

Ref: 10433

21 March 2020

The Rotary Club of Gawler Inc  
PO Box 584  
GAWLER SA 5118

Dear Rotary Club of Gawler

I wanted to thank you for your kind donation last year. Your generosity has made a real difference to the lives of those affected by disaster. One of the reasons we are able to react so quickly when disaster strikes is that our aid is pre-funded by donors like you. This means we are not delayed by lengthy assessments, budget approvals, procurement and logistics.

Whilst the current Covid-19 crisis will have an effect on our operations, we will continue to support those affected by disaster. These disaster-affected communities will be even more vulnerable in these times of a global pandemic.

In October 2019, three powerful earthquakes shook Mindanao Island in the Philippines, damaging homes and destroying whole buildings. Thousands of people were forced to leave their homes, staying in evacuation centres and host homes. Families who had been hit the hardest stayed in makeshift shelters and were not expected to return home for up to six months.



Below you will read how our Shelter kits (pictured above) and essential items like solar lights and mosquito nets enable families to recover from disaster.



## Jeany's Story



31-year-old Jeany, along with her husband and son Mickel, was forced to leave her home when the earthquakes hit. It was the third and final earthquake that shook their home into rubble. Speaking to the ShelterBox team who visited Jeany in December 2019, she was able to recount her experience. She told the team, when the first earthquake hit, she was at home with her husband watching the television. The shaking started and the electricity went off. Jeany and her husband held each other and prayed. After the first one, the only things that were damaged were plates and other fragile items that fell to the floor.

The second earthquake happened when her son was at school. This time, the force from the shaking caused cracks in the walls of her home. *"All I could do was hide under the table and pray,"* she said.

It was the third earthquake that caused her already delicate home to crumble. At the time, Jeany was home alone in her bedroom. She explained how a crack developed in the floor and the foundation poles started to move.

*"The shaking made me feel dizzy, so I just lay on my bed and prayed. It was 30 minutes before my husband was able to return from the farm and check on me,"* said Jeany.

Once he knew she was safe, her husband then ran straight to the school to collect their son. A lot of the school was damaged.

Sadly, at the time, Jeany was pregnant and suffered a miscarriage. She believes it was down to the stress of the situation.

After the third earthquake they had no home as the area they were living in was deemed unsafe to return to. They had to live in a local evacuation centre that was set up immediately. There they shared a tent with three other families. Her husband had to stop working for a month as their farm was also unsafe to work on.

*"After a week we were told we could visit our damaged home to repair it, but we could not live in it,"* said Jeany.

We lived in the tents for three weeks until we received ShelterBox support. The family were given a shelter kit which included two tarpaulins, tool, solar lights and mosquito nets.





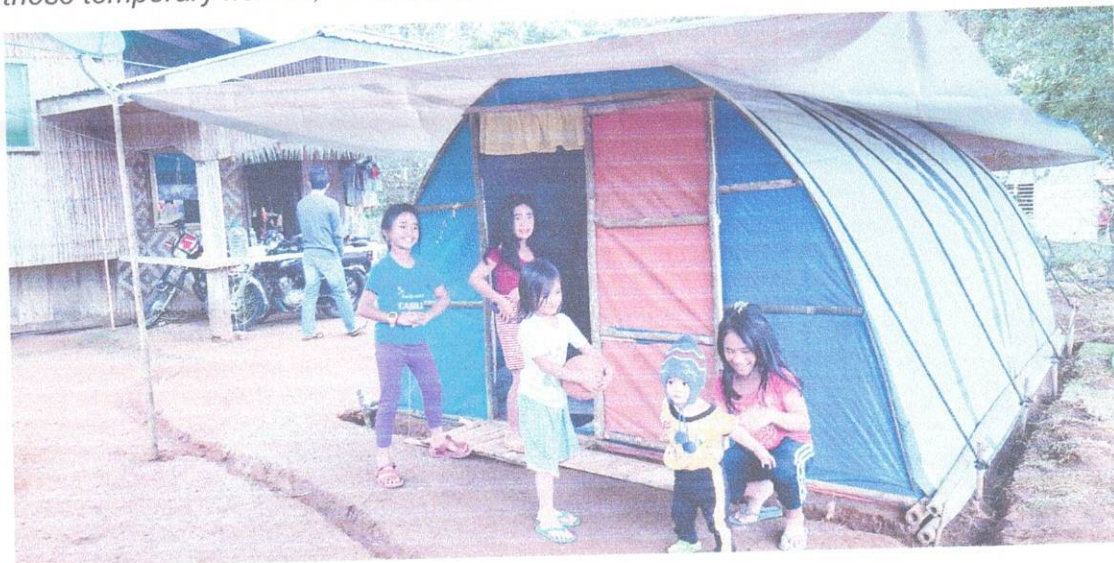
They used the tarpaulin and tools to build a temporary shelter to live in.

*"It took us three days to build, but we now have a comfortable home to live in near to our damaged home, which is a short walk away, so we can repair it easily. We feel safer from the rain and wind and are definitely more comfortable than we were in the tents in the evacuation centre. I feel safer as I know when we are in this new home nothing will fall on us if an earthquake hits us again," she explained.*

Jeany's husband used all the tools to build their home - an extremely well-built shelter. She told the team that he had building skills already, but he had never used tarpaulins in this way, so he found the training ShelterBox provided really helpful.

Jeany and her family are looking forward to rebuilding their original home, which they think will still take a few more months. They are so grateful to have this temporary home to live until it is finished.

*"Since receiving the ShelterBox aid items the community has become closer as we have all helped each other build these temporary homes," she concluded.*





As CEO here in Australia, I'm privileged to witness firsthand the wonderful support we get from our donors transformed into tangible aid that enables communities to recover from disaster.

The Rotary Club of Gawler, our response in the Philippines was swift and effective, not least because of our Operations Philippines office and the wonderful local staff. None of it would have been possible without the support of donors like you.

To find out more about ShelterBox, please visit: [www.shelterboxaustralia.org.au](http://www.shelterboxaustralia.org.au).

Thanks for making a difference!

All the best

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