



Enduring Relationships — BBF Responds to COVID-19 in Nepal and India

By Ozzy Samad

It was the 17th of March 2017, when BBF’s former president Luke Hingson and I attended an event at the University of Pittsburgh, titled “Global Earthquakes: Response, Recovery, and Resilience.” After watching a captivating presentation on the response to a devastating earthquake in Pakistan in 2005 by two first responders from the country, we said hello to the facilitator, Dr. James Joshi, program director and professor in the School of Computing Education. Dr. Joshi is originally from Kathmandu, Nepal and had been a key point person in BBF’s response to the Earthquake there in 2015. Our work was in collaboration with Mission Rebuild Nepal and included rebuilding homes that had been devastated by the disaster. As we researched how best to respond to the COVID-19 crisis in India, I saw an email from James outlining the dire situation in Nepal due to the pandemic and asking if there was any way BBF could be of assistance.

The email led to follow up Zoom calls with Dr. Madan Uprety, President of Mission Rebuild Nepal, Dr. Arun Kunwar, Director of a hospital in Kathmandu, and James, along with Liam Carstens, VP of Programs at BBF and myself. We urgently discussed the options and were soon presented with a proposal to provide oxygen concentrators and build oxygen plants to assist those affected by COVID-19. As there are critical shortages of oxygen supplies in medical facilities, BBF is partnering with Mission Rebuild Nepal to specifically support an oxygen concentrator bank in the country to provide immediate relief to those most in need.

The widely publicized COVID-19 crisis in India has led to extensive suffering in communities across the country and a corresponding loss of life. As BBF evaluated its response, it became clear that there were a number of logistical and regulatory issues that had to be addressed to successfully send relief supplies and equipment to be of assistance to those in need.

I had met Sunil Wadhvani, a Pittsburgh business luminary and Managing Partner of Swat Capital, who was born in Mumbai, India, at various functions over the years. He is also the co-founder and former CEO of Mastech, Inc. and IGATE. Sunil set up the Wadhvani Initiative for Sustainable Healthcare or WISH Foundation, with a focus on *improving the quality of and accessibility to primary healthcare for underserved populations in developing countries*. WISH currently manages over 200 Health Centers in India, and his gracious collaboration allowed BBF to partner with an organization which has the relationships, reach, and understanding of the local landscape. The strategy employed includes supplying life-saving medical equipment, setting up and scaling COVID-Care Centers (CCC), building oxygen plants, establishing COVID Care step-down models within hospitals and other facilities, conducting vaccinating drives, and ensuring that teleconsultation and mental health services are available to patients and families.

Thank you for all your support in allowing BBF to effectively work with our partners, as we have always done and will continue to do, to help those in such dire circumstances. ■

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The Healey International Relief Foundation

By Abigael Siecinski

More than 60% of Sierra Leonians are in poverty, living on less than \$1.25 a day. The healthcare system in Sierra Leone is ranked 183 out of 187 on the UNDP Human Development Index. Years of civil war, flooding disasters, and disease outbreak have made public health a consistent struggle. The Healey International Relief Foundation is a non-profit that seeks to empower the people of Sierra Leone.

The Healey Foundation's work is comprised of three main components: local partnerships, community-based solutions, and sustainable results. Currently they are focusing on their work with healthcare networks, vulnerable children, and disaster relief. BBF has been working with the Healey Foundation since 2015 with our partnership focusing on their healthcare programs to send shipments of medical supplies, equipment, and pharmaceuticals to support their network of hospitals and clinics.

Healey currently supports four hospitals and ten clinics throughout Sierra Leone. Additionally, Healey supports a mobile health unit that brings services to people who would otherwise be unable to receive medical treatment from healthcare facilities. Over the past 6 years, BBF has worked with the Healey Foundation to send shipments of medical supplies, equipment, and pharmaceuticals to support their network of hospitals and clinics. On our most recent project in May, we worked together to provide 13 pallets of pharmaceuticals and vitamins along with hospital beds, soap, personal mobility devices, an autoclave, and additional necessary hospital equipment.

We are always grateful to our long time partners. We look forward to future endeavors with the Healey Foundation and the great work they are doing for the people of Sierra Leone. ■



Surgical Instruments Arrive in Liberia

By Liam Carstens

Brother's Brother Foundation regularly provides surgical instruments to our partners throughout the world. We are able to do this through the generosity of our hospital donors and the tireless volunteer hours of Dr. Graham Johnstone, a BBF Advisory Trustee, who sorts and organizes the instruments at our Pittsburgh facility.

