



BROTHER'S BROTHER FOUNDATION

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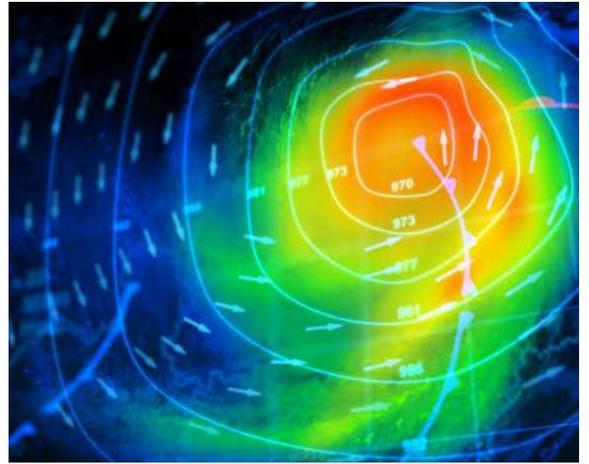
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BBF'S RESPONSE TO HURRICANE LAURA & A GLOBAL FAMILY AFFAIR

by: Ozzy Samad

It was the day before our third Zoom call on a low key but impactful project that was coming together nicely through the kind facilitation of BBF's past Board Chair Phil Jones, when Hurricane Laura came ashore leaving a wave of destruction in its path. As with previous disasters, it was time for BBF to respond.

BBF's immediate response to the hurricane was coordinated through the offices of Mayor Adrien Perkins, of Shreveport, Louisiana. Through good fortune in challenging circumstances, Laura Kelly, our VP of Global Partnership and Development, knew Mayor Perkins through her development work at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Both her husband, U.S. Army Colonel Michael Todd Kelly, and the Mayor were graduates of the storied institution. A few texts and emails later, BBF's Director of Programs, Liam Carstens, had made an offer of 50,000 face masks, 26,500 pairs of exam gloves, and over 2,700 hard hats, along with cleaning supplies,



directly to the Office of the Mayor. We were very grateful for the near immediate positive response to BBF's offer, and in a timely manner thereafter, the truckload of supplies left our warehouse on the North-Side of Pittsburgh, destined for Shreveport.

BBF is also working in collaboration with Gleaning for the World of Concord, Virginia, to facilitate additional shipments of relief supplies to the affected areas in Texas and Louisiana. These shipments complement our earlier efforts with long-time partner, Food for the Poor in Coconut Creek, Florida, to send protective equipment such as safety gloves, hard hats, PPE, diabetes management equipment and other needed medical supplies, to those affected by Hurricane Laura in Haiti. These items will be distributed in the southern part of the country where homes were destroyed by flooding and winds.



The relief efforts for the areas affected by Hurricane Laura continue, but now, back to the original project I alluded to at the beginning of this article.

As part of BBF's WASH (Water, Sanitation, Hygiene) program, the hygiene pad project encompasses working with local volunteer families, in this case organized by a Pittsburgh Latinx organization called Casa San Jose, to sew washable feminine hygiene pads for school age girls. The project has been well received by our partners across the board in the many countries that we serve. Dr. Jennifer Makin, an OBGYN and researcher at Magee Women's Hospital, mentioned to us that during her research in Kenya, she found that schoolgirls regularly missed up to a week of class each month due to the lack of availability of such pads. Unlike so many potential projects, it seemed like a situation that could be fairly simply and inexpensively addressed - with great impact.

As often said, it is through the kindness and generosity of so many of supporters that BBF is able to do its work around the world. I recalled the name Bonnie Lawson through previous conversations on the feminine hygiene pad program and she was reintroduced to us by Phil Jones. Bonnie worked on establishing a similar program in Zimbabwe and after our initial conversation with her, it was quite evident that she would be graciously willing to help make BBF and Casa San Jose's efforts a success. On BBF's end, Liam Carstens and our new Program Assistant, Abigael Siecinski, would develop and manage the project.



Casa Executive Director
Monica Ruiz-Caraballo



Casa Community Organizer
Veronica Lazada

After our initial conversations with Casa's Executive Director, Monica Ruiz-Caraballo and Community Organizer, Veronica Lazada about the feasibility of the project, it was definitely a go. Phil continued his role in being the point person for acquiring the sewing machines, repairing them, and then delivering them to BBF. His expertise in repairing outboard motors being an apparently transferrable skill, though Bonnie's amused, quizzical looks as he opined about sewing needle sizes and bobbins, did not go unnoticed! She agreed to not only provide the patterns for the pads but also utilize her experience to kindly serve as ad hoc volunteer purchasing agent to ensure we got the right amount and type of material and sewing supplies for our sewing volunteers. Bonnie, furthermore, took it upon herself to meet with the families from Casa San Jose (taking appropriate precautions in regard to COVID-19) and give them a demonstration as to how to familiarize themselves with the sewing machine and actually sew the pads.

