Kentucky Tornadoes —

thank you for helping us make a difference.

BY OZZY SAMAD

The night of December 10th saw a near unprecedented level of devastation in our nation’s heartland. The deadly tornadoes that struck Kentucky, Illinois, Arkansas, Missouri, Tennessee, and Mississippi left a trail of destruction with towns scarcely recognizable and the final loss of life tally at 58 victims. As dawn broke on the morning of Saturday the 11th and pictures of near obliterated communities flashed across our TV screens, it was imperative for BBF to immediately join the relief effort and assist those impacted, as quickly as possible. As you may know, BBF’s strategy is to work with partners on the ground to make the biggest impact in the most efficient way possible — and as always, 100% of the funds received for our disaster response are used to support emergency relief and rebuilding efforts.

After the Kentucky tornadoes, these partners provided an existing infrastructure which BBF utilized to complement responses of aid from other sources. Having worked extensively with foodbanks in the Feeding America Network during disasters, our immediate response was to pinpoint and provide aid to those directly assisting victims in emergency shelters without means to fend for themselves. In Kentucky itself, these foodbanks served 42 counties through a network of 240 community partners. BBF provided similar support to a foodbank in northeast Arkansas and along with the foodbanks in Kentucky, helped provide approximately 240,000 meals. BBF also partnered with World Central Kitchen to help serve more than 110,000 meals to communities across 14 cities.

In our traditional logistical and relief role, BBF offered to send shipments of food from local Pittsburgh foodbanks along with relief supplies donated by our corporate partners. These included tarps, hard hats, medical supplies, and cleaning products, along with PPE for first responders. BBF continues to respond on the medical front by collaborating with two PQMD (Partnership for Quality Medical Distributions) partners. You may recall that we joined PQMD last year and it is a preeminent industry group that enables us to collaborate with other nonprofits and corporate partners with a common interest in helping others and making a positive societal impact.

In this regard, BBF is collaborating with Heart to Heart International (HHI) to operate a Mobile Medical Unit (MMU) in conjunction with Kentucky Care, a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC). This collaboration has also been invaluable as we too will soon have a MMU to help underserved community members in our own neighborhoods. Similarly, BBF is working with International Medical Corps (IMC) whose emergency response team assessed damage and determined needs in the hardest-hit communities — allowing for the assistance of facilities such as the Jackson Purchase Medical Center, the main hospital servicing Mayfield, along with other medical facilities such as FQHCs.

Though perhaps now in the rear-view mirror of daily news coverage, as recovery and relief programs in the affected communities continue, so do BBF’s efforts in helping rebuild the lives of those so adversely impacted. Thank you for your support and commitment in helping make this a reality.
BBF Healthcare Program in 2021

BY LIAM CARSTENS

In 2021, the team at BBF has remained focused on increasing donations of pharmaceuticals. Through introductions and follow-ups by BBF Trustee Lance Kann as well as research and outreach by BBF Program Coordinator, Abigail Siecinski, we added five new pharmaceutical donors in 2021: Glenmark, Neophron, Macleods, Tris, and Lupin. Additionally, BBF Trustee Chronis Manolis provided a needed reintroduction to Sun Pharmaceuticals, a past donor who began donating again in December 2021.

As a result of these generous efforts, BBF received substantial donations of more than 3.2 million units of medicine (bottles, suspensions, tubes, bags, etc.). These equate to more than 203 million doses of sorely needed medicines like antibiotics, antifungals, and antivirals as well as medications for the management of chronic conditions like diabetes and heart disease. As in years past, Teva and Viatris (formerly Mylan) remain our largest contributors and we are extremely thankful for both their support and that of all of our kind donors. These incredible numbers made 2021 an excellent year for BBF’s Healthcare Program. BBF sent the equivalent of 105 ocean-going containers of pharmaceuticals, supplies, and medical equipment to recipients in 18 different countries. These shipments, valued at over $117 million, consisted of requested items for hospitals, health centers, and clinics in Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Haiti, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Saint Vincent, Grenada, Malawi, Sierra Leone, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Burundi, Kenya, Pakistan, Lebanon, Venezuela, and to partners in the United States.

Moving Forward in Breast Cancer

BBF is pleased to report that Laura Kelly, our VP of Global Partnerships and Development is making significant progress in her personal fight against invasive breast cancer. After finding a lump during a self-exam in the fall of 2021, she was diagnosed and began treatment soon thereafter. Kelly’s treatment is aggressive: chemotherapy (doxorubicin, also known as adriamycin, and cyclophosphamide). Treatments include chemotherapy and radiation therapy. The program also sponsors information campaigns to highlight the importance of screening and testing for early detection.

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Thanks to the generous initial response by donors last fall, BBF has already been able to present our first donation to Ribbons of Love in January. Following the gift, Kelly said, “This will be a huge step in helping women get the necessary breast cancer treatment and care they so desperately need. I couldn’t be happier to be able to help these women access this care. It makes me feel so good.”

