



THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

May 13, 2025

2024-2025 Board Members

President Kim Brattain
Pres Elect Patrick Baker
Past Pres Edwin Peacock
Secretary Bill Gill
Treasurer Craig Field
Sergeant at Arms
Mike Wollinger
Exec Dir Christine Cipriano

Directors 2023-2025

Terri DeBoo
Andy Dinkin
Donna Dunlap
Joel Ford

Directors 2024-2026

Benton Bragg
John Cantrell
Tish Atkins Charles
Dena Diorio
Stuart Hair
Jesse Hite
Lori Keeton
Elizabeth Teagarden
Virginia Owen

Membership John Cantrell

Foundation Joe Morris

Programs Luther Moore



ShelterBox USA: A Beacon of Hope in Disaster Relief

by Layne McGuire



Our speaker was Kerri Murray, fellow Rotarian and President of ShelterBox USA. In the wake of devastating natural disasters, ShelterBox USA stands as a beacon of hope, providing essential relief to families who have lost everything. Founded in 2000 by a group of Rotarians, ShelterBox has evolved from creating emergency survival kits to offering customized shelter solutions tailored to the

unique needs of disaster-stricken communities.

Kerri Murray, President of ShelterBox USA, shared her poignant journey into disaster relief. Her involvement began after a personal tragedy when her daughter was born under life-threatening conditions, and both their lives were at risk. This experience ignited a deep sense of responsibility in Kerri, leading her to leave her corporate career at GlaxoSmithKline and dedicate herself to humanitarian work. Since joining ShelterBox in 2015, Kerri has been on the front lines of some of the world's worst disasters, witnessing firsthand the transformative impact of ShelterBox's efforts.

Shelter Box has responded to over 300 disasters in more than 100 countries, providing aid to over 3 million people. Major responses include the Indian Ocean tsunami, the Haiti earthquake, the Syrian refugee crisis, and the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. The organization focuses on global displacement, a pressing issue with over 120 million people affected by disasters, wars, and climate change. ShelterBox provides durable shelter solutions and essential items like solar lights, water purification systems, and kitchen sets to help families rebuild their lives. In the United States, ShelterBox has been instrumental in relief efforts for Hurricane Katrina and, more recently, for Milton and Helene in the fall of 2024 and the California wildfires.

Rotarians play a crucial role in ShelterBox's operations, from fundraising to on-the-ground response teams. This partnership has enabled Shelter Box to expand its reach and impact significantly. Recent responses include wildfires in Los Angeles and hurricanes in North Carolina, where ShelterBox provided essential items to affected families. The organization continues to work in challenging environments like Gaza and Myanmar, demonstrating its commitment to helping the most vulnerable.

As ShelterBox celebrates its 25th anniversary, the organization remains dedicated to its mission of providing immediate relief and long-term recovery solutions to disaster-affected communities. Relying on private funding and volunteer support, ShelterBox continues to make a profound difference in the lives of those who need it most. The organization is also evolving to facilitate relief efforts with local resources, thereby helping to reduce its footprint and stimulate economic recovery in disaster areas.

*This week's meeting was not recorded.