



Programmatic Growth, Organizational Partnerships, and Staff Development

By Ozzy Samad

We are pleased to say that BBF is in a never-ending quest to develop and enhance our programs and services to better assist underserved members of society. With your support, we have been able to serve those in need both here at home and in the far corners of the globe. Our goal is to help bridge the gap between aid and sustainability, or said another way, give people a leg-up rather than a hand-out. I strongly encourage you to visit our website and view BBF's 2020 Annual Report to see the impact that you are helping make around the world: <https://bit.ly/BBF-Annual-Report>

BBF's work broadly entails partnering with other organizations which share our values and objectives. On one hand, these could be donors of pharmaceuticals and medical supplies, and on another, implementation partners on the ground in the countries that we serve. A key organization that brings everyone in this community together and prodigiously sets the standard for excellence in our industry, is PQMD – Partnership for Quality Medical Donations. After participating in PQMD's Community of Practice for almost 2 years, BBF was invited to join the organization and has now become a full member.

PQMD's Mission and Vision are as follows:

Mission: PQMD is a global collaboration that promotes sustainable access to quality health care in underserved communities and populations in crisis.

Vision: A world in which there is universal access to health and well-being.

Our membership offers an ideal platform where we can learn, share ideas, and work in a collaborative environment with other community participants.

Focusing on the four pillars of Humanitarian Assistance, Disaster Response, Health System Strengthening, and Knowledge and Innovation, PQMD provides a formalized framework with course offerings and seminars in various areas of interest. For example, Liam Carstens, BBF VP of Programs, and Abigael Siecinski, Program Coordinator, both attended a 7-week online course titled Global Health and Development Essentials, to further enhance their knowledge base and interact with staff from other organizations. In the same vein, PQMD's annual Global Health Forum brings together members from the non-governmental organization (NGO) and corporate communities to discuss how best to address health issues faced by people across the world.

In addition to having access to the experiences of other member organizations, from a programmatic growth standpoint, PQMD membership allows BBF to approach name brand pharmaceutical companies for additional donations of medicines. Though it will take time to further develop these relationships, receiving additional pharmaceutical and medical donations to complement our primarily generic pharma program. This will allow BBF to expand its work and assist many others in our midst who continue to be in great need of these often lifesaving medicines. Hand in hand with this growth, a key area that both our organizations are focusing on is being able to even better measure the impact of our work in a systematic and quantifiable manner. Our ultimate goal is to be able to evaluate the improvement in the quality of life of those who are the ultimate recipients of our assistance.

Thank you for your invaluable support which makes this work possible. ■

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BBF Continues Commitment to Partners in Africa

By Liam Carstens

Brother's Brother Foundation (BBF) continues our longstanding commitment to partners throughout sub-Saharan Africa. Thus far in 2021, we have supported seven shipments to organizations and healthcare facilities on the African continent, including three to Malawi, two to Sierra Leone, and one each to Zimbabwe and Kenya. In addition, BBF engages in other initiatives such as supporting solar power projects in Liberia.

In Malawi, BBF recently worked with longstanding partners at the **Medical Benevolence Foundation** to send an air shipment of requested pharmaceuticals to be distributed to a network of hospitals and clinics. We also sent an ocean-going container of surgical instruments, masks, medical supplies, and equipment to **St. Joseph's Hospital and College of Nursing** in Nguludi, Malawi. Additionally, BBF once again partnered with the **Church of the Resurrection** in Kansas City to send a container of PPE, medical supplies, and equipment to Wandikweza, who will distribute the items through their community health workers and projects.



BBF also joined with the **Healey International Relief Foundation** to send much needed medical supplies and equipment to a hospital network in Sierra Leone. **The Charity Health Network** consists of four hospitals and ten clinics throughout Sierra Leone and has been receiving support from BBF and Healey IRF since 2015.

Another long-term partner, **The Nyadire Connection** (TNC), worked with BBF to send a shipment of requested medical items, educational materials, refurbished computers, and eyeglasses from Pittsburgh. TNC is a Pittsburgh-based group that supports a hospital, school, and network of clinics in rural Zimbabwe. BBF and TNC have been sending items to Nyadire and other facilities in Zimbabwe for more than ten years.

