



BROTHER'S BROTHER FOUNDATION

INSIDE:

- In Search of Sustainability
- Coronavirus Update
- Healthcare Program Continues Commitment to Haiti
- Shipment Arrival in Lesotho
- Shipment Arrival in Loiza, Puerto Rico
- Med-Surg Trip Report
- Doing for Others
- Golf Outing Invitation

IN SEARCH OF SUSTAINABILITY

by Ozzy Samad

I'll start again by wishing everyone well as we continue working through the trials and tribulations of life in the age of COVID-19. You'll be pleased to know that BBF has expanded its response to the pandemic by providing personal protective equipment (PPE) to a widening array of partners primarily serving the most vulnerable members of our community. These efforts complement an actual year over year increase in our normal relief work thanks to the unrelenting work of dedicated staff members and your invaluable support.

While signing off a Zoom video conference meeting with three of our partners in regard to planning for a sustainable eye clinic on the island of Roatán, off the Honduran coast, I couldn't help but think what a great story it would be to share with you. The project is still in its infancy though everyone involved is committed to seeing it to fruition.

But first, Sustainable Development - a commonly used term in today's development circles - perhaps even a buzz word, but what does it mean and where does BBF fit in?

If you google sustainable development, it appears to mean many different things to different people. The explanation below approaches the topic from both a macro and micro perspective, respectively.

Per the UN website, the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are the world's best plan to build a better world for people and our planet by 2030. Whereas these provide a broad-based vision, the example that follows provides an insight into actual implementation through BBF's involvement in helping bring about the planned eye clinic in Roatán, mentioned earlier.

There are 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals which are outlined as follows:

- **NO POVERTY** – end poverty in all its forms everywhere.
- **ZERO HUNGER** – end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.
- **GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING** – ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.
- **QUALITY EDUCATION** – ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all.
- **GENDER EQUALITY** – achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.
- **CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION** – ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.
- **AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY** – ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all.
- **DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH** – promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all.
- **INDUSTRY, INNOVATION, AND INFRASTRUCTURE** – build resilient Infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.
- **REDUCED INEQUALITIES** – reduce inequality within and among countries.
- **SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES** – make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.
- **RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION** – ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.
- **CLIMATE ACTION** – take urgent action to combat climate changes and its impacts.
- **LIFE BELOW WATER** – conserve and sustainably use the oceans, sea, and marine resources for sustainable development.
- **LIFE ON LAND** – protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.
- **PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS** – promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels.
- **PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS** – strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.



Images provided by Dr. Jenny Yu

While these goals provide a broad-based framework for global development, our goal at BBF is to help bridge the gap between aid and sustainability by providing programmatic support and essential resources. This can be accomplished in a number of ways such as BBF's efforts in providing essential medicines and medical supplies to partners, helping with infrastructure support through solar projects, assisting after disasters, and providing education materials.

Background: The Roatán eye clinic project came about after BBF Board Member Dr. Jenny Yu returned from a trip to Clinica Esperanza in conjunction with Health-in-Sight Mission. As some of you may know, Dr. Yu is an Oculoplastic Surgeon and her non-profit, Project Theia, helps those in need by addressing facial reconstruction and eye-related issues. Clinica Esperanza was started on the island of Roatán in 2001 by a nurse named Peggy Stranges who is originally from Columbus, Ohio. Clinica Esperanza is supported by two of BBF's existing partners, Food for the Poor based in Florida and CEPUDO in Honduras.

Upon her return to Pittsburgh, Jenny called me to talk about the trip and also discuss other potential projects. She then very kindly introduced Dr. Paul Kang, who is a cornea, cataract, and refractive surgeon in the Washington DC area, and was in Roatán with her as part of the Health-in-Sight mission.

