



BROTHER'S BROTHER FOUNDATION

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NOSE TO THE GRINDSTONE WITH EYES TO THE FUTURE

by: Ozzy Samad

As we consider how BBF can continue to grow in the years to come to better serve those in need, it is critical for us to have a clearly articulated Vision, Mission, and strategic plan that provide a roadmap forward. In this spirit, with invaluable input from the Board and strategic partners, we arrived at BBF's new vision and mission statements along with a strategic plan. But first, a short recap of the day in and day out work, that with your support, forms the ongoing basis of our efforts.

As many of our readers may be aware, BBF was founded in 1958 by Dr. Robert Hingson to provide vaccinations to underserved communities around the world. Today, our work focuses on the H.I.D.E. program areas of Healthcare, Infrastructure, Disaster Response, and Education. These efforts fall into two categories:

1. Providing essential resources as requested by our partners: Where BBF works with partners around the world to understand their needs and help address them by sending shipments of medicines, equipment, supplies, and education materials, and responding to disasters as needed.
2. Supporting programs developed in collaboration with our partners worldwide: Such in-country projects may complement BBF's relief shipments or can be stand-alone initiatives. Quite often, there is an overlap in the program areas, where a disaster response effort could evolve into helping provide solar panels for an outlying clinic or supporting a mobile clinic to assist with long-term recovery.

As mentioned, these shipments, programs, and projects form the crux of our daily work, and examples in both categories can be found in BBF's 2019 Annual Report. Please do consider taking a minute to peruse it on our website at www.brothersbrother.org to see the positive impact that you are making both here at home and across the globe.

And now for the new Vision and Mission statements - starting with what they mean. Briefly, it is said that: Your mission is what you do best every single day, and your vision is what the future will be like because you deliver on that mission every day. As such, BBF's new Vision and Mission are as follows:

Vision: A world where aid leads to sustainable development.

An old proverb, applicable to any gender, goes: Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.

To perhaps state the obvious, an ideal time in the future would be a world where there is no need to send assistance, and sustainable local development would abound. Our goal in coming up with this vision statement was to have a realistic, attainable perspective on the type of impact BBF can make towards achieving such a desired end state; where the assistance provided by BBF ideally leads to helping our partners bridge the gap between receiving donations and being able to develop their own sustainable solutions for the long-term.

Mission: Brother's Brother Foundation helps bridge the gap between aid and sustainability by supporting localized programs and providing essential resources in the areas of Healthcare, Infrastructure, Disaster Response, and Education (H.I.D.E).

BBF's mission statement identifies how we operate on a daily basis as described earlier in this article and covers our historical mandate of providing relief shipments around the world, along with collaborating on projects in the areas that we serve. We will continue to assist our partners as we always have while simultaneously encouraging them to adopt the can-do mindset, which, along with embracing the traits of ingenuity and perseverance, arguably form the foundation of our great nation. Our goal is to work hand-in-hand with our partners so that they may further help themselves attain sustainable solutions.

It is our hope that this piece provided you with some insight into BBF's outlook going forward. Our mission continues in earnest, and as always, we thank you for joining us on this journey and making it possible!

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we give.

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BBF AND PARTNERS SEND PPE AND OTHER MEDICAL ITEMS TO MALAWI

by: Liam Carstens

Brother's Brother Foundation recently partnered with the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas to support Wandikweza in Malawi. Wandikweza, which translates to Uplift Health, is a community-based organization that trains, equips, and supports community health workers in rural Malawi.

The shipment, which was filled with items requested from Brother's Brother Foundation, included hospital equipment, supplies, and over 32,000 much needed N95 face masks for healthcare workers. Mercy Chikhosi, the Executive Director of Wandikweza, said that donation of masks is "amazing. The country is really struggling to get PPE and if they are found, they are so expensive. Covid-19 cases are increasing rapidly."

The medical supplies and equipment in the shipment will be distributed to local community health workers, Madisi Catholic Hospital, Chakhaza Health Center, Dowa District Hospital, and Wandikweza outreach clinics. According to Chikhosi, "You have no idea how excited the doctors from the Catholic and Dowa district hospitals are. They are so thankful in advance..."

BBF is grateful to BBF Trustee Chuck Stout for facilitating this new relationship and very thankful for Sheree Reece and everyone at the Church of the Resurrection for providing the introduction to Wandikweza and funding the cost of shipping the container from Pittsburgh to Malawi.



US-BASED NEUROLOGIST ON EPILEPSY IN LIBERIA

by: Judoemue Kollie

Dr. Lawrence A. Zumo, a US-based Liberian Neurologist, has disclosed from research that epilepsy is highly prevalent in Liberia and it is without curable medicine. According to the latest World Health Organization (WHO) data published in 2018, epilepsy deaths in Liberia reached 83 or 0.25% of total deaths. The age-adjusted death rate is 2.50 per 100,000 population with Liberia ranking 55th in the world.

Dr. Zumo, who is a member of the Fellow American Academy of Neurology, said though the disease is widespread, what is most unfortunate is the lack of capacity of the Liberian health sector to provide proper treatment for people afflicted by it. He said to put the disease under control so that affected people can have the opportunity to make a successful living in the economy, there is a need for early diagnosis and treatment with constant follow-up.