One of BBF's partners includes Partner Liberia who operates the Oniyama Specialist and Teaching Hospital (OSTH) on Bushrod Island in Monrovia, Liberia. A recent donation of surgical instruments from BBF has helped outfit and resupply the surgical suite of the facility, complementing a previous shipment we provided of hospital equipment.

The co-founder of Partner Liberia, Michael D. Davis, RT PhD, discussed our most recent contribution,

"This was a huge donation from our friends at Brother's Brother Foundation (BBF). We have worked together for almost a decade on healthcare and solar power projects. A few years ago, they donated all of our hospital exam tables and enough medical monitors and other equipment to fill a shipping container. Our hospital would not be open without their generosity.

Last year, a surgeon started performing small surgical procedures at our hospital. He made a shopping list of surgical tools he needed that he



could not find in country. I turned the list over to BBF and they responded with 100 pounds of very high quality surgical tools ... jam-packed into three surgical trays to minimize space since they knew I had to carry it all over. After a few hours of unpacking and inventorying, we have a very well-stocked operating theater."

BBF is pleased to provide surgical instruments to groups such as Partner Liberia for med-surg trips and for container shipments. For more information on how to apply for support, please visit our website: <https://brothersbrother.org/join/donations/requesting-donations/>. ■

Introducing our New Partner: Glenmark Pharmaceuticals

By Liam Carstens



We are happy to announce that Glenmark Pharmaceuticals has begun donating to Brother's Brother Foundation. The products donated by Glenmark include much needed malaria medications, antihypertensive drugs, and topical steroids. Our overseas recipient partners in hospitals and clinics often stress the incredible demand for these types of items and BBF is grateful that Glenmark is helping to fill this need.

We are thankful to all at Glenmark and look forward to continuing our work together to bridge the gap between aid and sustainability. ■

Our First Inaugural Golf Event

On June 21, Brother's Brother Foundation and Blood Science Foundation partnered together to host our first inaugural golf event to support local healthcare and education programs at Fox Chapel Golf Club. We want to thank each and every person who attended the event and made the day a huge success. We also want to express our appreciation to all of our sponsors for their support of our vital work. ■

Photo: First Tee kids and teens participate in our first golf event at Fox Chapel.



Med-Surg Trip Highlight: Patent Pathways

By Abigael Siecinski

Due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, many of BBF's med-surg trip partners have been unable to fulfill the hand carry medical missions they have been planning. However, there have still been some groups who have gone above and beyond to travel and serve those in need during a global pandemic. One of the most recent organization's that BBF was able to provide pharmaceuticals to is Patent Pathways. From February 20th to March 10th of 2021 this group of medical practitioners traveled to Nigeria to

provide medical and dental services to local communities as well as health awareness and training for local professionals.

On their med-surg trip, they were able to serve 170 girls, 137 women, 150 boys, and 120 men during their three weeks in Nigeria. They highlighted that one of the most useful items from BBF was the anti-malaria medication. Malaria has been a consistent endemic to the community and being able to provide the proper medication to combat the disease is vital.

They also shared the story of a young girl named Pauline who needed a tooth extracted. Dental work is hard to come by and costly in her area, so she had been forced to live in pain from the tooth until Patent Pathways arrived. They were able to provide the tooth extraction for free and greatly improve Pauline's quality of life.

BBF is extremely proud of our med-surg trip program and the work done by all of our partner groups. As travel restrictions begin to lift, we look forward to fully resuming our role in supporting more of these successful health outcomes around the world. ■





Cover With Address Label

There are so many ways you can support BBF!

Supporting Brother's Brother Foundation has never been so easy! Over the past year, we have strived to ensure our website is accessible to everyone and now we have only made donating to BBF that much better.



The easiest way to join and support our mission is through the AmazonSmile Foundation! Amazon Smile is a program that donates 0.5% of your eligible purchases on Amazon to a charity of your choice. All you need to do is start your shopping at smile.amazon.com. The donation will be made at no extra cost to you after you choose Brother's Brother Foundation as your charitable organization from the drop-down menu. Be sure to bookmark <https://smile.amazon.com> to ensure your purchases make an impact. That's it!

Looking for even more ways to support BBF, you can make donations directly from PayPal or from our donation form using your PayPal account! Making a purchase through PayPal? At checkout, you can even choose to add a little extra to help support our work.

From our QR code to all of our readily available donation options, together we can envision a world where aid leads to sustainable development. We are grateful for your continued support. ■

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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!