It is our hope that as this project grows, we are able to work with additional families and even schools so that these pads can be provided to more and more young women in need around the world. The project would then be enhanced by initially sending sewing machines, supplies, and patterns, and then ideally acquiring them in-country, so that the pads can be made in communities where they are needed - A global family affair!

COVID-19 RESPONSE IN OUR BACKYARD

by: Abigael Siecinski



Looking back to the beginning of this year the world was a very different place. No one could have foreseen the ways that this pandemic would affect every aspect of life across every corner of the globe. The effects of COVID-19 meant that the needs for personal protective equipment (PPE) were just as prevalent with our local partners as they were with BBF's traditional partners around the world. Medical organizations who historically donate these supplies were now requesting them. BBF saw this unprecedented time of need as an opportunity to give back to the Pittsburgh medical community in a way that has never been possible before.

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COVID-19 RESPONSE IN OUR BACKYARD - CONTINUED

by: Abigael Siecinski

We very quickly began partnering with local medical centers and federally qualified health centers to provide much needed PPE to the front-line workers serving vulnerable communities and who had been struggling to find enough protective supplies to keep themselves and their patients safe. Since the beginning of this year BBF has donated:

- 2,381,970 face masks
- 62,700 pairs of gloves
- 24,120 protective gowns
- 92,043 face shields
- 19,849 shoe covers
- 13,100 hair covers
- 398 protective hoods
- 1,061 cleansers
- 1,740 coveralls
- 5,645 infection kits
- 45 beds
- 210 goggles
- 38 units of hand sanitizer



These donations are free of cost to our partners, and we only ask that these organizations pick up their orders from our warehouse or pay for the UPS shipment. We have been able to offer this support at little to no cost due to generous grants we have received from local foundations who support the distribution of PPE to local organizations who need it.

BBF has been honored to be able to help our local neighbors with the same passion and effectiveness as we do our global ones. These donations and their far-reaching impact on the Pittsburgh community would not be possible without all your support. I end by sharing some kind words from an organization who just received one of these donations in late August:

“We received the donation from Brother’s Brother today and I wanted to express my gratitude to your organization. We are so very appreciative for all of the PPE that will allow us to continue to provide direct services to our patients during these trying times.”



MAKING A DIFFERENCE: VOLUNTEERING DURING COVID

by: Michelle Little

Phil and Gail Jones are a Pittsburgh couple who love to volunteer. They have volunteered regularly at Brother’s Brother over the years and their work has helped many people all over the world. Let’s see what they are up to:

BBF: *Volunteering at BBF has been temporarily suspended, how do you continue to find ways to volunteer?*

P&GJ: Phil has been making masks and then distributing them to a church in Homewood and Casa San Jose in Beechview. He has also been gathering and repairing sewing machines which are used locally or sent overseas. Recently eighteen sewing machines have been donated and that adds to the 135 machines donated over the years. He repairs broken ones and even installs hand cranks in the sewing machines to help those who have no electricity.

BBF: *Wow, that’s wonderful! What are you involved in Gail?*

P&GJ: I take meals once a week to some friends who are alone. I also have been helping a friend find a senior community to relocate to.

BBF: *Why do you take time out of your busy schedule to volunteer?*

P&GJ: The old saying, “It’s better to give than to receive,” has a lot of merit. It’s important to recognize how privileged we are: enough food, places to sleep, friends, and family. So, give back! You’ll feel better about the world and yourself!

We want to thank Phil and Gail for their generous spirit and for sharing practical ways to volunteer. Also, what a great example for us to have that same giving spirit, we all can help those in need, financially or materially.



NEW OPERATING ROOM IN CAMBODIA

Over a year ago, a team of doctors from the Christ Chapel Bible Church volunteered at MANNA Worldwide’s hospital project in Cambodia. When they returned, they reported a critical lack of equipment in the hospital’s operating room. This started a year-long process of travel, fundraising, grant writing, and securing the needed items. BBF supported this effort, which ultimately saw \$100,000 worth of supplies, tools, and other equipment delivered for use at the hospital. This will have an immeasurable impact on the community the hospital serves.



