



# BROTHER'S BROTHER FOUNDATION

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# Coronavirus COVID-19

In these unprecedented times of worry for our loved ones and so many across the globe, we have received multiple inquiries from concerned citizens as to what they can do to help combat the global pandemic.

In response to these inquiries, BBF has set up a fund to enable people to donate to the COVID-19 response. Your contributions will be used in one of two ways:

The first is to assist with the acquisition and shipment of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) to our partners. This includes working closely with local government agencies, healthcare providers and front-line responders. In the greater Pittsburgh region, these efforts focus on local hospitals and community clinics serving the needy and often homeless members of society.

The second area of assistance is to help provide funding for research focused on finding a vaccine for COVID-19. BBF began with Dr. Robert Hingson vaccinating at risk populations around the world. Our Medical Director today is a researcher in the infectious disease area. Being able to assist in such research will contribute to worldwide efforts to prevent further infection and to find a cure.

There will undoubtedly be many challenges to come for some time ahead, but BBF remains optimistic that with our spirit intact, together we can forge ahead and overcome these challenges.

## ZACH/NYADIRE CONNECTION ZIMBABWE SHIPMENT ARRIVAL

by Sarah Boal

BBF shipped two containers to Nyadire, Zimbabwe in partnership with the Zimbabwe Association of Church-Related Hospitals (ZACH) and Bethel Park-based The Nyadire Connection. The containers arrived in late February and early March. This shipment included furniture for the Home of Hope orphanage, hand-made baby blankets and hats for newborns for Nyadire Hospital, furnishings for the recently rebuilt Sindi Rural Health Clinic, "Girls Empowerment Pad" kits for local clinics and schools, and sewing machines for repair work. One of these is solar powered.



## BBF CONTINUES SUPPORT OF HOSPITALS IN MALAWI

by Liam Carstens



Brother's Brother Foundation and the Medical Benevolence Foundation (MBF) have once again partnered to send a container of medical equipment and pharmaceuticals to Nkhoma Hospital in Lilongwe, Malawi. The shipment left BBF's Pittsburgh warehouse on May 1, 2020 and consists of medications that were requested by the Ministry of Health through MBF. Also included are three new operating room tables to be placed in two new operating rooms that will be opening soon. BBF has provided equipment to Nkhoma Hospital for more than a decade, including a shipment to refurbish Nkhoma's hospital beds in 2015.

## EASTER WEEKEND TORNADOES IN THE SOUTHERN U.S.

by Sarah Boal

Brother's Brother responded to the string of tornadoes that broke out across the South over the Easter weekend. 139 tornadoes were confirmed across a 10-state region over Sunday and Monday, April 12-13, 2020. Moss, Mississippi was among the communities devastated by the destruction of an F-4 tornado. Partnering with Gleaning for the World, Brother's Brother moved needed emergency and relief supplies including recovery equipment, cleaning supplies, and non-perishable food to help families begin to recover.

Mossville Fire Department Chief, Doyle Webb explained the extent of the destruction via telephone to Gleaning for the World President Jeane Smiley-Mason. "Within a mile of where I am standing, there are 100 homes that were completely destroyed, and all that the people could salvage was being carried in a 5-gallon bucket."



# GLOBAL RELIEF AND LOCAL IMPACT

by Ozzy Samad

I hope this letter finds you well as we all continue to work around the challenges of daily life in these unprecedented times.

As BBF continues to respond to the COVID-19 crisis by supporting healthcare partners in many geographic areas, our primary focus now is on assisting local front-line healthcare providers who care for the underserved and vulnerable members of the community. The need for PPE (personal protection equipment) that was originally centered around major health systems and hospitals, is most apparent in these neighborhood care facilities.

While we seek to provide PPE to other organizations which have expressed a need, our local efforts currently focus on the service providers listed below. For a better understanding of their mission, there is also an excerpt from their website explaining who they are and what they do:

1. FQHCs – *Community Health Centers or Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) are unique nonprofit primary care facilities that provide a wide array of services to Pennsylvanians in underserved areas of the state, both rural and urban (with fees based on the patient's ability to pay). These include 11 clinics in our immediate footprint with multiple locations totaling over 20 facilities. Allegheny County will soon be using FQHC's as COVID-19 testing facilities and it is critical that they have an adequate amount of PPE to safely attend to patients.*

2. Allegheny County supported *Kane Assisted Living Centers – Provide care for some of the most vulnerable in our community. We take that charge seriously, and also recognize that our residents are among those most at risk in the COVID-19 pandemic. Across all four centers, Kane employees take care of over 900 residents a day, providing nearly 93,000 days of care so far this year. There is a major need at these facilities which have unfortunately seen a number of patient fatalities as seen on the news.*

