**Beth Palmer**

Born and bred east of Rochester, NY in the suburb of Penfield, Beth acquired a Bachelor degree in Organizational Management at a small local college.. She and her husband moved to the Sodus Bay area in 1975. Besides raising two daughters on a small fruit farm, they acquired a small vending business and eventually expanded it until it outgrew their barn. Shortly after they relocated to a bigger house, in a bigger town moving their business into bigger facilities, Beth’s husband/business partner was killed in an auto accident. The next ten years was a decade of transitions, getting daughters through school and off to college and finally, retirement. Moving to Florida meant more mutual volunteer involvement in Rotary International for her

and her second husband. This involvement developed into practically a full-time volunteer commitment for Beth, resulting in the establishment of Shelter Box USA, the first national affiliate of the parent organization, Shelter Box UK – a first responder organization for natural or man-made disasters

internationally. Her acting Executive Director role became official in 2005 when Shelter Boxes were distributed to Katrina victims in the US. Beth’s last formal employment was for a women’s resource center in Sarasota as administrator of a specially-trained volunteer peer group. This position also

developed her involvement with the issue of gender equality and on a personal level, the practice of yoga. Currently, Beth continues as a diligent snowbird in two different environments with two separate life styles, depending on the time of year. But her heart home will always be beautiful Sodus Bay.