In addition to these shipments, BBF maintains an ongoing partnership with **Pickering Energy Solutions**. Through this collaboration, more than 85 off-grid power systems have been installed and donated to the Ministry of Health in Liberia. These solar power systems provide electricity to hospital and clinics, some of which have no other source of power. ■



New Donor Spotlight: Macleods Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

By Liam Carstens

Brother's Brother Foundation (BBF) has received our first donation from **Macleods Pharmaceuticals Ltd.** Macleods is a global pharmaceutical company that recently contributed medications for diabetes, inflammation, and hypertension along with topical steroids, anti-viral treatments, and antibiotics. BBF is pleased to be working with Macleods and truly appreciates their donation of these useful medications, which will be sent to recipients throughout Latin America, the Caribbean, and to partners in sub-Saharan Africa in support of ongoing health programs. ■



As International Travel Begins to Pick Up So Does Our Med-Surg Program

By Abigael Siecinski

I started working at Brother's Brother Foundation (BBF) in the summer of 2020. I heard so much about our robust Hand Carry Med-Surg Program; for example, in 2019 we supported over 300 groups. Throughout my first year I had the pleasure of working with a handful of brave and compassionate organizations which continued to travel and serve others, even amid the Covid-19 global pandemic.

Although we are still collectively fighting this virus on the global stage, international travel restrictions have begun to lighten. Borders are opening and many people who have been fortunate enough to receive the Covid-19 vaccination are ready to follow their call to help others. Over the last two months there has been a steady increase in applications for the Med-Surg Program with many groups planning travel this fall. I am excited to support each and every one of these organizations. I look forward to receiving more applications as the need continues to increase for the Med-Surg Program and as the Covid-19 virus becomes more controlled around the world.

I would like to extend a big thank you to all of our Med-Surg partners who generously donate their time and



talents to help provide medical care around the globe. Thank our In-Kind partners, without you none of our programs would be possible. I look forward to sharing more of our Med-Surg partners stories with you all as they report back on the amazing work they continue to do. ■

Local Partnerships and Commitments

By Abigael Siecinski

Since 1958 Brother's Brother Foundation (BBF) has been a recognizable actor on the global stage of humanitarian aid. Over the past year and a half, we have turned our expertise towards our own back yard to help support healthcare and education services here in Western Pennsylvania.

I wanted to take this time to highlight some new and historical partners we are working with in the coming weeks and months. Throughout this month we have plans to provide the **Latino Community Center** with face masks for their weekly distribution boxes which are delivered to their program's families. These boxes provide their students and families with supplies to stay safe, healthy, and succeed in their school work. We are also partnering with **Mooncrest Neighborhood Programs** and the **Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh** to supply them with gloves and face masks for their programs and constituents.

We look forward to growing and maintaining these relationships while we continue to reach out to new organizations in the Western Pennsylvania area with which we can collaborate. Having the ability to share our resources and knowledge to better our own community while continuing our work abroad is an exciting and fulfilling addition to the BBF Programs Department. ■





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Pittsburgh Responds to Haiti Earthquake

Brother's Brother Foundation (BBF) is working with long-standing partner Food for the Poor (FFTP) of Coconut Creek, Florida to respond to the 7.2 magnitude earthquake that struck Haiti this morning. BBF's initial response includes sending critically needed first aid to those impacted by the earthquake and supporting ongoing search and rescue efforts. This will be followed by shipments of medicines, equipment, and additional humanitarian supplies as needed, along with longer-term support for the communities as they recover from the damage and loss of life.

According to the US Geological Survey (USGS), the quake struck 5 miles south east of the city of Petit Trou de Nippes in the western part of the country, which is approximately 80 miles west of the capital, Port-au-Prince.

100% of funds received for BBF's response to the disaster will be used to support emergency relief and logistics to the affected areas. Your donations and support are greatly appreciated.

Credit card donations can be made at www.brothersbrother.org. Checks should be made payable to Brother's Brother Foundation and sent to the address listed below. Please note Haiti Relief in the memo field.



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Thank you for your consideration. ■

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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!

