



## 2019 - 2020 Board Members

**President** John W. Lassiter

**Pres Elect** Jerry Coughter

**Past Pres** Mike Hawley

**Secretary** Sandy Osborne

**Treasurer** Phil Volponi

### Directors 2019-2020

Cheryl Banks

William Bradley

Dena Diorio

Carla DuPuy

Bill Loftin, Jr.

Clyde Robinson

Rudy Rudisill

### Directors 2019-2021

Colleen Brannan

Stuart Hair

Stephanie Hinrichs

Chris Kemper

Chad Lloyd

Alexandra Myrick

Edwin Peacock, III

Membership John Tabor

Foundation William Bradley

Programs Mac McCarley

1<sup>st</sup> Qtr Edwin Peacock

2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr Ron Kimble

3<sup>rd</sup> Qtr Jeff Atkinson

4<sup>th</sup> Qtr Mac McCarley

## ShelterBox USA Bill Tobin



Sandy introduced Bill Tobin with ShelterBox USA. Bill remarked that he was quite familiar with Charlotte, because in his former life he was an inspector of nuclear power plants and had spent many weeks in and around Charlotte inspecting our local nuclear plants.

ShelterBox began in 2000 as a Cornish Rotary Club's millennium project. With the support of Rotary members and clubs around the world, ShelterBox grew to become an internationally recognized, independent disaster relief organization. Since 2012, ShelterBox and Rotary have been official Project Partners in global disaster relief. ShelterBox is independent of The Rotary Foundation and receives no funding from them, however Rotarians and Rotary groups across the world support them in a variety of ways, from raising funds and awareness to providing support on the ground during response to a disaster. ShelterBox was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2018 and 2019.

Their original goal was to provide shelter for 20 families, but over the last 20 years they have provided shelter for 1.5 million people while responding to over 300 disasters in more than 100 countries. Their primary method for providing shelter is through various types of tents, including some that are tarp-based, as the tarps (industrial strength) can be used for many other useful purposes when the need for temporary shelter has passed. The "Shelter Kits" provide not only tarps, but full-size sets of tools that can be used to do other things, including obtaining employment in the aftermath of a disaster. "ShelterBoxes" include all kinds of useful things including utensils for cooking, eating and drinking, water filters, solar-powered lights and mosquito nets, as well as tools and tarps; not to mention the box itself, which functions as a sturdy, secure, and waterproof storage unit for the family.

And their focus is on the families, both intact and those separated by the disasters. They prioritize women-only led families and orphaned children. As insurance is not available for most people in the areas they serve, and as families lack the funds to re-build their homes right away, the shelters provided by ShelterBox are made to last for months and sometimes years.

Bill went on to note some of their more notable deployments, which included the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami (22,000+ families across 4 countries), the 2010 Haiti Earthquake (33,000+ families), and an continuing effort associated with the Syrian refugee crisis, which has been ongoing since 2012, with shelter provided in Jordan, Lebanon, northern Iraq, Turkey, Greece, Italy, and recently in Syria itself, where they currently have an operation. In addition to the major disasters, they have multiple smaller deployments--13 times across 11 countries in 2019.

While they do respond in the US (hurricanes Katrina and Harvey for example), this is rare, because they are a global Relief Agency and there are so many places around the world with greater needs and fewer resources. And the needs are great—87.9 million people were displaced in 2019 (many displaced in earlier years and continuing); 17.2 from natural disasters and 70.7 from conflict; and 2019 was not a notably bad year.

The majority of their volunteers and response team members are Rotarians, and importantly the Rotarians living in the affected areas provide information and assistance to deployments in their areas. Their response teams are small, usually 12 or fewer, so the local Rotarians provide a lot of sweat equity.