The US-based Liberian doctor has been in the country for the last few days treating people with various kinds of diseases and sicknesses on a free-of-charge basis. He told the Daily Observer in an exclusive interview recently in the Pipeline Road Community in Paynesville that epilepsy is the main focus of the treatment he has been providing to Liberians.

According to him, about 1,500 patients with epilepsy have been treated by his institution over the last three years.

"I represent the Community of Safe Haven Health Care Delivery Service here in Liberia, and we work to provide health services in seven key areas, especially to treat Epilepsy," he said. Zumo said his institution was established in 2018 with the goal of assisting the Government in the health care delivery system.

"Though we started the organization in 2018, the prelude of the activity began back in 1999 when we transported 62 Liberians to Ghana to acquire some skills in health and education," he narrated. According to him, the recent intervention in Liberia has benefited more than 300 persons from Grand Bassa and Montserrado counties.

"We are focusing this year mainly on epilepsy, high blood pressure, stroke, malaria, typhoid and others," he said.

Dr. Zumo said while in the US, he learned that there were different kinds of diseases and sicknesses that got them to see the need to return and contribute to the health care delivery system in the country. "We raise money to build a hospital to make an impact on the citizens. We are using our own resources to provide services to our people."

He said in the next few years they would like to extend services to other counties. "I think in ten years period we must be able to cover the whole country. This initiative is not for any political ambition but about serving the people. If I can help the citizens get a better understanding of diseases, then, we will be very happy."

According to Dr. Zumo, they are working in collaboration with the Government through the Ministry of Health to deliver health care to the citizens.

"We are receiving good feedback from the citizens for the work we do," he said.

Meanwhile, the US-based neurologist has called on Liberians not to despise people living with epilepsy but treat them with care.

"This disease is not contagious; so, people who are affected by it should not be ostracized. We need to love and care for them so that they can have the opportunity to equally contribute to the economy," he said.

-, Judoemue Kollie, et al. "US-Based Neurologist on Epilepsy Disease in Liberia." *Liberian Observer*, 2 Nov. 2020, www.liberianobserver.com/news/high-epilepsy-prevalence-in-liberia-without-proper-treatment/.



BBF AND CROSS CATHOLIC OUTREACH: A THRIVING PARTNERSHIP

by Abigail Siecinski

In 2020 BBF has had the honor of partnering with Cross Catholic Outreach (CCO) on six container shipments of medical supplies, equipment, and pharmaceuticals to their partners in Honduras, Guatemala, and Grenada. One particular shipment to Honduras was distributed by Asociacion La Perla. Asociacion La Perla supports 70+ medical institutions: 55 health clinics/dispensaries, 5 hospitals, and a variety of schools/feeding centers/children's centers spread across four Departments of Honduras (Cortes, Atlántida, Yoro, and Santa Barbara). This shipment was distributed to 25 of these institutions which have a combined impact on 294,691 people.

Cross Catholic Outreach was kind enough to share a personal story from this shipment. One recipient of these supplies was Hogar Suyapa, a home for abandoned children founded and operated by the Las Mercedes Parish in El Progreso, Honduras. The home is currently caring for 38 children from the ages of 3-19 who have been completely abandoned by their parents. Because of the COVID19 pandemic, the home had a few specific medical needs that CCO has now been able to meet because of generous donations like this shipment. They found the cough and cold medicines especially useful.

This story is from just one of 25 facilities supported by this shipment, and this shipment was just one of 77 healthcare shipments that BBF has sent so far this year. This single story and its impact highlight the expansive reach that BBF and our partners have all over the world every year. Thank you to Cross Catholic Outreach and all of our partners for your support and dedication to enhancing healthcare access around the globe – we look forward to many shipments to come!



PUERTO RICO UPDATE: PONCE MEDICAL SCHOOL FOUNDATION

by Liam Carstens



Our work continues in Puerto Rico with a myriad of partners. 2020 has been an especially busy year for the Ponce Medical School Foundation (PMSF), a partner of BBF for more than two years. This year, BBF and PMSF have connected to install three solar power systems, to provide ongoing support of a mobile clinic, and to distribute medical supplies and equipment to healthcare facilities throughout Puerto Rico.

BBF funded the installation of solar panels at clinics located in Lajas and Jayuya and a vaccine clinic in Ponce. These systems, which provide power to emergency rooms and laboratory areas, have backup batteries and generators that are designed to remain functional following hurricanes and other disasters when power from the grid is unavailable. Dr. Laura Domenech, Senior Medical Officer for PMSF shared that the solar systems "have been working and have been lifesaving [in the] many natural disasters that we have experienced lately."



In addition, BBF continued to support the operation of a mobile clinic staffed by volunteer doctors, nurses, and medical students of the Ponce Medical School. Clinica del Sur serves the uninsured and underinsured communities in the South of Puerto Rico. According to Dr. Domenech, "Brother's Brother contributed on our project and made it possible for us to bring the help when it was needed the most. Today our project, that works with volunteers from the schools of medicine, psychology, nursing, and public health has been modified to work with telemedicine to help patients through consults in medicine and psychology."

BBF is proud to partner with the Ponce Medical School Foundation and to continue this relationship that has responded to disasters and provided access to medical care for so many in Puerto Rico. We are currently in discussions with PMSF regarding installing another solar power system on a clinic in Guayanilla and shipping another container of medical supplies and equipment to expand clinical services further.

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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. A 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
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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 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!



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