

Aquabox receives Community Award from UPS

On a snowy day in February, UPS employees Matthew Gale and Claire Thompson visited the depot to present Aquabox with a cheque for \$5,000, in recognition of its work across the globe to save lives and relieve suffering, as well as promoting volunteering in the community.

Aquabox really appreciates the fantastic support and encouragement it has received from UPS and the Trustees would like to thank Claire, for kicking the whole thing off following her first visit to the depot early in 2017, and setting up the team building event in Alfreton, and Jenny for arranging the follow up session at the depot in September.

We would also like to record our special thanks to Matthew for his drive and enthusiasm in raising the awareness of Aquabox within UPS worldwide, and for securing this generous community award which will enable us to continue our life-saving work and we very much hope that this partnership can continue going forward. You can read a more detailed article on the events we ran jointly with UPS, which led to Aquabox being nominated for this award, on our website at www.aquabox.org.



Claire Thompson and Matthew Gale of UPS presenting the cheque to David Hood

Helping communities in the Caribbean rebuild after the hurricanes of 2017

News continues to reach us from around the Caribbean of the ongoing work by the local Rotary organisations and government agencies to help communities still struggling to rebuild their lives in the aftermath of the devastating hurricanes of last autumn. Relief efforts have been severely hampered by the extensive damage caused to the infrastructure, resulting in it taking much longer than anticipated to get aid to communities most in need.

Working closely with our fellow Rotary charity Water Survival Box, our joint consignment arrived firstly in the US Virgin Islands, where Rotary District 7020 took over the onward distribution to Anguilla, Saint Martin/St Maarten and the British Virgin Islands.



Official hand over to the St Maarten Dept of Labour and Social Affairs

Anguilla – 10 Aqua12 boxes (120 Family Filters) and 190 Water Survival Boxes arrived in Anguilla in late December 2017. With the assistance of the Anguilla Red Cross and Government, members of the Anguilla Rotary Club were able to deliver the aid to people who had lost all their possessions in the hurricanes.

Saint Martin/St Maarten – In January, 5 Aqua12 boxes and 95 Water Survival Boxes were shipped from Anguilla to Saint Martin. The local Rotary clubs took charge of handing the boxes over to the respective government departments responsible for distributing aid on both the French and Dutch side of the island.

British Virgin Islands (BVI) – The BVI Rotary organisation received 5 Aqua12 boxes (60 Family Filters) during the first week of February for distribution within the islands. Demonstrations of the use and benefits of the water filters were carried out to representatives of the BVI Family Support Network which helps families in need, as well as to BVI Rotary clubs who were encouraged to identify potential beneficiaries of the filters and assist with the distribution.



Filter demonstration in the BVI



Hurricane damage in Puerto Rico

Puerto Rico – 12 AquaFilter Community Units, generously funded by the Rotary Club of Dunwoody, Georgia, USA, and the Charitable Fund of Rotary District 6900, were shipped from the Aquabox depot in February bound for Puerto Rico. The filters are being sent to the Rotary Club of Mayagüez in Puerto Rico, which, supported by the Liberty Rotary Club in New York State, will be responsible for identifying the families and communities most in need and for managing the distribution across the island.

Aquabox signs Partnership Agreement with the Roll Out the Barrel Trust



Aquabox Water Filter provides clean drinking water

On 2nd February Aquabox signed a partnership agreement with one of our Rotary sister charities, the Roll Out the Barrel Trust (ROTB), which provides simple push/pull 30 litre water barrels with a handle and rubber tyres making it easier to transport water.

The main objective of the partnership will be to work together to more effectively and efficiently save lives following natural and man-made disasters by supplying water purification equipment and other aid to people in dire need.



ROTB Water Barrel makes it easy to carry water

The partnership will also help establish relationships with other organisations which can help both partners achieve their objectives, raise their profile with distribution and aid agencies, governments and potential donors, and collaborate on fundraising to the benefit of both partners.

Climbing the O2 Dome in aid of Aquabox!

Congratulations to Aquabox Trustees and Wirksworth Rotarians David Haspel, Roger Cassidy and Mike Tomlinson who braved the elements to scale the O2 Dome in London all in aid of Aquabox and our partner charity Roll Out the Barrel Trust!

For the 4th year running, the Rotary Club of Vectis Sunrise from the Isle of Wight organised a sponsored climb of the O2 (Millennium Dome) in London on Rotary Day, Friday 23rd February. This year proceeds will be split between Aquabox and the Roll Out the Barrel Trust, a great example of our new partnership described above in action.



David, Roger and Mike on top of the O2 Dome

The date celebrates the work of Rotary around the world and this event will raise much needed funds for the purchase of Aquaboxes, AquaFilters and Water Barrels to help provide clean water for hygiene and sanitation and reduce disease and illness. It was a bitterly cold day with strong winds, but the intrepid climbers were rewarded with wonderful views on the top where they were treated to a bird's eye view of the sights of London.

It's not too late to sponsor our climbers and donate money to these very worthwhile causes.

Go to <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/DavidHaspel1> or <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/RogerCassidy>



Aquabox at Music In The Gardens

Music In The Gardens returns to Sheffield's Botanical Gardens in 2018 with 3 evenings of music performed by top artists and we are delighted that Aquabox has again been selected as one of the nominated charities at this year's event. Aquabox and the Huntington's Disease Association have been chosen as the 2 charities to benefit from the last night of the event on Sunday 1st July, with the Sheffield Philharmonic and the Unite the Union Brass Band playing well-known hits from West End and Broadway musicals. The night ends with the traditional fireworks display.

Bring a chair or blanket and soak up the fabulous music, enjoy a picnic, a plate of something hot from the high quality food stalls, a good honest pint of real ale from Bradfield Brewery, or a glass of something in the company of friends or family. Last year's event raised more than £1200 for Aquabox and we're hoping for even more this time. Please come along and support us and have a great time. Tickets are on sale from www.sivtickets.com.

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

