Over the last few years, you may have seen that as BBF’s relief and development work around the world continue in earnest, we have made a concerted effort to address the needs of underserved community members here at home. Quite often, BBF’s responses domestically are more visible in the disaster relief area, with Hurricane Ida off the Louisiana and Texas coast and the condominium collapse in Miami coming to mind most recently.

As we researched areas where BBF could make a difference in our community, the two programs outlined below stood out as potentially being most impactful and a natural fit for our healthcare efforts. After extensive analysis and evaluation, we are pleased to tell you that BBF is committed to bringing them to fruition with one community clinic event already having taken place. The ongoing funding for the programs will be supported through our Annual Golf Event, with the inaugural one having been a tremendous success earlier this summer!

The first program is an Optometry Mobile Health Clinic (MHC) which will be run in collaboration with Project Theia and local healthcare providers. The clinic will conduct eye and diabetes screenings in communities in need, provide prescription glasses to those who require them, and refer patients with additional medical needs to our partner healthcare providers. BBF received a $125,000 grant from an organization that heretofore had been a trusted and reliable PPE vendor all through COVID-19. When the CEO learnt of our plans and the potential for having multiple such MHCs, his response was “I’ll do the first one.” It was a complete surprise and gave the program a tremendous boost right out of the gate. We are currently in the process of acquiring the van which will then be converted to the Optometry MHC. The now infamous supply chain delays notwithstanding, the clinic should be in service in January of 2022!

The second program, in collaboration with Allen Place Community Services and BBF’s own Trustee, Dr. William Simmons, along with volunteer physicians, nurses, and community organizations, holds free Diabetes Screening, Nutrition, and Information Symposiums in underserved community areas. The first of these clinics was held on October 2nd, 2021, on the North Side of Pittsburgh near BBF’s facilities. Complementary Covid-19 and Flu vaccines were provided at the event along with blood glucose and HbA1c checks. Volunteer Podiatrists and Ophthalmologists also provided foot and eye screenings which can provide critical information about the onset of diabetes. There was also an emphasis on adopting sound nutritional habits and a healthy lifestyle. In all, there were 20 community organizations represented at the event which included multiple medical society volunteers, food banks, the neighborhood Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), and motivation and fitness coaches. The clinic could not have been better received and we intend to sponsor a similar one this coming spring! Thank you for your ongoing support of BBF’s programs – the impact you are making is felt both here at home and around the world!

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Serving Communities in Need the World Over and Here at Home

By Ozzy Samad

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Relief for Hurricane Ida
By Abigail Siecinski

Hurricane Ida made landfall as a Category-4 storm near Port Fourchon, Louisiana, on August 29, 2021. It was the second-most damaging and intense hurricane to make landfall in the U.S. state of Louisiana on record, behind Hurricane Katrina in 2005. In the immediate aftermath of any storm, Brother’s Brother Foundation (BBF) recognizes the importance of getting relief essentials to those who have been displaced and need basic support. In our experience, the most immediate needs are food and water. Many people affected by disasters have had to leave their homes very quickly or have had their homes destroyed by these catastrophic events.

BBF partnered with three food banks in Louisiana in the days following Hurricane Ida’s landfall. These partners were the Second Harvest Food Bank, Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank, and Giving Hope NOLA Food Bank. These organizations focus on the displaced citizens of the New Orleans area, providing groceries, water, and meals to its residents. In the weeks following the storm, Second Harvest Food Bank distributed more than 3 million pounds of food, water, and essential supplies through 500 distributions across 14 Parishes in New Orleans.

This quick and effective response is essential in the earliest days of any disaster. Brother’s Brother Foundation is honored to partner with such committed community-oriented groups that jump into action helping their neighbors during times of crisis.

VP of Global Partnerships & Development, Laura Kelly, shares her breast cancer story and the importance of access and early detection

This past summer, Ms. Kelly and her family moved from Washington, D.C. to New York State. She and her family were very excited to return to the United States Military Academy at West Point, where her husband, COL Todd Kelly, was named Deputy Commandant. Like many other women, Ms. Kelly’s life revolves around her work and family. As a military wife, she has spent over 25 years supporting military members and their families. Professionally, she has led partnership, fundraising and development efforts for a wide array of non-profit organizations. As Vice President of Global Partnerships and Development, Ms. Kelly’s dedication over the past 2+ years has been in support of Brother’s Brothers mission by providing aid and developing sustainable projects by supporting localized programs which provide essential resources in the areas of Healthcare, Infrastructure, Disaster Response, and Education (H.I.D.E.),

Ms. Kelly has always been diligent about regular breast cancer check-ups, due to her family history of breast cancer beginning with her grandmother. Since then, she has performed monthly self-checks and annual mammograms. In June 2021, Ms. Kelly found a large lump 2 weeks before scheduled mammogram while performing a self-check. Her doctors were able to quickly schedule a mammography, biopsy, and other medical tests. Following these tests, Ms. Kelly received the shocking news confirming that she had invasive breast cancer and it had spread to her lymph nodes.

