BBF Hosts Representatives from Puerto Rico

BBF recently sent two additional containers to Puerto Rico. One of these was from BBF’s Baltimore warehouse, and the other was from BBF in Pittsburgh. BBF also sponsored three shipments of medical relief to different parts of the island. Centro Medico, located in San Juan, received a container of 100 new mattresses as replacements for worn out ones. Unidos por Puerto Rico, one of BBF’s partners on the island, received the other two sponsored shipments, as well as the container from the BBF warehouse in Baltimore. The group has a well-organized distribution system on the island and will send the relief to those in highest need through its dispersal channels.

Through June of this year, BBF’s Hurricane Maria relief effort to Puerto Rico included 88 shipped and scheduled container shipments for use in more than 50 humanitarian distributions and supporting 20 hospitals. This support continues at a pace that ensures that relief efforts continue to have a steady supply without being overwhelmed.

BBF’s hurricane relief efforts in Puerto Rico would not have been possible without the unwavering support of Luis Garratón, LLC and its President Raúl Rodriguez. They have been invaluable in clearing containers, providing logistical assistance and organizing distribution. Our heartfelt thanks to them. BBF is hosting Mr. Rodriguez and a delegation from Puerto Rico on July 6th. The purpose of the visit is to thank the people of Pittsburgh, BBF and the Pittsburgh Pirates for their help following the devastation of Hurricane Maria.

BBF Responds to Hawaiian Volcanic Eruption with The Food Basket, Hawai’i Islands Food Bank and the Bodacious Women of Pahoa

BBF was pleased to distribute designated funds to those in need following the recent volcanic eruption in Hawaii with the help of BBF Board Chair Phil Jones. BBF contacted the Hawaii Islands Food Bank which, in turn, worked with the Bodacious Women of Pahoa to distribute supplies to those who lost their homes.

For more information, please visit The Food Basket’s website at www.hawaiifoodbasket.org or view the Star-Advertiser’s video on YouTube titled “Bodacious Women of Pahoa’s provide relief to those affected by lava in Puna” at https://youtu.be/A2T9kXgYBO8.

BBF Requests the Pleasure of Your Company as it Celebrates 60 Years of “Connecting People’s Resources with People’s Needs”

Thursday, September 20, 2018

Senator John Heinz History Center
1212 Smallman Street,
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Cocktails: 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Dinner: 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
A brief presentation celebrating BBF’s 60-year history will follow dinner.

BBF wishes to thank these sponsors for their support of BBF’s 60th Anniversary Gala Celebration

For more information, visit www.brothersbrother.org/60thanniversary

Countries and Territories Served in 2018

In 2018, BBF shipped requested supplies to 56 countries including Antigua and Barbuda, Bangladesh, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Columbia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Iraq, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Liberia, Lithuania, Malawi, Mexico, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Puerto Rico, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Ukraine, United States of America, U.S. Virgin Islands, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Inside

President’s Report
BBF-Supported Medical Mission Trips
BBF Officers
Board Chair
Phillip D. Jones*
Vice Chair
Thomas L. Wentling, Jr.*
Treasurer
Joseph T. Senko*
Secretary
Austin P. Henry, Esq.*
Medical Director
Deborah K. McMahon, M.D.*
President
Luke L. Hingson
*also a trustee
Other BBF Trustees
Barry Byer, M.D.
Robert Dennis, Esq.
Dinita Thomas
Neal Walker
Kevin Meszaros
Rodney Merrill
Dave Mercado
Julian Mascilli
Velimir Letoja
Ilva Letoja
Bryn Laffey
Rebecca Jones
Hongsu Jeon
Jonathan Holdsworth
David Holdsworth
Trevor Hautau
Andrew Harvin
Richard Goddard
Antonella Ferraro
Karen Dempsey
William Davis
Sarah Boal
David Goodheart
Antoinetta Ferraro
Ryan Gindlispenger
Richard Goddard
Andrew Harvin
Trevor Hautau
David Holdsworth
Jonathan Holdsworth
Hongou Jeon
Rebecca Jones
Bryn Laffey
Ilva Letoja
Velimir Letoja
Julian Mascilli
Dave Mercado
Rodney Merril
Kevin Meszaros
Robert Miller
Gina Pearlman
Lars Peterson
Erik Ryan
Ozzy Samad
Carolyn Santora
Frank Szente
Sara Shakin
William Shaffer
William Simpson
Dinta Thomas
Neal Walker
Phone: 412-321-3160
Fax: 412-321-3325
mail@brothersbrother.org
website: www.brothersbrother.org
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 six months of 2018, product contributions totaled $34,866,343, and product shipments totaled $35,865,742. Direct shipments and medical mission trip support went to people in need in 56 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 six months, the BBF Medical Program sent 50 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.

