at the **Village Square Park (corner of Main Street and Abbott Street)**. We will carry the box, which is 140 pounds, down Main Street Stittsville to our site just like they have to do in countries where these boxes are used. We will survive strictly off the contents of an actual Shelter Box. We will sleep in the tent, use the cooking supplies from the box and eat the same food that would be supplied by the World Health Organization to people in these areas where natural disasters have taken place."

Over the last few years there have been an overwhelming number of earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, wars, landslides etc that have left hundreds of thousands of people without shelter. As of August 2008, the Shelter Box organization has sent in excess of 60,000 Shelter Boxes to 48 countries worldwide, providing emergency accommodation for approximately 700,000 disaster victims.

The Stittsville Rotary Club has already purchased 4 complete Shelter Boxes with the support of the community and is hoping to purchase an additional 6 boxes. Charitable receipts are available for any donations of \$20 or more, which can also be given at the site of the event. The community is welcome to drop by on either day to see the Shelter Box in use.

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