“My life changed in the span of a phone call,” Ms. Kelly said. “I was in shock at first realizing this was about to change the course of my direction. This would be a new road I would have to travel along with so many others who fight this disease every day.”

Shortly following the news Ms. Kelly received, “I realized I was incredibly lucky. Regardless of the emotions I was experiencing, I have an opportunity to have the best healthcare and support team to get me through this horrible disease, but so many others here in the United States and around the World do not. “I’m surrounded by my family, friends, co-workers, and a great Oncology team to support me.” In response to this need, Brother’s Brother Foundation will be joining forces and partnering with other organizations to help improve the lives of so many that fight this disease. Ms. Kelly, moved by this gesture of support said, “I’m proud to work for an organization that helps improve the lives of people around the world as well as their local community. Helping women unable to receive or pay for treatments will save lives through early detection and education.”

Ms. Kelly advises all women to conduct monthly breast self-exams to help detect changes that may be signs of breast cancer. When breast cancer is detected early, the chances for survival increase significantly.

Refugees, Solar Power and Water
By Abigail Siecinski

Over the past two months, Brother’s Brother Foundation (BBF) Program Department has been busy with disaster relief efforts and the need for healthcare support. We want to highlight our infrastructure work, as well as a new and important local partnership.

The world watched as the Taliban took Afghanistan in August 2021, leading to thousands of individuals fleeing their country. The city of Pittsburgh warmly opened its doors to refugees arriving in the United States. BBF is proud to partner with the local branch of the Jewish Family and Children Services (JFCS) to help support these Afghan Nationals in their transitions by arranging housing, schooling, and community support for incoming emigrants. This partnership is prepared to help the families arriving in Pittsburgh during this time.

We are delighted to work with Solar Village Projects to add solar infrastructure capacities to a primary health center in India. This will allow life-saving procedures to occur uninterrupted by power outages or blackouts. The continuity of healthcare provided by solar power makes it a tremendous blend of our infrastructure and healthcare goals. In our recent water and sanitation efforts, we have partnered with Hearts-4-Kidz to help install a water tower and tank system to the Todee Vocational Institute and Soccer Academy in Liberia, Africa. This system will provide running water, plumbing, and sanitation access across the entire campus. In addition, the sale of water in the surrounding community will provide the school with a sustainable income.

BBF is proud of all the diversified program areas in which we can create positive impacts in our community and around the world. Thank you for your support!

Brother’s Brother Foundation Reacts to Haiti Earthquake
By Liam Carstens

In the early morning hours of August 14, 2021, a 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck the Tiburon Peninsula in southwestern Haiti. The earthquake struck 5 miles southeast of the city of Petit Trou-de-Nippes, which is located about 80 miles west of the capital, Port-au-Prince. This catastrophe resulted in more than 2,200 deaths and 12,200 injuries (as of September 1, 2021).

Brother’s Brother Foundation (BBF) is working with our long-standing partner Food for the Poor (FFTP) to respond to 2.2 million residents (about the population of New Mexico) who are victims of the destruction. BBF has worked in Haiti for decades and we continue the commitment with all our partners throughout the country to providing long-term support for communities continuing to recover from the extensive damage and loss of life. BBF’s initial action with FFTP was sending critically needed first aid and medications by air-shipsments to those affected by this devastating event. The first air-shipment was followed by a container shipment of medicines, health, safety equipment, as well as additional humanitarian supplies which were requested. In addition to FFTP, BBF worked with Medical Benevolence Foundation (MBF) to restock medical supplies and pharmaceuticals distributed in the immediate aftermath of the disaster.

We extend our deepest, heartfelt gratitude to those who have supported BBF’s work in Haiti. 100% of all cash contributions to BBF designated for “Haiti Relief” will continue to go towards ongoing recovery and rebuilding projects.
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!

Brother’s Brother Foundation (BBF) is pleased to announce our new partnership with Lupin Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Limited. A global pharmaceutical company donating medicine to support our robust Healthcare Program. Lupin is one of the largest manufacturers of generic pharmaceuticals in the world. We received our first donation in Pittsburgh which arrived in 9 tractor trailer truck loads. The delivery consisted of 15 million doses of antibiotics, anti-hypertensives, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAID), along with other high demand medications among our beneficiaries. BBF as shipped most of the donation to recipient our partners in Haiti and Guatemala. Additional shipments are being planned. We are overjoyed with our partnership, the level of support provided by Lupin, and we look forward to working together in the future.

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.

Brother’s Brother Foundation
P.O. Box 645934
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-5257

Thank you for your consideration.

Board of Trustees

By Liam Carstens

Lupin Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Supports Brother’s Brother Foundation

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Combined Federal Campaign

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