

## ELLICOTT CITY SUNRISE ROTARY DISPLAYS SHELTERBOX TENT

By Andy Stewart

Every December, historic Old Ellicott City holds “Midnight Madness” to draw crowds into the quaint, historic (and crowded!) town. For the last two years, Ellicott City Sunrise Rotary has raised funds -- and awareness -- for ShelterBoxUSA. ShelterBox is the only international disaster response organization which has an on-going “Project Partner” relationship with Rotary International (recently extended through 2022).

In 2019, the Club made arrangements to add a ShelterBox tent to enhance the display. The 15-foot diameter tent allowed visitors to imagine how they and their extended family would live if their home had been lost due to some natural (or man-made) disaster. One ShelterBox contains the tent, basic emergency cooking and eating equipment (including a cooking stove), along with blankets, tarps, and basic hand tools. This is sufficient to provide for an extended family for six months (or longer). All these basics fit into one bright green ShelterBox -- in other words: a box full of HOPE.

ShelterBox aims for a 48- to 72-hour response time. When news of a disaster is received, the Operations Center in Cornwall, England, determines the appropriate response. When deployed, ShelterBox Response Teams (SRTs) are sent into the disaster area; aid is never sent unless it is accompanied by SRTs. These highly-trained people cooperate with other responding agencies to provide shelter. Other agencies work to

provide food relief, sanitation and health facilities, and other resources.

Apart from its work in the United States, ShelterBox has 17 other national affiliates--making these countries more self-sufficient when (not if) the next natural disaster strikes there. Founded in 2000, ShelterBox has responded to more than 300



disasters (and conflict areas) in more than 100 countries. Overall, the internationally-respected organization has given out more than 150,000 boxes of hope -- showing a positive impact to 1.5 million people just like you.

In addition to the official Project Partner relationship, there are other natural working connections between Rotary and ShelterBox as well. For one, the existing network of Rotarians is an already built-in, locally-available

network for SRTs on the scene of a deployment. Translation, help with warehousing, assistance with import regulations, and a wide variety of other partnerships are other examples of the close working relationship between Rotary and ShelterBox.

Funds raised during “Midnight Madness” will be matched by the

Ellicott City Sunrise Rotary Club. For more information about ShelterBox, go to [www.ShelterBoxUSA.org](http://www.ShelterBoxUSA.org) For local information, contact Andy Stewart ([astewart49@gmail.com](mailto:astewart49@gmail.com) or 573-578-2411).

*“Since ShelterBox began in 2000, your support has helped us provide shelter for more than 1 million people. A million people who not only have protection from the elements, but a place to call home.” -- Alf Evans, ShelterBox Operations Manager*

## BICYCLES ARRIVED IN ZULULAND

By Dick Foot, Member, Bikes For The World Committee

On January 12 we received confirmation that the 450 bicycles the Carroll Creek Rotary Club shipped by ocean freighter to the Rotary Club of Empangeni, Zululand, South Africa, have arrived in Durban, Republic of South Africa.

Empangeni Rotarian Fulvio Pace wrote: “After some bureaucratic hurdles, the container was finally released! Will depart Durban and arrive in Whiteriver on January 14.”