3. The Allegheny County Jail – *The Bureau of Corrections is charged with providing for the care, custody, and control of persons committed to the Allegheny County Jail. Confined areas present challenges when it comes to mitigation and elimination of the spread of illness or disease, and COVID-19 is no exception. The dedicated staff at the facility are greatly in need of PPE to keep themselves safe as they address patient needs.*

4. 412 Food Rescue – *Our mission is to prevent perfectly good food from entering the waste stream by redirecting it to those who are experiencing food insecurity. Our model of food recover and redistribution not only enables access to healthy food, but it allows us to bring food to where people already are – overcoming barriers to food access like transportation and time. 412's volunteer drivers take food to so many in need in these times of uncertainty.*

These organizations have provided BBF with usage and inventory information which we're using to assess overall system wide needs in our in-house developed PPE forecasting model. This information is then being used to plan for further acquisition of needed supplies.

The excerpt below is from a recent email from Dr. Matt Yu, of the North Side Christian Health Center, who has been pivotal in our FQHC response. I have included it in this letter as it is you who should be thanked for helping make BBF's response possible:

*Hi Ozzy, I wanted to include the medical directors for FQHCs in Southwestern Pennsylvania. Thank you for supporting the needs of frontline health workers in FQHCs. Collectively, we are the primary care safety net caring for over 100,000 patients. I shared the exciting news that you had secured 7,600 N-95 masks for us and I am sure it was difficult to vet a reliable source for the masks. We will be sure to fill out a survey on our anticipated PPE needs when you send it. When you are ready, we can be in touch with Sarah (sboal@brothersbrother.org) for supply pick-up and logistics.*

*Sincere thanks from,*

*Sto-Rox Family Health Center – Sara Silvestri, MD Squirrel Hill Health Center –Andrea Fox, MD MPH Primary Health Network –George Garrow, MD Primary Care Health Services – Robin Sims, MD Pittsburgh Mercy – Todd Wahrenberger, MD North Side Christian Health Center –Matthew Yu DO MPH Metro Family Practice – Kathy Homrok, MD East Liberty Family Health Center – David Hall, MD Cornerstone Care – Ed Foley, MD  
Community Health Center – Charmaine Batac, MD Centerville Clinics – Daniel Holt, MD*

I hope the above narrative provides you with a window into the impact your support is having in assisting those most in need – who also often have the least assistance available to them. Thank you for your generosity.

## THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

by Michelle Little

We want to thank volunteers from the Cornell University Alumni, Duquesne University/Sacnas, AmeriCorps, Mercy's Bridges to Employment Program, and North Allegheny Special Education for organizing medical supplies prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.



A big thank you also to our regular volunteers: Karen Gist, Paula Harvey, Gail Jones, Bev Reilly, Jan Scholl, Susan Schwochau, Jean Stout, Rick McGrath, and Bill Warnick, who each week kindly give of their time to make a difference in the lives of others. Although volunteering has been suspended at BBF due to the pandemic, many of these wonderful people continue to volunteer at home; making meals to take to others and sewing the all-important face masks to distribute to those who need them.

What is so impressive is that despite the limits we have because of the worldwide health emergency, so many still have the volunteer spirit! We receive positive letters on a weekly basis from doctors, nursing students, and others who want to help in any way they can just to make a difference in the lives of others. As we look ahead, we can be confident that volunteering will be just as important an aspect of our lives as it has been in the past, in healing us, and helping those less fortunate.

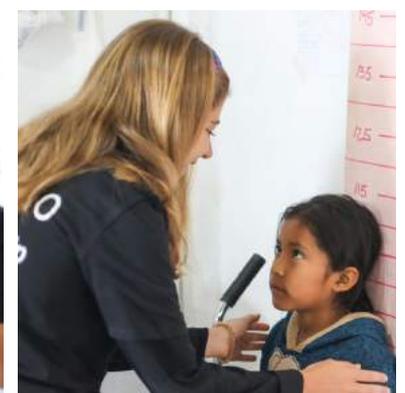


# MED-SURG TRIP REPORT

## HEALTH & HELP IN GUATEMALA

From January 25th to February 28th, the Massachusetts-based Health & Help team returned to its clinic in Totonicopan, Guatemala. The team included eight volunteers from Argentina, Portugal, Russia, and the United States. Having received more than 500 bottles of medication and more than 100 pounds of medical supplies from Brother's Brother Foundation, Health & Help volunteers provided medical aid and vision care to 393 patients.

Brother's Brother has supported Health & Health's efforts since 2018. The clinic, a small three-bed facility, has helped thousands in the area thanks in part to the training that Health & Help provides to local medical students. BBF is proud to support groups like these that provide a lasting and sustainable impact for growing communities.



