



“Brother’s Brother Foundation, this is Laura, how may I help you?”

By Ozzy Samad

Over the past few months, you may have noticed a number of changes to our newsletter to make it more readable, launching the new website so that visitors can see BBF’s work with greater ease including ADA accessibility, and an evolving stream of communications that illustrate BBF’s work to the public at large through television and online platforms.

Leading these advancements is Laura Kelly, Vice President of Global Partnerships and Development. Utilizing over 26 years of experience, Laura’s focus has been on effectively supporting BBF’s programs under the H.I.D.E. (Healthcare, Infrastructure, Disaster Response, and Education) umbrella. She and the development team are striving to illustrate the stories that you so graciously help make happen. They enable BBF to further strengthen our programs, receive additional funding, and ultimately assist even more people in need both here at home and around the world.

As outlined in BBF’s Strategic Plan, Laura’s goals have included making BBF a household name through her social media initiative and by connecting with people on an individual level. A few of her achievements include raising funds for COVID-19 and organizing the upcoming BBF Golf Event to raise funds for local educational and healthcare programs. Throughout the pandemic, Laura has not only committed herself to the BBF mission but also cares for her family while her husband has been deployed to Afghanistan and teaches third grade to her son. In the spring, she will be pursuing her master’s degree in Legal Studies.

And now to elaborate on the title of this article! I’ve been hearing that familiar line as our phone is often

answered by another Laura — Assistant Director of Global Partnerships and Development, Laura Bright. Working hand-in-hand with Laura Kelly, she is an integral part of BBF’s development efforts — from helping integrate our new donor management software to creating Talking Points for my interview with Allison Ford, the producer at MCA-TV. The station is doing a piece on BBF during their March 26th Public Awareness Weekend.

Laura has a master’s in Emergency Disaster Management and an undergraduate degree in Sociology and Anthropology. Her career prior to BBF has focused on working with and educating victims of crime and advocating for their rights. She brings a unique perspective to her work in helping others.

Rounding out the team is Kim Hosan, Development Coordinator. With an undergraduate degree in Psychology from the University of Pittsburgh and experience working at the Pittsburgh Symphony, Kim has been focusing on applying for grants from BBF’s foundational donor base. These projects include funding for solar panels and improving infrastructure for both our facilities on Pittsburgh’s North Side, along with looking for support for BBF’s programs and projects.

I hope you get the opportunity to say hello to Laura, Laura and Kim, or any of our other dedicated staff members if you happen to call in with a question. Of course, it is through your support and their efforts that we are able to achieve so much in helping those in need, wherever they may be. **As always, thank you — we could not be more appreciative. ■**

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BBF's Coronavirus Response

By Liam Carstens

As the battle against the COVID-19 pandemic rages on and vaccine distribution begins, BBF continues to support healthcare workers and vulnerable populations with pieces of personal protective equipment (PPE). Our donations of N95 face masks, surgical masks, gloves, face shields, gowns, and other protective gear are ongoing, and we continue to purchase new PPE to address this crisis.



Through the generous support of local foundations, BBF has purchased PPE to be distributed to federally qualified health centers (FQHCs), nursing homes, hospitals, civic groups, religious organizations, and schools throughout the continental US (with a focus on Western PA), Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands, Honduras, Lebanon, Malawi, Nigeria, the Kingdom of eSwatini, Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti, Cambodia, Jamaica, Lesotho, the Dominican Republic, Italy, and China.

From BBF's initial distributions of PPE to the Wuhan Science & Technology University Hospital in China to our current donations of PPE to local partners, we have distributed over 3.2 million pieces of PPE to those in need since February 2020.

Kim Rabatin, the Supervisor of Purchasing for Centerville Clinics in Fredericktown, PA recently wrote to BBF. "I just wanted to take a minute to thank you for your generous donation. It will help many employees and patients. The kindness you have shown can never be expressed properly. So, all I will say is 'Thank you!'"

We at BBF are so thankful for folks like the staff of Centerville Clinics who work every day to address this pandemic. ■

University of Pittsburgh: Hygiene Kit Drive

By Abigael Siecinski

The University of Pittsburgh's office of PittServes is dedicated to helping students connect to the Pittsburgh community through service and volunteerism. Last year, they contacted us to become a partner and this led to the idea of hosting a hygiene kit drive including soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and washcloths. The first drive was so successful that we have decided to partner again to collect more hygiene kit supplies this February. We are so thankful for the students and staff whose time, energy, and generosity have helped support our hygiene kit program. ■



Donating Made Easy!

After the tough year 2020 brought us, we could all use a little bit of easy and using our new QR code is just that. Just open the camera app on your smart device, focus the camera on the QR code by gently tapping the code, and follow the directions that appear on your screen. This will take you directly to our donation page. Donating has never looked so good! ■

BBF's Response to the Super Typhoon in the Philippines

By Liam Carstens

In early November of 2020, Super Typhoon Goni, locally called Super Typhoon Rolly, made landfall in the Philippines four times, causing a swath of destruction in its wake. More than two million people were impacted by this natural disaster.

