

Emergency appeal to help Hurricane Matthew victims in Haiti

Thank you to all our supporters who responded to our emergency appeal for help in sending aid to Haiti in the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew. Working with other Rotary charities we shipped 18 Community Filters, followed by a consignment of 500 Aquaboxes, each one containing a Family Filter and over 70 humanitarian aid items. These are being distributed in the worst affected areas by the Rotary Disaster Relief Team in Haiti. The response to our appeal has been magnificent and we have received over £65,000 in donations so far, but with each consignment of 500 boxes costing £80,000, we are not quite there yet in terms of covering the costs of the shipment and helping us to replenish our stocks.



Boxes leaving the depot bound for Haiti in October

Please help if you can. You can donate online at www.aquabox.org or at www.justgiving.com/aquabox, or use your mobile phone to text AQB01 to 70070, or send a cheque to Aquabox, PO Box 5398, Matlock, Derbyshire, DE4 4ZP. *Thank you very much for your support.*



Latest update on Aquabox shipments to Syrian refugees

As we've seen in the recent news, the terrible situation in Aleppo in Syria gets worse and the aid agencies are unable to reach those so desperately in need. We have just received an update from our partner Hand In Hand For Syria, who are planning to distribute the 1,000 Aquaboxes in their warehouse in Syria to the people who will be evacuated from eastern Aleppo. So far nobody has been evacuated, but Hand In Hand are expecting this to start happening soon.

Looking back on 2016 - where we have sent aid to

When disasters strike, whether they are natural ones such as the flooding in India, the forest fires and flooding in Nepal or Hurricane Matthew in Haiti, or man-made problems such as the ongoing Syrian refugee crisis, the need for clean safe drinking water and humanitarian aid is urgent. Aquabox has responded to all of these situations during 2016 to help those in desperate need.



2,620
Aquaboxes
shipped

43
Community
Filters shipped



Aquabox shipments in 2016

- ❖ January
 - 100 boxes sent to Tamil Nadu, India, in response to the severe flooding in the region
 - 500 boxes sent to Syria to families in the refugee camps
- ❖ May
 - 520 boxes sent to Nepal to help those affected by forest fires, flash floods and landslides
 - 25 community filters sent to Cameroon for use in schools
- ❖ August
 - 500 boxes sent to Syria continuing our support
- ❖ October
 - 500 boxes sent to Syria as the refugee crisis worsens
 - 500 boxes and 18 community filters sent to Haiti after the devastation caused by Hurricane Matthew

Aquabox Christmas Tree lights up St Mary's Church in Wirksworth

We were very pleased to have been asked to decorate a tree as part of this year's Christmas Tree Festival in St Mary's Church, Wirksworth, which features trees provided by local groups and charities and runs until 2nd January 2017. Instead of baubles and candles, our tree is decorated with various items we pack in an Aquabox, as well as lots of glittering waterdrops! A special "Christmas Tree Festival Day" takes place on Saturday 17th December in the church from 10.30am to 4.30pm, with craft activities for children, performances of music, singing and the spoken word throughout the day, as well as refreshments, so come along if you can to see all the trees.



Rotary Club visits to Aquabox



Members of the Wylde Green Rotary and Inner Wheel Clubs in front of a consignment of filters for Haiti

In recent weeks we have welcomed to the depot members of the Rotary and Inner Wheel Clubs of Wylde Green, who came for a tour and brought a donation for Aquabox, as well as President Julia Marshall and Rotarian Barbara White from Rothwell & District Rotary Club, who also gave a donation and brought lots of knitted teddies with them.

Members of the Ashby-De-La-Zouch Rotary Club spent a morning with us packing boxes. Twice a year a team of Ashby Rotarians, led by Maurice Stanley, bring a donation to purchase 20 boxes and join our volunteers to fill those boxes themselves.



Rothwell & District RC present a cheque to Bob Jackson



Stewart and his wife Fiona after the race

Sponsored marathon run raises £125 for Aquabox

Congratulations to Stewart Keating, son of Rob Keating of Ayr Rotary Club, who ran the Amsterdam Marathon in aid of Aquabox and raised £125 through sponsorship. He completed the race in just on 4 hours and came in 2,750th out of 14,279 runners from all over the world, a marvellous achievement.

To add to this, the members of Ayr Rotary Club generously pledged another £325 plus gift aid, giving a total of over £500.



Stewart's running vest with Aquabox logo

A BIG thank you to Aviva for her amazing efforts!

One of our younger supporters has been really busy collecting things for Aquabox. Aviva Adcock-Collis first heard of Aquabox from a friend who has been bringing baby items in to the depot on Friday mornings. Aviva started off by sending bags full of her own teddy bears with her friend, but then wanted to collect some things for herself to bring in from friends and family. To help spread the word, she wrote a text and sent it to all of her Mum's phone contacts and also wrote a post for her Mum to put on Facebook.

She asked all of the children and parents at Ashover Primary School where she is a pupil, and nearly everybody who was asked gave something, from pillowcases and baby and children's clothes to soft toys. In total Aviva was collecting items for about 6 weeks and has brought several bags full into the depot. She has now already begun planning what and how to collect more things for Aquabox.



Aviva with her Aquabox Certificate of Achievement



Rotary Club of Ayr produces charity Christmas card for Aquabox

Each year for the past 8 years the Rotary Club of Ayr has produced a charity Christmas card and we were delighted that this year they chose Aquabox as their charity. About 3,500 cards have been sold so far, including 1,000 sent to Aquabox. You may well have already received at least one from Aquabox volunteers!

"I knew I should have stuck with Rudolph" Photograph copyright 2016 Neil Beattie, Ayr

We wish all our Aquabox volunteers and supporters a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Thank you for your support in 2016 and best wishes for 2017.



For more information, including ways in which you can help Aquabox, visit our website at: www.aquabox.org or follow us on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/aquaboxcharity