BBF has supported Drs. Jesus and Priscilla Ho’s medical work in the Philippines for 34 years, providing medical supplies and equipment for numerous mission trips. These donations from BBF have gone on to help thousands of people. The partnerships that have come from BBF’s relationship with the Hos have helped make the Philippines one of the more frequently aided countries where BBF works.

With the help of fantastic organizations like Bisaya Medical Association, Educational Development Center, Makati Rotary Club Foundation, Inc., Philippine American Medical Society of Western Pennsylvania, The Beautiful Heart Foundation, Valdez Charitable Foundation, World Mercy Teams, World of Hope medical mission teams and several others, BBF has been able to connect more than $165,500,000 in donated medical supplies, medical equipment and educational supplies with people and facilities in need throughout the Philippines since 2007.

Kevin Meszaros, Liam Carstens and Michael Davis
Dr. Priscilla Ho who recently visited BBF Pittsburgh to help with the loading of a shipping container of donated supplies.

Countries and Territories Served in 2018

In 2018, BBF shipped requested supplies to 48 countries including Antigua and Barbuda, Bangladesh, Belize, Bhutan, Brazil, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Iraq, Jamaica, Kenya, Liberia, Lithuania, Malawi, Mexico, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, Puerto Rico, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Tanzania, Ukraine, USA, U.S. Virgin Islands, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

BBF’s Continuing Work in Liberia

With the help of fantastic organizations like Bisaya Medical Association, Educational Development Center, Makati Rotary Club Foundation, Inc., Philippine American Medical Society of Western Pennsylvania, The Beautiful Heart Foundation, Valdez Charitable Foundation, World Mercy Teams, World of Hope medical mission teams and several others, BBF has been able to connect more than $165,500,000 in donated medical supplies, medical equipment and educational supplies with people and facilities in need throughout the Philippines since 2007.

Kevin Meszaros, Liam Carstens and Michael Davis

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BBF’s Continuing Work in Liberia

Happily, in part because of the BBF-Pickering partnership on solar energy work, Bong County has ranked the highest for treatment and patient care of any county in Liberia for the past three years.

Also, longtime friend and former employee of BBF, Liam Carstens, recently stopped by with Partner Liberia Vice President Michael Davis to discuss a partnership with BBF to support facilities previously unreachable through the Foundation’s network in Liberia. Director of Pharmaceuticals and Medical Supplies Program Kevin Meszaros will manage this collaboration from BBF’s side. The first support shipment through this partnership is already on its way to Liberia, with additional shipments planned to fulfill needs as they are identified.

Kevin Meszaros, Liam Carstens and Michael Davis

Solar installation at Santonodu Clinic

Dr. Priscilla Ho who recently visited BBF Pittsburgh to help with the loading of a shipping container of donated supplies.
President’s Report
by Luke Hingson

Brother’s Brother is celebrating its 60th Anniversary this year. A celebration is planned for Thursday, September 20th, at the Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Please visit BBF’s website at www.brothersbrother.org for more information. I hope you can join us.

In the first four months of 2018, product contributions totaled $25,007,143 and product shipments totaled $27,367,160. Direct shipments and medical mission trip support went to people in need in 48 countries. So far this year, BBF has worked in both Puerto Rico and St. Croix, continuing to assist with recovery efforts from Hurricanes Irma and Maria. In the first four months, the BBF Medical Program sent 25 containers of assistance to countries in need while BBF’s Education Program sent 15 container equivalents holding more than 223 tons of library books, textbooks and teaching materials.

Education Shipments

BBF’s Education Program has been active in the first five months of 2018, with connections to the Rotary Clubs International being strong and vital. In January, BBF sent more than 10,000 new books weighing 8,400 pounds to Rotary Club 6200 in Lafayette, Louisiana. January also saw a 40-foot container shipment to Makati Rotary Club Foundation in the Philippines that amounted to over 24,000 new books and weighed 23,400 pounds. As well, BBF sent over 58,000 new books to the Rotary Club of Tena, Ghana that weighed more than 28,000 pounds. BBF has worked with the Rotary Clubs around the world to enhance English language literacy.

February 2018 brought increased book distributions. Working with Life for Relief and Development, BBF was able to send over 25,000 pounds of new and used medical books, medical equipment and humanitarian goods to the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. BBF continued its efforts with the shipping of four 40-foot containers to our longtime partner Food for the Poor in Jamaica. Working with Food for the Poor, BBF was able to send in excess of 53,000 new books that weighed more than 105,000 pounds to the island nation.

Food for the Poor, Jamaica continued to be a recipient of English language books in March 2018, accepting more than 102,000 new books in four 40-foot containers that weighed over 125,000 pounds.

April 2018 saw an equally busy time for the Education Program, as BBF sent four 40’ containers of new Spanish language books to El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras and Guatemala. These containers were loaded with over 21,000 new books to El Salvador, 31,000 to Nicaragua, 23,000 to Honduras and 18,000 to Guatemala. All told, these four containers weighed more than 126,000 pounds.

These statistics demonstrate the generosity of donors and the Foundation’s activity in enhancing both English and Spanish language literacy. However, they do not adequately reflect the life-changing impact of these donations around the world. BBF is glad to be able to assist needy school-aged children and young adults in their efforts to strive towards levels of learning that they would otherwise be unable to achieve.