BBF Trustee Louann Tronsberg Deihle was a successful businesswoman, numbers whiz, avid reader and mentor to countless young female professionals throughout the Pittsburgh area. Ms. Tronsberg Deihle, 55, of Sewickley, who served as Treasurer of Pittsburgh-based Koppers, Inc., died after complications from cancer on June 11. Louann also served as Treasurer for BBF in 2015 and as a voting Trustee from 2015-2016. She will be greatly missed by family, friends and the Trustees and staff of BBF.

BBF has had a number of staff changes in both Pittsburgh, Pa and Fairfax, Va. In Pittsburgh, Brandon Simpson has taken on the job of Warehouse Associate/Driver, Ilva Letoja returns to BBF as Director of Education Program and Organizational Systems, Bryn Laffey also returns and has assumed the responsibilities of Assistant Director of Pharmaceuticals and Medical Supply Recovery Program, and Rebecca Jones joins as BBF’s new Volunteer Coordinator. At BBF-NCA Dave Mercado, Andrew Harvin, Jonathan Holdsworth, Anthony Achterhof and Sara Shakin (not pictured), all join as Seasonal Medical Recovery Supply Workers and Hongsu Jeon serves as a Medical Supply Recovery Project Assistant.

Africa Shipments

Since March, BBF has sent a total of seven shipments to African countries. Of these, two were sent from the BBF Pittsburgh warehouse and five were sent from New Windsor (see New Windsor Shipments below for more details). The two shipments from Pittsburgh were sent to Mutambara Hospital in Zimbabwe, and to Partner Liberia in Monrovia, Liberia, and to Partner Liberia in Monrovia, Liberia. Included on these containers were multiple pallets of medical supplies, refurbished medical equipment and numerous walkers, wheelchairs and crutches. Both of the shipments will be arriving in early July. Further shipments to Ghana, Zimbabwe and Chad are planned in July.

New Windsor Shipments

Over the past two months, BBF worked with the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, Maryland to ship five forty-foot containers of medical supplies and equipment to Ghana, Liberia and Malawi. All of the material was donated by IMA World Health of Washington, D.C., and was sorted, prepared and packed by the Brethren Service Center staff.

Two shipments went to Phebe Hospital and School of Nursing in Phebe, Liberia and Ganta United Methodist Hospital in Ganta, Liberia. Two other shipments went to Accra, Ghana where they will be distributed by the Christian Health Association of Ghana that has a network of 302 health facilities throughout the country. Brother’s Brother would like to thank IMA World Health for its donation and Brethren Service Center for its fine work.

Staff Updates and Changes
BBF-Supported Medical Mission Trips

Three Strands Medical Mission to Cap-Haitien, Haiti

The Three Strands medical mission team based in Winona Lake, Indiana, recently reported on its trip to Cap-Haitien, Haiti. The team provided medical care to more than 650 patients at a local clinic of the same name which the team has supported for years. BBF supported this most recent trip by providing 266 bottles of medication. This was the fourth Three Strands medical mission trips that BBF has supported this year.

Gold Coast Medical Foundation in Dominican Republic

New York-based Gold Coast Medical Foundation reported the details of its medical mission trip to the Dominican Republic. With the help of 303 bottles of medication and 130 pounds of supplies donated by BBF, the team opened pop-up clinics around Santo Domingo in Christo Rey, Enriquio and Juan Guzman. These clinics provided medical and dental care as well as public health education to more than 1,300 patients.

The team has already undertaken another medical mission trip, this time to Ghana, that BBF also supported. We look forward to hearing how it went!

Carolina Honduras Health Foundation in Honduras

The Carolina Honduras Health Foundation recently reported on its medical mission trip to Honduras, the third supported this year by BBF. With the help of these 48 bottles of medication and 14 pounds of medical supplies, the team provided medical care and training at clinics in Chapagua, Francia, Limon and Plan de Flores, treating nearly 400 patients.