MEDICAL SHIPMENT TO HONDURAS

Strong partnerships are key in providing the most aid possible out of each shipment. A series of three shipping containers that BBF shipped to Honduras while working with the Municipality of Pimienta and Dr. Raúl Ugarte exemplify this. Two tightly-packed shipments of medical supplies and an additional shipment of durable medical equipment were distributed between twelve medical facilities. There were also a quantity of beds and other equipment that was used to set up a temporary Covid-19 center in Pimienta.

LIBERIA MEDICAL MISSION: THE POWER OF MED-SURG

by Abigael Siecinski



Hello everyone! I would like to start by introducing myself - I am Abigael Siecinski, one of the newest BBF team members, and more formally known as BBF's Program Assistant. One of my new responsibilities is handling supply requests that come from med-surg groups looking to use their expertise to help communities across the globe. I have not yet had the pleasure of having a group that I have personally coordinated leave for a trip. However, hearing about the great work that Liberia Medical Mission did earlier this year on their med-surg trip has only made me more excited for the work these groups are doing and the work BBF is able to do to support them. With that in mind we wanted to share Liberia Medical Missions' work with you all, so that you too can see the power of med-surg:

Every two years Liberia Medical Mission organizes a trip to Liberia to provide free medical services and training/workshops to improve the local healthcare capacity. This particular trip had three major functional areas: mobile outpatient clinics held in conjunction with local physicians, eye treatment, and numerous medical training workshops. From February 28th - March 15th, 2020 Liberia Medical Mission's 32 professional volunteers were able to serve more than 5,233 Liberians! For this most recent trip BBF provided 292 bottles of medication and 479 pieces of medical supplies/equipment equaling over \$19,000 in total gift-in-kind donations!

During their two weeks in Liberia the group treated diabetes, hypertension, urinary tract infections, prostate cases, malnutrition, typhoid, eye diseases, STDs, HIV, and mental health stigmas at eleven different clinics. Many of these were performed for those who could not otherwise afford these services or medications. One volunteer noted that, "some patients with pre-existing medical problems were overwhelmed with the burden of not being able to pay for prescribed medications when they visited their private clinics/doctors. They have to choose between feeding their families and buying their medications. Feeding their families often wins out with their limited resources. Patients seen during the mission were very appreciative of the mission's services. They thanked us, our donors, and partners infinitely after they received their treatments and medicines, free of charge."

Liberia Medical Mission also organized training workshops on mental health, PTSD, and violence against women. These sessions were geared towards ex-combatants and young girls who experience these realities firsthand. Each discussion lasted numerous hours and local physicians partook in the workshops so they could continue having these conversations in the future. On the more technical side, Liberia Medical Missions brought along a bio-medical engineer who was able to assess, repair, and train young technicians on surgical equipment. This expanded the community's knowledgebase and saved the medical center thousands of dollars in professional service costs. By working with and training local professionals Liberia Medical Mission insured that this knowledge would continue to improve the community's quality of life long after they had left.

The great work done by Liberia Medical Mission exemplifies BBF's missions of connecting people with resources, as well as, promoting sustainable improvements that will benefit these communities for years to come. Liberia Medical Mission is just one of the many med-surg groups supported by BBF each year. I was personally inspired as I considered all the good done by this one group and then imagined how the global impact grows with every new trip we supply. I think it is this collective impact, created by thousands of individuals connected through a shared passion for helping others that is the true power of med-surg trips.



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Cover With Address Label



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

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Election of Officers takes place during Annual Meeting in January.

XXXXXXX

HONOR AND MEMORIAL PROGRAM

Looking for ways to celebrate
or remember loved ones?

Our Honor and Memorial Gift Program
is a wonderful way to commemorate
significant milestones such as
birthdays, holidays, and weddings.

This program also provides you
with an opportunity to celebrate the
memory of a friend or family member
through a contribution to
Brother's Brother Foundation.

At your request, Brother's Brother
Foundation will send a printed card to your
honoree or the family of the memorial gift
recipient, indicating that a gift has been
made in the individual's honor or memory.
Lovely e-card is also offered on our website
as another option when you
make your donation.

Here are several ways you can make an
honor or memorial gift:

- Make a contribution online under "Make
a Donation." Be sure to indicate in the
dedicated section if the gift is in honor or in
memory of someone.

- Gifts can be mailed to:
P.O. Box 645934
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-5257

*Please specify whether you are making
an honor or memorial donation.*

- Donate with your credit card by calling
1-412-321-3160.

*Printed honor and memorial cards can take up
to five business days to process and mail. Please
plan accordingly if you would like the recipient to
receive the card by a specific date.*

*Want to make a last minute gift? E-cards are sent
immediately after your online gift is processed.*



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!