BBF will continue to raise money and build our program to benefit women fighting breast cancer through our Breast Cancer Awareness Fund. If you would like your next gift to go toward this worthy cause, click “donate now” from our website and then select “Breast Cancer Awareness Fund” under the Gift Designation tab.

A larger campaign benefiting BBF’s Breast Cancer Awareness Fund is scheduled to begin this spring. Be on the lookout for more information soon.

WASH in Guatemala

BY ABIGAIL SIECINSKI

Two major hurricanes swept across Central America in a period of less than two weeks in November of 2020. Hurricanes Iota and Eta impacted the lives of more than 7.3 million people. Heavy rains caused landslides and flooding that demolished infrastructure, homes, and schools. In rural and remote areas, the loss of schools was particularly devastating. A year-and-a-half later, the effects are still widespread and apparent.

Brother’s Brother Foundation, in partnership with All Hands and Hearts, has focused a response in the Alta Verapaz region of Guatemala. In Alta Verapaz, 83% of the population lives in poverty and the community lacks access to clean drinking water. Almost half of the children under five years of age are stunted due to malnutrition. As part of our WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) Program, which aims to reduce water-borne illnesses and increase access to clean water, BBF and All Hands and Hearts is installing water and sanitation infrastructure at the Monja Blanca Elementary School in Alta Verapaz.

Our project will install toilets, hand washing stations, rainwater harvesting equipment, and a water filtration system at the Monja Blanca school. It will also provide community-based training to focus on personal hygiene and maintenance of the new infrastructure. With access to clean drinking water, these new facilities will reduce illness throughout the village. Additionally, by providing reliable access to private hygiene and sanitation facilities, girls will have the opportunity to confidently stay in school throughout their menstrual cycles.

At BBF, we believe all these types of basic amenities should be available to every student and individual around the world. Until that day, we will continue to work, one project at a time, to bridge gaps for those in need and create sustainable change.

BBF and the Education Partnership

BY ABIGAIL SIECINSKI

With the fight against COVID-19 and the pandemic at the forefront of every community in 2021, Brother’s Brother Foundation focused many efforts in our healthcare program by providing PPE. In addition to providing aid around the globe, we were honored to also support local efforts in Pittsburgh to protect workers and constituents. In 2022, BBF will strive to continue to expand our local footprint in Pittsburgh across all programs and departments. We are excited to announce that within our Education Program, we have joined the Education Partnership and their Adopt-A-School initiative.

Adopt-A-School connects organizations with qualifying schools to provide students with basic supplies needed for schoolwork. BBF will provide funding for individual “Power Tools Homework Kits,” which include items like markers, glue, erasers and other school supplies. BBF is adopting Pittsburgh West Liberty K-5 School. West Liberty serves around 200 students from the neighborhoods of Brookline and Carrick. They offer an impressive range of extracurriculars, such as ballroom dancing, the Mad Science Program, Safety Patrol, Girls on the Run, annual science fair, and peer tutors. The school also partners with community organizations to provide opportunities outside of academics to its students. These organizations include KPMG, Family Links, Oasis Tutoring, and Glen Hazel Nursing Home.

West Liberty’s motto is: “Where Learners Excel and Character Counts”; their school’s philosophy emphasizes the fact that everyone — students, staff, and parents — is a learner and should strive for excellence. We look forward to supporting this mission and helping every student at West Liberty receive the best possible education.
BBF continues to be part of the Combined Federal Campaign. Many thanks to both new and renewing CFC donors.

Look for BBF on the Combined Federal Campaign website at https://cfcgiving.opm.gov. BBF’s Combined Federal Campaign number is 12228. 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!

Donor Highlight:
MSA Safety Incorporated

BY LIAM CARSTENS

The Brother’s Brother Foundation is greatly pleased to highlight our longstanding partnership with MSA Safety Incorporated, or Mine Safety Appliances (MSA). With locations all over the world, MSA develops, manufactures, and supplies safety products for people and infrastructure facilities. Their donations to BBF regularly include hard hats, safety glasses, harnesses, heavy duty work gloves, ear plugs, first aid kits, coveralls, and other items that are useful for disaster response and recovery. We truly appreciate the safety equipment that MSA donates as it is always in high demand among our partners.

MSA Safety Incorporated’s donations stretch back more than 15 years and, with their support, BBF has been able to send much-needed safety equipment to aid in recovery efforts following hurricanes, volcanos, wildfires, earthquakes, and other natural disasters. BBF has distributed their donations throughout the USA, Central and South America, the Caribbean, and Sub-Saharan Africa. We are extremely appreciative of our partnership with MSA. Their generosity has provided critical items to our partners around the world following unthinkable disasters. We want to thank them for their invaluable support for the last 15 years and we look forward to many more years of working together.