Dr. Kang had purchased and donated a parcel of land to Clinica Esperanza that is adjacent to the clinic. His idea was to build a sustainable eye clinic in Roatán in conjunction with the Health-in-Sight Mission and help others there and around the world, in a long-term sustainable manner. Health-in-Sight Mission established an eye clinic within Clinica Esperanza, and the proposed surgical clinic would complement the work that they do. Given their extensive involvement with CEPUDO in Honduras and long-term relationship and support of Clinica Esperanza, we then scheduled a call with Food for the Poor to explore the idea of building the facility on the island. After many more discussions, the idea for the clinic started taking shape as follows:

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The Concept and Operational Model: Broadly speaking, the idea is to set up a multi-tiered pricing structure eye clinic in Roatán which would work in conjunction with Clinica Esperanza. The goal of the facility is to provide free or low-cost services to the in-need population on the island and hopefully build more such clinical facilities. The clinic will also hire a local physician and support staff members and specialized groups, such as Project Theia, would also come and perform their services for the underprivileged.

The working capital for the clinic would be derived from:

- Charging fees for service to expatriates and cruise ship passengers to offset free or low-cost services to those who cannot afford them the aforementioned multi-tiered pricing model.
- Setting up a teaching / training facility for local medical students.
- Having a program where physicians from around the world come and perform services for free but may actually pay for the experience. In this case, their families could also stay on the tourist side of island while the physicians perform these surgeries.
- Funding from an ongoing foundation grant and additional fundraising activities; even though the financial model actually makes the clinic sustainable without the support of additional grant money.
- Dr. Kang is the co-founder of the Vanguard Ophthalmology Society which would have events such as conferences at the facility, thus bringing in revenue.

BBF would provide any supplies and equipment as necessary as in the normal course of our support activities. A solar power system would be an ideal addition to the project.

Current Project Status: Though actual implementation has been somewhat delayed by COVID-19, the discussions to implement the project continue in earnest. Dr. Kang already has modern, cutting edge equipment that has been donated to him to completely equip the clinic. He also has corporate pharmaceutical company support for the needed ophthalmic supplies.

Given the robustness of the sustainable model presented, Food for the Poor has agreed to fund the construction of the physical facility which would include a 10,000 sq. ft. clinic. A prominent architect friend of Dr. Kang's has drawn up the plans pro-bono and CEPUDO, with expertise in construction on the island and staff on the ground, will coordinate the planning and subsequent construction. The original plot of land adjacent to Clinica Esperanza that was donated by Dr. Kang, will now be used for expanding the clinic's radiology facilities and the municipal government on the island will provide land for the new eye care clinic. This will make it more accessible to local community members and adjacent to an up and coming hospital.

The Road Ahead: I hope the overview provided above gives the reader a feel for the different parties and issues involved in bringing about such a project. The idea of a sustainable clinic in the form of Dr. Kang's proposal certainly seems to be an attractive development proposition. So much so that we have had discussions about additional clinics in other locations. When I asked Paul (Dr. Kang) if he would consider Jamaica for another clinic down the road, his answer was an immediate yes. In fact, ideally, this clinic would be the first of many to help the underserved wherever we could build the facilities. Jenny (Dr. Yu) too is completely supportive and would be willing to work in her surgery efforts within the context of such clinics. We are positive that this attitude will extend to so many others with whom BBF works on an ongoing basis.

Epilogue: As I sit here having just gotten off a call with an anesthesiologist who would like to work with BBF to provide oxygen generators to those in dire need in developing countries, and intends to fund the cause through his peer group, the recurring thought that comes to mind is that these ideas can only come to fruition through the efforts of dedicated and caring people that surround us in every form. Through the altered prism of our current challenges, we still see altruism, ingenuity, and generosity abound - perhaps most clearly, through you, without whom none of this work would be possible.

Thank you as always. We hope to bring to you more stories of our work ahead, and indeed, those of sustainable development.

COVID-19

Brother's Brother is continuing our work to battle the Novel Coronavirus Sars-Cov-2. Through the end of June BBF has provided PPE to Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC's) in at least 13 counties across the state of Pennsylvania. These centers provide community clinics and care across the country. Many of these centers have stepped up to the challenge of providing coronavirus testing to increase the accessibility of the test. To aid in their efforts BBF has distributed 50,000 masks, 22,500 N95 masks, 6,500 face shields, and more to these centers.

