In September 2019, BBF staff Laura Kelly and Neal Walker traveled to Ghana with partner organization Project Theia. The purpose of the trip was twofold: to meet with recipients of our Africa container program, as well as to begin a dialogue with different government ministries.

BBF and Project Theia visitors stayed at a guesthouse adjoining the Friends Eye Center, an eye clinic that recently received a container of BBF supplies and equipment. Friends Eye Center is run by Dr. Seth Wanye, who has been our main contact in ensuring that delivery of medical goods is successful.

Through Dr. Wanye, several different partner meetings were arranged. The first of these was with the Minister of the Interior where we were given assurances that further containers of supplies and equipment would be cleared without delay. The Minister was also made aware of new potential programs being developed by Project Theia and BBF. Following our first meeting, BBF staff was also able to meet with representatives from both Ghana Health Services and Ghana Supply Company. Further communication between BBF and both of these government departments is expected. In particular, our focus with the Ghana Health Services will be on collecting information relating to already-existing water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) projects throughout the country. As BBF begins to roll out our new WASH programming, we would like to make sure we are coordinating well with groups already working in the sector.

In addition to the national government, BBF staff met with district governments in Kumasi where Friends Eye Center is located. The discussion centered around securing government buy-in for future programmatic work in the Kumasi area. Communication will be ongoing as our work progresses. Other meetings included hospitals and clinics, needing equipment and supplies. This will help BBF assess the regional situation with regard to healthcare gaps.

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Program Assessment in Ghana
By Neal Walker

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Puerto Rico Site Visits
By Sarah Boal and Javier Janik

BBF staff members Sarah Boal and Javier Janik visited Puerto Rico in September 2019 to meet with partners and tour both ongoing and potential project sites.

The visit to the town of Loíza, where BBF has been partnering with municipal leaders and other organizations on multiple projects, was insightful. BBF staff members got their hands dirty painting several neighborhood homes alongside partners from AESARA Foundation, The Robert Pack Foundation, and Domino’s Pizza Foundation. During a lunch break, Loíza Mayor Julia Fuentes showed BBF staff a vacant school property being considered for a multi-purpose facility, including emergency sheltering. The day was long but successful as the paint projects on three homes were finalized.

Collaborative meetings were held with BBF partners from Luis Garratón, LLC and Dogería Betances to discuss ongoing school projects BBF helped fund. Repairs to both Julian E. Blanco School in San Juan and Agustín Stahl High School in Bayamón were reported to be completed and being enjoyed by students. Additional projects still in process were evaluated and next steps coordinated. Also discussed were potential new projects, including the launching of an entrepreneurial training program for young Puerto Ricans.

BBF staff members traveled to Ponce, on the southern part of the island, to meet with Laura Domenech of Ponce Medical Foundation. The highlight of the morning was seeing the Ponce Medical Foundation’s mobile care unit, which BBF helped fund and that is used to provide medical care to remote areas of the island. From Ponce, staff members traveled to the mountainous town of Jayuya to visit a healthcare clinic where BBF had helped install solar panels and supplied medical equipment. A complete tour of the facility was provided by Domenech and clinic staff members, where ongoing needs were discussed. After visiting Centro Diagnóstico y Tratamiento Jayuya, the team visited another nearby village to assess the needs of the local health clinic. It has many challenges, requiring infrastructure repairs, equipment, and medicines.

BBF delivered new and refurbished musical instruments collected by Sewickley Academy students Max Reyes and Samantha Smith to Escuela Jesús T. Piñero, a musical vocational school. In the afternoon, BBF staff members visited with Puerto Rico Rises, an organization that distributed much of the relief supplies BBF had sent following Hurricane Maria. Puerto Rico Rises continues to assist with reconstruction efforts in Puerto Rico and has been partnering with BBF in providing assistance to The Bahamas following Hurricane Dorian in September.
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Ozzy Samad

As both Thanksgiving and the holidays approach, along with the year coming to a close, there is much at BBF for which we are thankful. First and foremost, we would not be able to do our work without the ongoing support of you - our donors, BBF’s tirelessly working Board and staff, our partners across the globe and the gracious collaboration of so many on the ground.

The year was characterized by the growth and development of BBF’s programs with a focus on sustainable development. Under the H.I.D.E acronym, this encompasses the four distinct areas of Healthcare, Infrastructure, Disaster response, and Education. Our work going forward will fall into each of these program categories which are structured as follows:

I. HEALTHCARE: The Healthcare program has three areas:
1. Pharmaceutical donations: Going back to 1972 and prior, when BBF Executive Chair Luke Hingson went to Mylan Pharmaceuticals in his family station wagon, to today’s multimillion-dollar donations, our pharmaceutical program continues to help many across the globe who are often in dire need of medicines.
2. Medical Supply Recovery: One of BBF’s core activities for many decades, this program is centered around collecting medical equipment and supplies primarily from our hospital partners and helping many similar institutions around the globe which too are trying help their patients with often scarce resources.
3. Med-Surg (formerly Mission Trip): This program focuses on supporting our physician partners and their teams, who give of their time to help patients on the ground in various countries.

II. INFRASTRUCTURE: This program is characterized by two categories:
1. Solar: BBF has been involved with the installation of solar panel systems since early 2013. The program began with first supplying batteries to six hospitals and since then has grown in size and scope. At the end of 2018, our teams had equipped nearly 50 clinics and hospitals in sub-Saharan Africa and Puerto Rico. We are currently working on a USAID Power Africa grant for providing solar power to healthcare facilities across Liberia.
2. WASH: The WASH or Water and Sanitation Hygiene program is a new BBF initiative and continues to take shape as the staff works to identify areas in which the greatest impact and alignment can be achieved. Explorations of potential water projects are underway with a focus on the needs of communities in Honduras and the hurricane devastated islands of The Bahamas.

