



Serve to Change Lives

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rotary Club of Ashland receives local and national recognition for its philanthropic efforts

Gary Plano, President 2021-2022

Celebrating 80 years of service this year, President Gary Plano was notified on 20 January that the Rotary Club of Ashland (RCA) has received the **Bronze Hero Award** from **ShelterBox USA** recognizing the outstanding dedication and support from the members of the Rotary club. These efforts have supported household needs for individuals worldwide who need a safe place to live while rebuilding their communities, Peggy Carlaw, ShelterBox Ambassador, said in an email to the president. "Your support is very much appreciated, not only by ShelterBox USA, but by the people who will have hope because they'll have a safe space to begin their recovery."

Following the earthquake that hit Haiti in August of last year, the Rotary club invited a regional member of the ShelterBox team to speak to the club. At that meeting over \$1200 was raised for ShelterBox. In addition to RCA's support, the Rotaract club of Southern Oregon University has raised over \$10,000 for ShelterBox over the past three to four years. The club has also been recognized as a "Hero" for its generous support.

Providing service locally, members of Rotary presented gift cards (\$50 each) to members of the Ashland Senior Center last month totaling over \$1100 along with hand-made "scarves" created by members of the Interact Club at Ashland High School. Interact is a high school club sponsored by RCA that helps young people discover the power of "service over self."

Also in December, RCA members donated over \$500 of personal hygiene items and local gift cards to OHRA (Options for Helping Residents of Ashland). Cass Sinclair, executive director, stated, "Your generous gifts will help continue the vital work of assisting Ashland's homeless and economically stressed neighbors to stabilize and move toward self-sufficiency."

The Rotary Club of Ashland meets weekly on Thursdays. Its meeting schedule can be found at <https://www.ashlandrotary.org/>

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