BBF joined with longstanding partner the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) International to provide relief to those affected. An initial needs assessment identified food, water, and shelter assistance as the most critical needs, while the ongoing coronavirus pandemic also created an acute need for hygiene and protection materials.

A partnership that included BBF and ADRA International provided assistance 8,787 individuals in the municipalities of Bacacay, Malilipot, Tiwi, and Tabaco City in the province of Abay.

The distributions occurred in late November and included food packs with household cooking essentials and COVID-19 protection kits consisting of face masks, face shields, cleaning alcohol, and hand soap. As we have seen throughout 2020 and now again in 2021,

the coronavirus has added an additional challenge to all disaster responses at home and throughout the world. BBF is pleased to have partnered with ADRA International on an effective and efficient response to this devastating super typhoon. ■



Free Wheelchair Mission: Developing Partnerships

By Abigail Siecinski

Free Wheelchair Mission (FWM) is a non-profit, based in California, who design and manufacturer durable wheelchairs. Their mission is to provide the transforming gift of mobility to people living with a disability in developing nations. Through their work they have distributed more than one million wheelchairs to individuals in 93 countries around the world.

Recently they have expanded their programming to include container shipments of medical supplies, equipment, and pharmaceuticals to hospitals/clinics around the world. This new endeavor led to a connection with BBF and, thus, a new relationship began. In May of 2019, we had our first two shipments together. These were air shipments of pharmaceuticals to the Kingdom of eSwatini in southern Africa. After the success of these shipments and many productive zoom calls we have begun the planning process for two full container shipments that will go to Pakistan and the Dominican Republic in early 2021.



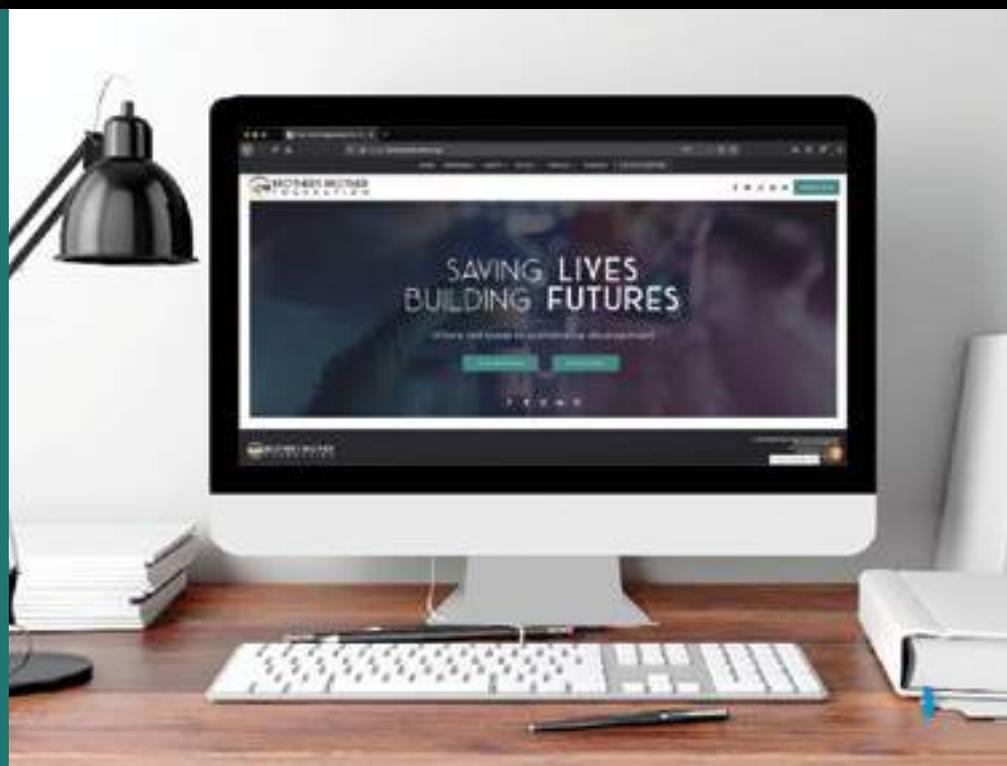
It has been such a pleasure to get to know the FWM team and expand our partnership base. We have been able to learn so much from one another and it has been exciting to support another non-profit as they expand their programming and impact. We look forward to sending many more containers together moving forward and spreading both of our organizations' missions all across the world. ■



Cover With Address Label

Have you seen our new website? We designed it especially for you!

BBF has a whole new look full of features and customized solutions to meet your every need! Take a moment to browse our new program pages, learn more about our COVID-19 response, or take a look at our projects page. We have something for everyone that can be adjusted to meet your accessibility needs. We know you are going to love it as much as we do! ■



Give from the Heart!

There are 86,400 seconds in a day, and you decide which of those seconds will have the greatest impact. Brother's Brother Foundation counts each second of every day to help many here at home and abroad. With your donation of just \$25.00, together we can make a difference. Will you join the BBF team? ■



Go to
www.brothersbrother.org
to donate today!

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Combined Federal Campaign

BBF's new Combined Federal Campaign number is 1228

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!

