



**SERVICE Above Self**  
**Rotary District 7690**  
Piedmont, North Carolina, USA

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**September 2, 2005**  
**District 7690 Disaster Relief Program\***

## **District 7690 Hurricane Katrina Disaster Relief Program**

In response to the dozens of requests for information concerning our District response to the Hurricane Katrina Disaster and after discussing options with several of you I want to outline briefly three responses that our district and your clubs may want to consider:

**American Red Cross or Salvation Army** - For those who favor immediate response to the disaster, let me suggest clubs contribute to the American Red Cross, or to Salvation Army.

**ShelterBox** - Another opportunity for contribution is to contribute to the ShelterBox program. Last year ShelterBox asked that contributions for ShelterBox be sent to the District Treasurer who will, in turn send one check to ShelterBox. PDG Don Allred indicated that this reduced the paperwork required of the ShelterBox program. Here is information provided today by ShelterBox USA:

*ShelterBox USA is providing emergency shelter aid to the victims of Hurricane Katrina. One hundred Shelter Boxes will arrive in Houston, Texas on Thursday 1st September 05 with sufficient tents to house 200 family groups We are arranging transportation to move these Boxes to storage and staging areas closer to the disaster area. Organization and distribution of the boxes will be under the control of the Regional ShelterBox Representative in Lafayette, LA and the Rotary District. Additional Boxes are available, pending assessment and specific official requests.*

*Contributions for additional ShelterBoxes are welcome. However, it is not possible for the ShelterBox Trust in the United Kingdom, from where all the boxes are packed and shipped, to guarantee that a specific numbered box purchased with your contribution will be one that is provided to the hurricane victims. All national ShelterBox affiliates (UK, US, Canada, and Australia) operate under the following policy guidelines: The "ShelterBox Trust" will only distribute aid material on the basis of need and within safe and achievable operating parameters. Location and time specific donations cannot be accepted."*

*The ShelterBox Trust is currently using boxes already paid for and in its inventory to ship to the United States. While there is some likelihood that your contribution will fund a box directly for the United States, there is no guarantee. It may go to replace a sponsored box that has already been shipped to the United States or possibly sent to another country to fulfill other disaster relief obligations.*

*The ShelterBox Trust will provide as many ShelterBoxes to the United States as is physically capable and for which there is a need. However, it cannot guarantee that the box you fund will be one that makes it to the United States' disaster area.*

*For additional Information: [www.ShelterBoxUSA.org](http://www.ShelterBoxUSA.org).*

**District Disaster Relief Fund** - A more deliberate approach is for clubs to contribute to a fund that will be sent to a district in the disaster area for use as they see appropriate. Because of the destruction of the communication infrastructure, as of this writing there is little information available as to the best use of these funds. We know that a disaster of this magnitude will require our financial assistance for months into the future. If District 7690 had been the scene of this disaster I would hope that Rotary clubs in other area would want to help our clubs with their special projects that will be required to help establish the new normalcy. Funds designated for this method of distribution should be sent to the District 7690 Treasurer, payable to Rotary District 7690 indicating that the contribution is for Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund.

*I am looking for the appropriate way to accept contributions in the District and hope to let you know before the end of the weekend more details concerning this approach.*

**To follow the response of Rotarians to this disaster visit [www.rotary7690.org/](http://www.rotary7690.org/).**

***We need to keep track of the impact our district has on disaster relief efforts. Please let me know how much your club has contributed and to which agency the contribution was made.***

**Here are some of the thoughts that have occurred to me-**

- As an organization, Rotary is not an immediate responder to disaster situations, although individually, many of its members are involved with agencies that serve this role.
- When a disaster strikes, people are most inclined to respond with cash contributions while the situation is fresh in their minds. The speed with which fundraising is started is proportional to the amount of money that can be collected.
- The District should establish a Disaster-Relief Committee that will develop a plan of action and will help the governor implement the plan when disaster happens.
- The District's Rotary Foundation team should investigate setting up a Donor Advised Fund with The Rotary Foundation, with a goal of building that fund on a regular basis, perhaps at the rate of \$25 per club member each year. When a disaster occurs the district will have appropriate funds available to respond. Details: [www.rotary.org/foundation/development/advisedfunds/index.html](http://www.rotary.org/foundation/development/advisedfunds/index.html)

\*2005-2006 Gold Club Criteria:

#19 Club contributed to District specified disaster relief program (per event)