

November 24, 2009

My name is Gosia Zawadzka, I'm from Poland and along with the other exchange students from Rotary District 7430 I am having one of the biggest adventures of my life. All of us spend one year in the USA, living with American host families, attending high school, learning a new language and culture.

Rotary has given us a great opportunity to experience a new culture, which we couldn't experience in a different way. That's why we want to do a good deed in return for all we have gotten. Nineteen exchangers from six continents and one common goal: collect \$1000 for one Shelterbox.

The idea was born, when I, along with Michelle- an exchange student from Brazil, and with my counselor Patti Smith went to Philadelphia to the Shelterbox Meeting, where the originator, Tom Henderson was talking about this big project. One big box and inside: a tent for ten people, sleeping bags, cooking equipment, school accessories for children and more things, which help to rescue human life. Shelterboxes are sent to places affected by disasters: earthquakes, hurricanes, floods, and tsunamis.

When we told all of this to other exchangers from our district everyone was in agreement to help. Our goal is to collect \$1000 to buy one Shelterbox. In this way we can help people who really need it and join in Rotary's activity of which we are part. Collecting money, we've already started! We have been selling candy bars to our friends, host families, neighbors, and Rotary Clubs. Each candy bar sold is \$1 closer to our goal. We believe that we'll collect the whole sum and send a "Shelterbox" from Rotary Exchange Students, District 7430"

Submitted by Gosia Zawadzka, Hosted by Blue Bell Rotary Club 2009-2010