



Rotary

ROTARY CLUB OF SANTA CLARA

NEWS RELEASE

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**ROTARY CLUB OF SANTA CLARA MEMBERS STEP UP AND RAISE \$6000
FOR NEPAL EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS PROVIDING EMERGENCY SHELTER**

CLUB'S NEWEST MEMBER OF GLOBAL NEPALI PROFESSIONAL NETWORK SHARES NEPAL STORY

Santa Clara, Calif. May 5, 2015 – The Rotary Club of Santa Clara (www.santaclararotary.org) members have taken immediate action in support of the Nepal earthquake victims by which each member “personally donating” funds to purchase and ship emergency shelter kits. Our Rotary partner, Shelter Box (www.shelterbox.org) provides emergency shelter and vital supplies to disaster situations. In addition, the club introduced its newest member, Suresh Ojah who shared his Nepal background and story with us.

“Last Thursday, was a record-setting pass the hat production as our members pledged more than \$4,000 to purchase shelter boxes, in which the Rotary Club of Santa Clara will match with a \$2,000 grant for a total of \$6,000 raised,” said Steve Rainbolt, Rotary club president.

He added “Since the 7.8 magnitude earthquake that rocked Nepal on Saturday, April 25th, Our Rotary connections in the country have been assisting Shelter Box with essential information and logistics.”

In addition, the club’s newest member, Suresh Ojah originally from Nepal, has family and friends still living in Nepal. He is affiliated with the Global Nepali Professional Network (GNPN) www.gnnpn.org, and the project leader in the US of the Radio Mala (Radop Garland) project. Suresh discussed his personal relationship view and reason

to participate in providing funds for Nepal earthquake victims, and the urgent need for shelter and improving communications systems.

For years, Suresh and his team have anticipated this earthquake and pre-deployed ham radio equipment for use should commercial communications systems go down. The **repeater** this team deployed in 2013 is the **only one in the nation** and has been operational since the earthquake. Sadly, another repeater they had hoped to pre-deployed has been held in customs for nearly one and a half months.

Suresh is working with the US State Department, Nepalese Government and others to release the equipment from customs. As of today the equipment sits there still!

For more information about GNPN, and how you can help advance disaster communication in Nepal, and donate, please visit their website at www.gnnpn.org/radio-mala

Online Donation:

<https://life.indiegogo.com/fundraisers/nepal-earthquake-relief-fund-save-lives-in-nepal/x/10622577>

Support Victim of Nepal Earthquake:

http://media.wix.com/ugd/577d4a_3346c0f5cd6e4c5692fe5c0bfb51aa26.pdf

About Shelter Box

Shelter Box, an international aid organization and Rotary International along with individual Rotary clubs are also sending further aid to Nepal, starting with an initial 500 shelter kits, which can be used to mend structures and create temporary shelters. However, club members pre-positioned stocks of equipment in the country meant that the response team was able to start helping people whose lives have been shattered by the earthquake as soon as they arrived in the country. To learn more about **Shelter Box, a Rotary Partner**, please visit their website at www.shelterbox.org

About Rotary Club of Santa Clara

The Rotary Club of Santa Clara, established in 1936, is dedicated to serving the local and world community. Composed of business and community leaders, the club designs its many projects to represent the Rotary motto of "Service Above Self."

Santa Clara Rotary supports the community with many projects: Steps for Success, Christmas for Kids, college scholarships, Enterprise Leadership Conference, Interact and Rotaract clubs, speech contests, and special grants awarded to local organizations. The club's biggest fundraiser, The Silicon Valley Barbecue

Championships (www.svbbq.com) helps to support the funding for these programs. In addition to making major contributions to improve the local community, Rotarians have strongly supported many international projects such as the Rotary goal of global polio eradication.

Rotary International is a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders that provides humanitarian service, encourages high ethical standards in all vocations, and helps build goodwill and peace in the world. Approximately 1.2 million Rotarians belong to more than 32,000 clubs in more than 200 countries and geographical areas. To learn more about the club and membership, please visit our website at www.santaclararotary.org.

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