Staff Spotlight

As BBF celebrates its 60th Anniversary, it continues to highlight the work of its team members. The BBF warehouse team in both Fairfax and Pittsburgh and masters of using every square inch of space available to them. These gentlemen balance the demands of donors and recipients alike. Processing donations, pulling shipments and loading containers are all part of a day’s work. The Pittsburgh team, led by Warehouse Manager Rob Miller who has been with the organization a remarkable 25 years, inventories all of the pharmaceutical donations that BBF receives each year. Warehouse Associates William “B.J.” Shaffer and Julian Mascilli also can be found staging shipments and even sorting medical supplies when not busy with larger tasks.

In Fairfax, BBF’s jack-of-all-trades Rodney Merrill is most often found behind the wheel of one of the BBF trucks. His visits to D.C. and Baltimore Metro Area hospitals keeps the BBF/NCA Medical Supply Recovery Project going. When not picking up, loading and unloading containers, Rodney can be found inventorying equipment.

Circus Saints and Sinners Club of America Bob Prince Tent Man of the Year Dinner

The Circus Saints and Sinners Club of America, Bob Prince Tent, is honoring and toasting Tom Greash, President of Henderson Brothers and the Mario Lemieux Foundation, as its 2018 Man of the Year.

Come join the happy crowd on Monday, June 18, 2018, from 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. at LeMont Restaurant. Proceeds will benefit the Mario Lemieux Foundation and BBF. For additional information, call Anthony DiNardo at 412-951-7884.
BBF-Supported Medical Mission Trips

Avail for Health International Initiative’s Medical Mission Trip to Uganda

Avail for Health International Initiative’s medical mission to Uganda took the team to the Parklane Hospital in Enugu. BBF supported this trip with a donation of 345 bottles of medication and 34 pounds of basic medical supplies that the team used to provide care to 196 people. Like many BBF-supported mission teams, Avail for Health International Initiative left the medications it didn’t have time to use with the Parklane Teaching Hospital to bolster the facility’s pharmacy. This allows the team’s efforts to continue even after its return home.

Global Smile’s Medical Mission to Ecuador

Massachusetts-based Global Smile Foundation recently sent out a report on its return medical mission trip to the León Becerra Hospital in Guayaquil in Gye, Ecuador. This fantastic team of volunteers provided dental care to hundreds of patients, including 127 surgeries and more than 1,600 other dental procedures.

The team reported that many of the patients it treated in the 1990s returned as volunteers.

Foundation of Hope and Health in Haiti’s Medical Mission Trip to Carries and Île-à-Vache

The Foundation of Hope and Health in Haiti recently reported on a medical mission trip that BBF supported to Carries and Île-à-Vache. Over the month it was there, the team provided medical and vision care as well as public and professional training at the foundation’s permanent clinics, providing assistance to more than 2,800 patients. BBF provided 289 bottles of medication to the effort, which also helped stock the clinic’s pharmacy after the trip was completed.

BBF’s Mission Trip Program in 2018

In the first four months of 2018, BBF supplied medical supplies and pharmaceuticals to 129 medical mission trips to 38 countries.
A Decade of Disaster Relief, 1970-1980

In the Peruvian region of Ancash on May 31, 1970, as many as seventy thousand people were killed and nearly a million left homeless in Peru’s most deadly earthquake. This became the Foundation’s first important response to a natural disaster. Ralph Hingson, then a graduate student at the University of Pittsburgh, made it to Peru while there were yet aftershocks to advise the Foundation on what to send. From there, he coordinated with his father in the shipment of medical equipment and drugs to ward off the possibility of epidemics.

The earthquake had destroyed the sewage system in many places and typhoid often lurks in the shadow of any disaster. BBF found a strong partner in this response in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh, that raised funds and facilitated a mercy flight into Peru by Dr. Hingson and six volunteer health professionals. [1]

Two nights before Christmas 1972, a 6.3 magnitude earthquake hit Managua, the capital of Nicaragua, killing thousands and displacing several hundred thousand. Within a few days, Dr. Hingson had arrived to distribute aid, provide medicines and tend to the wounded. (Around the time he did, another Pittsburgh giant, Roberto Clemente, who had used his fame to further philanthropic work, was killed when a cargo plane overburdened with aid bound for Nicaragua crashed.) In quick succession, Brother’s Brother began responding to a series of other natural disasters in Latin America: Hurricane Fifi in Honduras (1974), a devastating earthquake in Guatemala (1976), Hurricane David in the Dominican Republic (1979), a volcanic eruption on the island of St. Vincent (1979) and Hurricane Allen in the Dominican Republic and St. Lucia (1980). [2]

It was during Hurricane Fifi that Luke, the Hingson’s youngest son, began to steadily increase his responsibilities in the Foundation. As his father became busier in the sunset of his career in the various appointments he held at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC), he tasked Luke with the logistics of aid delivery. Dr. Hingson had expected a manageable response when he had asked for local help, but the response was overwhelming. Dozens of doctors volunteered their services. UPMC and other hospitals in southwest Pennsylvania offered many tons of medicines, medical supplies and equipment; Heinz provided canned soups. The Teamsters union and a unit of the Army Reserve agreed to gather and temporarily store the goods. And finally, Rockwell, Heinz, Gulf Oil, J & L Steel and U.S. Steel made available their airplanes to deliver the aid and shuttle health professionals there for free. All in all, Brother’s Brother sent ten tractor trailer loads to alleviate Hondurans in distress. At one point, Dr. Hingson arrived at the Foundation’s warehouse expecting to see his son organizing a modest amount of aid. He found the facility brim-full and Luke, then twenty-two, busily coordinating so dramatic a response. The long-term consequence of the hurricane was to cement partnerships between BBF in the ongoing collection of medical supplies and equipment for redistribution abroad.