## BBF'S MED-SURG PROGRAM THROUGH THE YEARS

by Gina Pearlman

Margaret Mead, the cultural anthropologist and author once said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." Ms. Mead was on to something. That quote is perfect in describing the work that our Med-Surg Trip partners do in countries spanning the globe.

As the Med-Surg Program Coordinator, I have seen first-hand the impact individual groups have on the communities they serve. Though the size of the groups varies, the aid they provide is huge. One only must look at the impact that something as small as a pair of reading glasses can have.

I worked with a medical service partner who told me the story of a woman who had broken her reading glasses. She was taking care of her five grandchildren, as their parents had died. She used her skills as a seamstress to provide for her family. When her glasses broke, she was unable to work. Glasses were expensive and hard to find in her village. She was gifted a new pair when this partner went to her village to run a medical and vision clinic. Something as simple as a pair of \$2.00 reading glasses was a lifesaver for this woman and her grandchildren.

The Med-Surg Trip Program, originally called the Mission Trip Program, has operated at Brother's Brother for over a decade. Its beginnings were very humble. During its first year, the Med-Surg Trip Program provided its partners with supplies and pharmaceuticals for 37 individual trips. Most of the partners were local and the boxes were picked up at the warehouse in Pittsburgh. Fast forward to 2019, and 319 trips were supported, with most partners scattered throughout the United States. The number of people that are served per trip range from a few dozen people, all the way up to a few thousand.

When we look at the total number of people that the Med-Surg Trip Program serves per year, we are reminded of the vast number of people who need help all over the globe. One only must remember that helping one person can have ripple effects that cannot always be seen at first. The grandmother whose world was changed because of a pair of reading glasses can attest to that.

Donations to BBF allow us to help our medical provider partners make a difference.



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



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## COVID-19 RESPONSE TEAM-UP

Brother's Brother recently teamed up with the Synchrony Foundation and Synchrony along with Stephens Direct and Protoduction 3D. This multi-sector collaborative effort brought the technology, manufacturing, and philanthropic communities together to produce and distribute more than 5,000 face shields to communities in need.

BBF was proud to take part in Synchrony's larger Gear Up initiative to provide PPE for healthcare, public safety, and other professionals on the front lines across the country. As part of the effort, Synchrony employees, customers and partners are also sewing and 3D printing face shields and face masks to provide protective gear to people working in healthcare and safety.

## BBF WELCOMES NEW DIRECTOR OF HEALTH PROGRAMS

by Liam Carstens

My name is Liam Carstens and I worked for BBF from 2008 through 2016. I am happy to be a part of the team once again. In my role, I manage the medical program and BBF's healthcare work. This means that I have the pleasure of maintaining relationships while both working with medical donors and coordinating shipments to recipients throughout the world.

I look forward to continuing the strength of BBF's medical program, while increasing the number of recipients served through new and existing partnerships. As with everything that we do at BBF, these efforts will prioritize sustainability.

I am familiarizing (and refamiliarizing) myself with BBF's many collaborators and reaching out to as many as possible. Due to the current pandemic circumstances, I am doing all of this by telephone and video conferences. I look forward to being able to see our partners in person again.



## INTRODUCING BBF'S VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

by Michelle Little



My name is Michelle Little and I am the Volunteer Coordinator at Brother's Brother Foundation. I am so happy to be part of such a caring organization.

I have enjoyed meeting and working with all the regular volunteers. I look forward to making friendships with many new volunteers. Although volunteering has been suspended because of the pandemic, I am excited for the time we can get back to our new "normal."

On a personal note, my husband and I are raising a son, who is a 2020 senior, a daughter, who is a freshman, and a new St. Bernard puppy.

## THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT

As we all face personal challenges in these tumultuous times, the number who have stepped up to offer help to others is inspiring. We are grateful to the local facilities many who have allowed us to take part in helping our local community in such an impactful way. Brother's Brother Foundation has made donations of personal protective equipment (PPE) to a number of local health clinics as their first responders treat the underserved in the Pittsburgh region. Pictured is Pamela Voithofen, Centerville Clinics, Inc., Fredrickstown, PA who picked up a pallet of PPE from Brother's Brother Foundation on May 14, 2020. Thank you for your support during the recent online #GivingTuesdayNow campaign and thank you to the numerous people and organizations that have joined hands, metaphorically, to protect the people who are protecting us.



### 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 four months of 2020, BBF received 64 gifts in honor or memory totaling \$22,367. For additional information about BBF honor or memory cards, please call 412-321-3160.

### HONOR/RECOGNITION



### COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN

BBF's new Combined Federal Campaign number is **12228**

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 2020 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!