Locally in our Pittsburgh neighborhoods, we've partnered with 412 Food Rescue, Pennsylvania Resources Council, Operation Better Block, Circles Greater Pittsburgh, ARYSE, and Open Field International to provide face masks for their programming throughout the summer. BBF is also working with the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh and the Jewish Association on Aging to assist with their PPE sourcing and procurement for their programs and facilities.

Since our efforts to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 began in late January BBF has provided PPE to 11 countries, 8 states, Puerto Rico & the US Virgin Islands, as well as our local efforts. All told we have distributed over 2,321,000 masks, 390,000 N95 masks, 61,000 pairs of gloves, 22,000 isolation gowns, and 89,000 plastic face shields. Efforts continue as the pandemic spreads through communities and we all work to stem the spread.

You can help us in our efforts by regularly disinfecting high touch surfaces, washing your hands often, and wearing a mask in public. The more we all work together on this, the less stress we'll put on our medical providers, and the faster we'll all get back to doing the things we love. Stay healthy out there!

HEALTHCARE PROGRAM CONTINUES COMMITMENT TO HAITI

by Liam Carstens

According to the World Health Organization, health services in Haiti only reach about 50% of the population, in addition, pharmaceutical manufacturing within Haiti covers less than 40% of the needs of the population. Other studies have shown that essential medicines are scarcely available and are priced beyond reach for the majority of residents. For these reasons, BBF partners with a variety of organizations to provide requested medical supplies, equipment, and medicines throughout the Republic of Haiti.

BBF has provided a total of 19 donations to Haiti in the first half of 2020, these include supporting five MedSurg trips with medicines and medical supplies for short term medical teams that travel to provide care and training in different parts of Haiti.

In addition, BBF and partner Medical Benevolence Foundation (MBF) sent one container shipment of medicines for Hopital Ste. Croix in Leogane, a 60-bed facility with maternal health services, three operating rooms, and care for the treatment of both chronic and acute conditions. BBF has supported this facility for more than a decade through the relationship with MBF.

BBF also sent one shipment to Les Centres Gheskio in Port-au-Prince which provides clinical services, social services, training, and research through its facility in the capital and its network of clinics throughout Haiti.

BBF worked with Food for the Poor to ship 12 container shipments of medicines, medical supplies, and equipment throughout the first half of 2020. This longstanding partnership results in these requested medical items being distributed to hospitals, clinics, schools, and other facilities in the north of Haiti from the city of Cap-Haitien and throughout the south of the country from the capital of Port-au-Prince.

SHIPMENT ARRIVAL IN LESOTHO

by Sarah Boal

Even as local support for the Covid-19 pandemic grows in scope, BBF's global response work continues. A shipping container of medical supplies and equipment was recently received by new partner Christian Health Association of Lesotho (CHAL). This was BBF's first cooperative effort with CHAL, and it has been a very successful one.

Like many of BBF's shipments, this container carried aid for several facilities. Eight hospitals and 71 health centers were supplied with many of the basic staples of medical care. They were also equipped with durable items such as infant delivery tables and surgical tables that will be used for many years to provide service to tens of thousands.



SHIPMENT ARRIVAL IN LOIZA, PUERTO RICO

by Sarah Boal



When Hurricane Irma skirted the shores of Puerto Rico in September of 2017, the northeastern shore of the island took much of the impact. One of the communities hardest hit was Loiza. Due to their unique geography, the community sitting between the mouths of two rivers, and the damage from the storm, the town was cut off from the rest of the island for more than a week. In fact, access had been restored only a few days before Hurricane Maria hit and once again trapped residents in their homes. This double hit led to extensive damage across the community and resulted in many residents struggling to meet their basic needs.