John Hewko, the General Secretary of Rotary International stated that “ShelterBox has a vitally important part to play in the Global Response to Covid-19.” Their primary method for combating the virus is to provide places for people to “shelter in place” to a greater degree than would otherwise be possible. Population density is a major facilitator of the spread of the virus, and by way of example, population densities (in people per square kilometer) of Charlotte = 11, Wuhan, China = 6,000, The Diamond Princess = 24,000, and the Rohingya Refugee Camp in Bangladesh = 40,000. Without a way to isolate people, you can imagine the spread of the virus, and medical facilities in disaster areas tend to be very limited. As of 6/2/2020 that camp had almost 50,000 cases, about double that of the second most impacted UN shelter.

In addition to providing shelter, they are providing education about social distancing and a way to achieve it. Distribution of supplies is much more difficult with the need to keep people separated during aid distribution and with international travel and supply chain difficulties. Bill estimated that they are only about 20% as effective right now as they were before Covid-19, measured in people helped per day.

He went on to discuss the situation around Lake Chad, where 2.4 million people have been displaced by Boko Haram terrorists in the countries of Chad, Niger, Nigeria, and Cameroon. The situation is horrendous with murder, kidnapping, human trafficking and slavery, in addition to destruction of villages leaving the survivors homeless. At the Minawao Refugee camp in Cameroon, ShelterBox is the only provider of shelters for 70,000 refugees. In a survey of 150 families served by ShelterBox, 100% reported improved levels of privacy; 99% of females felt safer because of the solar lights provided; and 98% were more confident after they were trained to use the ShelterBox aid materials.

In response to a question about how they decide where to allocate their resources, Bill said that one thing was that there had to be an international call for aid before they could respond, and that they would not go where they are not wanted. There are 12-15 other criteria that they consider, including how much aid is available from other sources, how long it would take and how much it would cost to make an impact. They have gear stored around the world. Some of it in warehouses donated by Rotarians, and can call upon resources from other organizations and governments when there are disasters needing response.

On the question of providing aid to the homeless here in the US, Bill noted that the problem is too large for them to make an impact and not something that ShelterBox can address without completely

changing what they do. In the US, if you live in a tent you are still homeless; and they are not configured to provide permanent structures fixed to the ground, which would be required to qualify as a 'home'.

Angela Broome Powley asked about ShelterBox's response to mass displacements in the US, situations where housing is largely destroyed and people have nowhere to live in the aftermath, such as with Hurricane Harvey in Houston. Bill responded that their response was limited, as ShelterBox is a Global Relief Agency and there was no international call for assistance. In response to a request from the Houston Health Department, they provided limited assistance in the form of 'shelter within a shelter.' There were some 8,000 people being temporarily housed in the convention center, but they had no infrastructure to provide services for an extended time. ShelterBox was able to provide tents to be used as medical aid stations; to provide a place for 12-step groups to meet; lactation stations for nursing mothers; and a shelter for special needs children who needed some privacy from the crowd.

Bill closed by thanking Charlotte Rotary for providing a donation at the level of a ShelterBox Hero, and for all that we did to contribute to ShelterBox and to Rotary.

Bill Tobin is a very passionate advocate for ShelterBox, and I urge you to visit their website.

- Links
  1. Our Website: <https://www.shelterboxusa.org> direct to volunteer page  
<https://www.shelterboxusa.org/volunteer>
  2. Action Tool Kit: <https://www.shelterboxusa.org/actiontoolkit>
  3. Family activities: Educational and fun, something for everyone.  
[https://www.shelterboxusa.org/coronavirus/family\\_activities](https://www.shelterboxusa.org/coronavirus/family_activities)
  4. Sell a House, Give a home- Our vocational philanthropic partnership for those in Real Estate.  
<https://www.shelterboxusa.org/giveahome>
- VIDEO: 20 Years of ShelterBox (6 min 13sec) [https://youtu.be/Kagua1\\_ILrs](https://youtu.be/Kagua1_ILrs)
- VIDEO: Kunyumba- Home. (6 min 34 sec, subtitled) Having lost everything after Cyclone Idai in 2019, Stephano and Mary were determined to rebuild their livelihoods in Mwalija, Malawi. <https://youtu.be/U-11SdugQiU>
- Follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/shelterboxusa>
- Facebook Live Briefing, Monday June 15<sup>th</sup> Noon ET / 9PT - The Plight of Refugees: Partnering for Peace w RID Jeffry Cadorette and SBUSA Pres. Kerri Murray. Register here <https://www.facebook.com/events/734753553937420>

