



ANGUILLA, ST. MAARTEN, ST. MARTIN

**WATER SURVIVAL KITS
&
AQUA BOXES**

REPORT

I. ANGUILLA

On December 20, 2017, two hundred (200) boxes (water survival kits and aqua boxes) arrived in Anguilla. There were one hundred and ninety(190) water survival kits and ten (10) aqua boxes. Due to the volume of containers arriving at the port for the Christmas holidays, the container was not cleared until January 3, 2018. The club was very pleased that the Customs Department and the Government of Anguilla waived all duty fees.

Prior to distributing the aqua boxes, Mrs. Jacqueline Ruan, President of the Rotary Club of Anguilla met Mr. Ambrell Richardson, Director of Health Protection, as to the need and how to distribute the Aqua Filters for the best optimum benefit to the people of Anguilla. An agreement was made to have the Department of Health Protection distribute the Aqua Filters, with the necessary training.

Mr. Sandford Richardson, Commissioner of Social Development also met with members of the Rotary Club of Anguilla to assist in identifying persons in need of the Water Survival Boxes. In addition, Mr. Richardson agreed to assist the Rotary Club of Anguilla with training the staff of the Department of Social Development on how to deliver and document the distribution of the Water Survival Kits.

Thereafter, the distribution process began, and with the assistance of the Anguilla Red Cross and the Government of Anguilla, the members of the Rotary Club of Anguilla were able to delivered the water survival kits to persons in the community who lost all their possessions due to the hurricane.

The Rotary Club of Anguilla was fortunate to have the Director of Zones 33-34, Rotarian Ron Ferrill, visit Anguilla on Thursday February 1, 2018, with the District Governor, Rotarian Robert Leger. (See below photo of Mr. Ferrill delivering a Water Survival Box to Mr. & Mrs. Edgar Richardson of West End, Anguilla).



Zone 33/34 Director Ron Ferrill assisting with delivery of the water survival kits in Anguilla

All recipients of the Water Survival Kits were pleased with the donation and were thankful for the assistance.



Delivery of water survival kits in Anguilla

II. ST. MARTIN

On January 23, 2018, ninety-five (95) water survival boxes and five (5) aqua boxes were shipped to Galisbay, St. Martin from Anguilla. Thanks to the proprietor of the vessel, Mr. Rey, the shipment was provided free of cost.

The boxes were transported to AG Marcellia Henry's Office, the same day, where they were stored. All presidents of the four Rotary Clubs were notified of their arrival. A cost of \$140.00 was charged to have the boxes transported from the port on the French side to the Dutch side of the island.

At the January 24, 2018 meeting, the presidents and secretaries decided that the Rotary Club of St. Martin Nord would receive a portion of the boxes to distribute to persons in need on the French side of the island, while the other clubs would jointly distribute the boxes for the Dutch side of the island. After brainstorming they agreed that the remaining aqua boxes and water survival kits would jointly be given to the Labor and Social Development Department for distribution. This Department of Government on the Dutch side of the island has a database of all registered persons who are in need of assistance.

On January 29, 2018, twenty-five (25) water survival boxes and one (1) aqua box was collected by Rene-Jean Duret, the club disaster chair of Rotary Club of St. Martin Nord to be handed over to the CSI (Centre Symphorien d'Insertion), at Quartier d'Orleans.

The goal of the association is the integration of disadvantaged groups exposed to delinquency and improving the social and professional situation of young people and seniors in French Quarter. The CSI association was the major logistical relay for the emergency actions of the Rotary Club of Saint-Martin Nord for the distribution of foodstuffs, water bottles, clothing and various products towards the stricken populations of French Quarter after Hurricane Irma. See below pictures of handover and distribution of the boxes to the people in the French Quarter community.



Picture of Rene-Jean Duret (r) and CSI association personnel collecting boxes

From AG Marcellia Henry's Office



Delivery to persons whose home were damaged in the French Quarter Community



Delivery to persons in French Quarter Community, who are presently still residing in tents as temporary homes

All recipients of the Water Survival Kits and Aqua water filters were happy and thankful for the donation and assistance.

III. ST. MAARTEN

A meeting with AG Marcellia Henry and Mr. Erick van Arneman, the acting head of the Department of Labor and Social Affairs was held on January 30, 2018. Mr. van Arneman was extremely happy with the content of the boxes and to assist with the distribution of the boxes.

The Department of Labor and Social Affairs has agreed to collect and transport the boxes from AG Marcellia Henry's Office and be stored in a secured room at the Government Administration Building. It was agreed that the water survival kits and aqua water filters will be distributed to families most in need according to their database system. The families will also need to be shown how to use the water purification kit. To document which families receive the boxes and filters, they will have to sign after receiving the items.

It was stressed that none of the aid can be sold or used in any way other than to relieve the suffering of displaced families or those without access to clean water. Prior to going to the homes to distribute the boxes and filters, AG Marcellia Henry will be notified so Rotarians can also be present. It was also shared that photographs of the distribution and of boxes being used by affected families and feedback from the recipients regarding the water purification kits and other essential survival items was needed for reports.

With our District Governor Dr. Robert Leger visiting the islands from January 29, 2018 to February 4, 2018, we decided to have the official handing over of the remaining seventy (70) water survival kits and four (4) aqua boxes done during his visit.

The official hand over to the Minister of Health, the Honorable Emil Lee, was done on February 2, 2018 at the Government Administration Building. See below picture. The Honorable Minister Lee was very impressed by this generous donation and thanked DG Robert Leger, Rotary International and the Rotary Clubs from the United Kingdom and Switzerland on behalf of the Government and people of St. Maarten. Minister Lee has also agreed to be present at one of the distribution dates with Rotarians in one of the districts.

The Department of Labor and Social Affairs will now coordinate when the distribution will commence. The intention is to start distribution by February 17, 2018.



Official handing over of boxes to Minister of Health, Mr. Emil Lee, by District Governor Robert Leger



Handing over to Acting Head of the Department of Labor and Social Affairs

IV. CONCLUSION

Although the delivery of the water survival kits and aqua boxes to Anguilla, St. Martin and St. Maarten were delayed by 3 to 4 months, due to destruction to the ports in the region and other shipment issues, they were well received by persons who are in dire need of the supplies. The materials and items within the water survival kits are practical, essential and what the recipients needed for this new start/beginning post Irma.

These donations enable the Rotary Club of Anguilla, Rotary Club of St. Martin Nord and the Rotary Clubs of St. Maarten to make a valuable contribution towards the improvement of lives of persons impacted by Hurricane Irma. The donations also helped to increase the visibility and knowledge of the Rotary Organization's role in the recovery effects on their islands after Irma.

The Rotary Club of Anguilla, Rotary Club of St. Martin Nord and the Rotary Clubs of St. Maarten would like to thank Rotary International, the Rotary Clubs of United Kingdom, (Wirksworth and Chelwood Bridge, England), and Rotary Clubs of Switzerland for their invaluable donation/contribution.

The Clubs would also like to thank David Hood and Hugo Pike for the tremendous assistance in sourcing and shipping the Water Survival Boxes and Aqua Filters to the islands. A special thank you to PDG Rupert Ross for his help in shipping the boxes to islands from St. Croix, and to PDG Jeremy S. Hurst and the members of the Hurricane Irma Recovery Committee for ensuring the islands received help during our time of need.

Report Compiled by AG Marcellia Henry with contributions from PP Seymour Hodge and PAG Rene-Jean Duret.