Islandwide recovery efforts led to many changes following the storms. Schools were consolidated, infrastructure including bridges was evaluated and repaired or replaced, and water systems and power grids were upgraded to be more resilient. Much of the work to restore storm damage and secure the island's future is ongoing. For Loiza, a community of modest socio-economic means, with an older-than-average population for Puerto Rico, this also meant ensuring the safety of their most vulnerable residents.

When the storms hit and power was cut off for an extended period, residents needing powered medical devices for their wellbeing were left with no alternative than to spend weeks in the small community emergency clinic. The emergency power resources there allowed patients with oxygen concentrators, home dialysis units, and refrigerated medications to continue their care. The clinic quickly became overcrowded and staff were unable to provide the emergency services that the community counts on because their space was being utilized for this medical sheltering. Additionally, with so many homes damaged, the meager shelter resources available in the community were quickly exhausted. It was clear that a new solution was needed.

A school, closed in the consolidation process, was just the opportunity this community needed. The Mayor's office, the Department of Human Services, and emergency services for the community have joined forces to transform this empty property into a community center and shelter to reinvigorate the community. When completed, the facility will house local and state human services agencies, community arts groups, a police station, the emergency operations center for the county, a food bank, a soup kitchen, a rec center, a 500-person standing emergency shelter (800-person capacity during a major disaster), and a medical emergency shelter. Several of these functions are already in operation including the WIC office and the community band. Brother's Brother is proud to partner with this community in these efforts. BBF has undertaken the task of equipping the medical shelter with the materials needed to provide for the safety and comfort of those sheltering there. Hospital beds, IV poles, bedside tables, overbed tables, patient recliners, medication refrigerators, and more have been sent to equip the space. Plans have been made for a team of young people from Pittsburgh traveling on a service learning trip to paint the rooms that will serve as the medical shelter when the pandemic mitigation efforts allow their trip to be rescheduled.

BBF is also proud to be joining efforts with the Asera Foundation and First Presbyterian Church of Burlingame to install a solar microgrid to power the shelter's operations. This installation is scalable and the initial phase will power the medical shelter and emergency operations center during times of crisis. In non-emergency operations, the grid should supply the power needs of the main building of the complex completely. Power storage capacity equal to 24 hours of run time is incorporated into the system to allow for continuity of operations.

The shelter's location, on part of the 20% of the city that isn't in the flood plain, is central and easily accessible to residents. Located within walking distance of the local FEMA office, a grocery store, pharmacy, and the emergency clinic, families seeking shelter can easily access the services they need to begin their recovery following a disaster. All told, this project will have a major impact on Loiza's disaster preparedness and resiliency.

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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BIMMED MEDICAL FOUNDATION IN NIGERIA

Bimmed Medical Foundation, Inc. recently reported on it's med-surg trip to rural communities in Badagry, Nigeria. The team provided medical and vision care, as well as public health education at pop-up clinics at the Badagry Anglican Church, the Agege Medical Outreach, the Bode Thomas/Imam Dauda Community Medical Outreach, the Erelu Olutoyin Popoola/Aduramigbaland Medical Outreach, and the Four Square Gospel Church.

The work took place at seven stations, where the team saw and treated five hundred patients. The team reported a high poverty level in the area. Food was limited and there was a great need for family planning programs throughout the community.



DOING FOR OTHERS

by Michelle Little

A wise man once said, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, what are you doing for others?" This thought of doing for others is echoed in the efforts of our volunteers. They have opened their hearts to help others and BBF is grateful. We look forward to the future when we can welcome volunteers back. In the meantime, we have full confidence that compassion in our own hearts will move all of us to help those in need with our time and or assets.

WORK HARD, PLAY HARD.

JOIN US FOR OUR FIRST GOLF EVENT!



Who doesn't like to work hard and play hard? We sure do!
You are cordially invited to join us for the Inaugural Golf Charity Event hosted by Brother's Brother Foundation next summer in Pittsburgh, PA.

PLACE

Fox Chapel Golf Club
426 Fox Chapel Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15238

DATE

June 21, 2021

RSVP

Laura Kelly
events@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 six months of 2020, BBF received 85 gifts in honor or memory totaling \$7,097. 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!