Circle of Hope International in Malawi

BBF supported Circle of Hope International’s recent medical mission trip to Malawi with 105 bottles of medication and 17 pounds of basic medical supplies. During this trip, the team traveled east of Mvera in the Dowa District to provide medical, dental and vision care to 675 patients at the Grace Center Pop Up Clinic. BBF has supported Circle of Hope International’s work in Malawi since 2012 and the team was very excited to be able to bring along an optometrist and a dentist for the first time.

BBF’s Support of St. Luke’s Anglican Hospital in Nigeria

In BBF’s continuing support of the St. Luke’s Anglican Hospital in Wusasa, Nigeria, BBF sent four trays of surgical instruments along with Reverend Doug Sherman of the St. James Anglican Church in Penn Hills, PA and Archbishop Ali Buba Lamido of the Church of Nigeria Anglican Communion.

BBF also sent its first direct container shipments to the facility earlier this year.

BBF’s Mission Trip Program in 2018

In the first six months of 2018, BBF supplied medical supplies and pharmaceuticals to 222 medical mission trips to 49 countries.
Did you know? You can send a donation to BBF in honor or memory of a friend or loved one and BBF staff will send a personalized note at your direction. In the first six months of 2018, BBF received 183 gifts in honor or memory totaling $732,179. For additional information about BBF honor or memory cards, please call 412-321-3160.


1982 was a watershed year for Brother’s Brother—the year Dr. Hingson, then in poor health, passed the torch to his youngest son, Luke. The doctor and his wife Gussie retired to her native Georgia, in the little town of Ocilla. Impaired by polymyositis—a neuromuscular illness that impeded his ability to walk without the aid of two canes—Dr. Hingson continued to speak and motivate people to action. A powerful orator, he used his retirement to fundraise for the polio campaign he had turned over to Rotary International.

At one such event, a woman in the audience exclaimed, “But Dr. Hingson, you have your own illness to cope with!” He replied resolutely, with his deep Southern accent: “Better to be disabled at the end of life rather than at the beginning of it.”

In 1987, Dr. Hingson received the President’s Volunteer Action Award from President Ronald Reagan. As his health deteriorated further, he was unable to speak. One of the last times his son Ralph saw him, he was handed a note by his father, who had copied the final three stanzas of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow’s “A Psalm of Life”:

Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time;
Footprints, that perhaps another,
Sailing o’er life’s solemn main,
A forlorn and shipwrecked brother,
Seeing, shall take heart again.
Let us, then, be up and doing,
With a heart for any fate;
Still achieving, still pursuing,
Learn to labor and to wait.

An encapsulation of his and Gussie’s life work if there ever had been. 1 In 1996, Dr. Hingson passed away at the age of 83. Gussie Hingson, who would outlive him by fifteen years, passed away in 2011 at the age of 95.

Meanwhile, the foundation they had created lived on. Luke Hingson was 29 years old when he took the reins from his father. By the time of Dr. Hingson’s retirement, BBF had been in existence for more than two decades and had moved from Ohio to Pittsburgh. Originally, Luke explains, the organization had been known as Operation Brother’s Brother, established with a specific medical mission: the term “operation” made it finite, an endeavor set to end upon completion. There had always been a vague hope, but no plan, for a long-term future. Its committed donors numbered a few hundred at most, most of them volunteers. Viability and expansion would require a new vision and significant changes. 2

1 Luke Hingson (BBF President), interview by Lars Peterson, March 2018.
2 Ralph Hingson (Dr. Robert and Gussie Hingson’s son), interview by Lars Peterson, March 2018.
3 Luke Hingson (BBF President), interview by Lars Peterson, August 2015.

1815.jpg

1 Luke Hingson (BBF President), interview by Lars Peterson, March 2018.
2 Ralph Hingson (Dr. Robert and Gussie Hingson’s son), interview by Lars Peterson, March 2018.
3 Luke Hingson (BBF President), interview by Lars Peterson, August 2015.

1 Luke Hingson (BBF President), interview by Lars Peterson, March 2018.
2 Ralph Hingson (Dr. Robert and Gussie Hingson’s son), interview by Lars Peterson, March 2018.
3 Luke Hingson (BBF President), interview by Lars Peterson, August 2015.