By: **Rick Handford**

## CLUB NEWS

**STAYING IN TOUCH** with our Rotary members is important. Please take a minute to check on your friends, report funny stories and updates back to me to share with everyone so we can see who is doing what. The Reporter can be used to share what your company is doing to get through the pandemic, what your family is doing, send me your How I Got Where I'm At....anything to keep our members in the know.

**ROTARY SCHOLARSHIP GOLF CLASSIC:** Plans are moving forward to hold the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Rotary Scholarship Golf Classic on September 28, 2020 at Pine Island Country Club. You can find the registration form on the website: [www.charlotterotary.org](http://www.charlotterotary.org). Click on the Events tab on the top row and follow the link. The tournament's Gold Sponsor, Greater Auto Dealers (\$10,000) has confirmed, as has Mecklenburg County Sheriff (\$5,000). Mike Wollinger ([mwollinger@localfirstbank.com](mailto:mwollinger@localfirstbank.com)) is chairing the event and welcomes your support.

CharMeck Responds [www.charmeckresponds.org](http://www.charmeckresponds.org) is a coalition of faith partners, nonprofits, businesses, and other community organizations that are committed to making sure all members of the community are cared for during the Crisis. [Jerry Coughter](#), [Diego Ramon](#), [Jim Hintz](#), and [Bill Gill](#) have utilized this site to join members of the Dilworth South End Rotary club to help out at MedAssist on Tuesday mornings through June. Jerry encourages you to check it out.

William (Bill) H. Meanor, a member of Charlotte Club for 36 years, has passed away at the age of 93. Bill was a great guy loved by many. He is survived by his daughter, son and their families – including four grandchildren. A funny story about Bill. Back in 2004, he called the office to say he was proposing a friend for membership that was great with computers and he could really be a help to the club. When I received the application, the friend was Harriman Jett. Bill was so excited to talk about Harriman's computer knowledge, he failed to mention he was a retired surgeon. That always struck me as funny. The club will make a donation in his memory to Sharon Towers Resident's Assistance Fund.

## MEMBERSHIP

07/01/2019 276 *New Members:*  
06/09/2020 267  
Net Increase -9 *Resignations:* Travis Barnes

## CELEBRATIONS

### BIRTHDAYS (06/17/2020 – 06/23/2020)

06/17 – Jeff Atkinson; Bryan Zeiss  
06/22 – Chad Lloyd; Bill Gill  
06/23 – Stuart Hair

### WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES (06/17/2020 – 06/23/2020)

06/18 – Gayle & Luther Fincher  
06/19 – Gloria & Vernon Anderson; Laura & Charlie Greer  
06/20 – Dot & Tony Marciano; Pamela & Wes Clark  
06/21 – Karen Steffens & Todd Porter; Brenda & George Rohe  
06/23 – Lotta & Harriman Jett; Anne & Boyd Coggins  
06/23 – Kathryn & Pender McElroy

### ROTARY ANNIVERSARIES (06/17/2020 – 06/23/2020)

01 year – Reggie Johnson  
05 years – Jim Rogers  
19 years – Lee Tabor  
20 years – Suzanne Bledsoe; Kip Kiser

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS (utilizing Zoom)

06/16 – John W. Galden, Gensler, Reopening public spaces from an architect's view  
06/23 – Dena Diorio & Joe Penner, Meck Cty response to Covid-19  
06/30 – President's Change-Over (tentatively to be held at SMS Catering – RSVP to follow)  
07/07 – Rocio Gonzales, ED, Latin American Chamber of Commerce Charlotte