III. DISASTER RESPONSE: BBF reinforces on-the-ground disaster response efforts through a variety of activities. Needs are dictated directly by the demands of beneficiaries rather than supply-side donors. We believe this is the key to ensuring an impactful response. In particular, we provide humanitarian aid, solar backup systems, and school and medical facility reconstruction, along with grant funding for medical product purchases. Our goal is to respond quickly in an effective, efficient, and engaged manner.

IV. EDUCATION: BBF’s work in the education arena was initiated by Gussie Hingson, the wife of our founder Dr. Robert Hingson and mother of BBF Executive Chairman Luke Hingson. Since then, our program has grown from providing textbooks to partners across the globe, to evaluating the potential of professional development training for teachers in partner locations. BBF also works with schools to rebuild their facilities following disasters and strengthen their capacity to serve students. From repairing roofs to equipping classrooms, and from providing curriculum to training teachers, BBF’s goal is to aid in the improvement of global education.

The Brother’s Brother team is immensely thankful to be able to positively impact lives across the globe through your support. We look forward to continuing our work together into the new year and beyond!

MISSIONARY EXPEDICTORS FORUM

by Tanner Rowe

In New Orleans, LA from October 16-18, Javier Janik and I, Tanner Rowe, attended the Missionary Expeditors (MX) Forum to learn more about the shipping and logistics handled by MX. Not only did we get a background of the everyday experiences of the MX logistics team, we also got to meet with many of their customers and clients, many working towards similar missions. Conference speakers included Paul Vicinanzo, the Transportation Division Chief from USAID, who dove into the Ocean Freight Reimbursement Program, of which BBF was a recent awarded recipient. Another speaker was Alex Rodgers of Operation Blessing who spoke about warehousing processes that should be followed when delivering and storing in foreign countries, or as he stated, “What do we do when it gets there.” His main points of storage, security, and distribution can be directly correlated to our own warehouses. Every individual who spoke had some unique experiences in special projects and how they manage them. Robin Townley from Maersk spoke of its work in the aftermath of recent disasters and how its teams were able to get equipment, containers, and people into those areas to help. The final day was taken up with presentations from individuals from MX. They were there to talk about how processes work for them, some key points of what we all should be looking to do in the future, and of course to answer any questions. An interesting part was that they were able to introduce the MX National Team. They will be handling any FTL or LTL domestic shipments here in the US, which will be beneficial in BBF scheduling domestic shipments into our warehouses. We were able to meet everyone at MX and enjoy a couple days in their hometown, which will help the BBF/MX relationship continue smoothly going forward.

THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

We’d like to thank the fantastic groups of volunteers that offered their time and service in support of BBF’s mission. Since our last newsletter, we were fortunate enough to host numerous groups from the University of Pittsburgh’s Civic Engagement Council, a medical supply sort with George Mason University and Falk Laboratory School that assembled more than 500 hygiene kits, a medical supply sort with Woodland Hills High School that assembled 50 kits, a supply collection handed by the Future Business Leaders of America Club and a group from LaRoche University, pictured in this article, as part of its Freshman Day of Service.

We’re always looking for volunteers. If you are interested in helping BBF sort medical supplies, please contact Rebecca Jones at 412-321-3160 or sign up online at https://brothersbrother.org/join/volunteer/.
In mid-September, the Community Church of Seattle’s med-surg team traveled to Huayarin, Callao District, Pachacamac, and San Juan de Miraflores in Peru to provide medical and dental care as well as public health education. With the help of 76 bottles of medication and 32 pounds of medical supplies provided by BBF, this tour saw the team treat just under 500 patients. BBF has worked with this team since 2011, providing material support for onsite medical assistance in Cambodia, China, Costa Rica, Honduras, Indonesia, Nepal, Mongolia, and Thailand.
Brother’s Brother Foundation is pleased to announce that financial support from federal employees continues. Many thanks to both our new and renewing CFC donors. Look for BBF in the fall 2019 campaign brochure. For donors who are not government employees, please remember that some employers match individual donations. Ask about your employer’s matching gifts program. This is a great way to give to BBF. Thank you!

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BBF’s new Combined Federal Campaign number is 12228

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GIVING TUESDAY 2019

The time has never been better to get involved, give back and help others! Giving Tuesday is on December 3rd, 2019 and Brother’s Brother Foundation needs your help to assist so many in need.

To make a donation in honor of Giving Tuesday 2019, please visit our website at www.brothersbrother.org

GIVING IN HONOR/MEMORY

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 ten months of 2019, BBF received 282 gifts in honor or memory totaling $116,341. For additional information about BBF honor or memory cards, please call 412-321-3160.

GIVING TUESDAY IS NEAR!

YEAR END GIVING

As you consider the year’s challenges and accomplishments, now is a good time to review and update estate plans. The following checklist of estate planning actions may be helpful.

- Review your current will and trusts.
- Take inventory and make a written record of the contents of any safe-deposit box.
- Review the beneficiary designations for your life insurance policies and retirement plans.
- Make sure your durable power of attorney for health care and your living will is current.
- Complete your charitable contributions by December 31.

As you think about special holiday gifts for family and friends, remember that making charitable gifts to organizations such as Brother’s Brother Foundation in their honor can be a heartwarming experience that also offers you tax benefits.