



## The year in review!

BY OZZY SAMAD

Through disasters man-made and natural, shipments of medications and supplies to far off lands, addressing healthcare needs for underserved communities in our own backyard, providing solar panels to schools and remote clinics, along with water wells, computers and education material for students, your donations and support helped make 2022 one of the most impactful years in BBF's history of working to assist those in need.

In addition to expanding our shipments of medications and medical supplies that form the core of our relief work, the start of the year focused on BBF's response to the year-end 2021 tornadoes in Kentucky followed by the crisis in Ukraine. The response in Kentucky helped bring relief to so many whose lives were completely upended by the devastation caused by a deadly natural calamity – in sharp contrast to the man-made crisis in Ukraine. Our ongoing response there includes supplying critically needed medications, medical supplies, and humanitarian relief to those impacted in Ukraine itself and to refugees in Poland. Through your generosity, we have flown over 400 pallets (equal to 20 shipping containers) of relief supplies to Ukraine, provided generators to five hospitals near the front lines, supported mental health efforts for first responders and the general public, and are working to set-up a prosthetics clinic in the country.

As the work outlined above continued in earnest, the spring thaw saw BBF's vision and diabetes mobile health clinic (MHC) van being delivered to us in early April. Working in collaboration with BBF's partners, the MHC's focus is to provide screening to members of our local underserved community.

An enthusiastic early supporter of the program was Pittsburgh Mayor Ed Gainey who mentioned his own prediabetic condition during a visit to our facilities.

Late summer and fall saw BBF responding to natural disasters including Hurricane Ian which caused catastrophic damage in the State of Florida, Hurricane Fiona which led to massive flooding in Puerto Rico, storms that caused tremendous flood damage in both Mississippi and Kentucky, flooding in Pakistan that displaced over 30 million people and caused over 1,700 deaths, followed by Hurricane Nicole, on Florida's eastern coastline. These efforts included supporting foodbanks and other relief agencies, along with shipments of medical supplies, water, hygiene kits, cleaning supplies, tarps, and hard hats, to assist those impacted by the storms.

On the home front, we inaugurated BBF's Solar Panels project funded by Green Mountain Energy Sun Club, and welcomed Diane Farrell, Deputy Under Secretary for International Trade at the Commerce Department. The solar project will save BBF approximately twenty thousand dollars per year in electricity costs & includes six EV chargers at our facilities - four of which can be accessed by the general public. The event was attended by State and local government officials and the Council of the City of Pittsburgh subsequently passed a Proclamation recognizing BBF for its work here at home and around the world.

As always, thank you for your invaluable support! We are but an extension of your thoughtfulness, generosity and kindness towards helping those in need. ■

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Thank You Donors

# Solar Panels Provide Reliable Access to Energy in Rural India

BY KAITLYN NUBEL

A healthcare facility can have all the medical supplies, medications, and doctors needed to treat patients, but without any electricity, its capacity to help is severely limited. Yet, for 25% of health centers located in India's rural areas, this is their reality. Millions of people in these areas are left to suffer without access to adequate healthcare.

India's Primary Health Centers (PHCs) typically provide emergency care, administer vaccines, and assist

difficult to use in remote areas. Solar panels provide a sustainable, reliable, and less expensive alternative. Although they cost more than diesel generators initially, the unit cost of solar energy is 45% less than that of diesel and can reduce PHC's energy costs by 80%.

The logistics of installing solar panels in India's rural areas can make the project one that is easier said than done. Solar vendors have little information about the electricity demands in these regions and many vendors do not want to travel the distance required to reach them. For the PHCs, solar panels also have the burden of upfront costs, making them very difficult to afford.

Brother's Brother Foundation partnered with Solar Village Project (SVP) to install solar panels on two PHCs in Bahraich district in the state of Uttar Pradesh. In Bahraich, an estimated one million people lack access to basic healthcare. Once installed, the 5kw solar

women in labor. However, without electricity, doctors are unable to provide around-the-clock care or administer vaccines and medication that require refrigeration.

PHCs with irregular or no electricity supply rely on backups like diesel generators, which are not only expensive, but also



Brother's Brother Foundation funded the solar panel installation on a Primary Health Clinic in the village of Sujauli, Uttar Pradesh, India, to provide reliable access to energy.



# Program Provides Open Heart Surgery in Nigeria

BY KAITLYN NUBEL

Chimbuchi was four months old when he had open-heart surgery at Dame Irene Okwuosa Memorial (DIOM) Hospital in Nigeria in November, 2022. As the world starts a new year, he will start a new life – one that wouldn't have been possible without the surgery.

A grant from Brother's Brother Foundation helped fund the two-week medical trip to DIOM Hospital. More than 50 medical professionals took part in the trip and were able to perform 25 open-heart surgeries at no cost to patients. Organized and led by the Vincent Obioma Ohaju Memorial (VOOM) Foundation, the trip also introduced hospital staff to an interventional cardiology program; a non-surgical method that uses a catheter to repair damaged vessels, narrowed arteries, and other issues.

VOOM's medical volunteers included some of the best talent in the world. A Nigerian native, Dr. Agodochi Nwosu from Cape Fear Valley Medical Center in the U.S. led the interventional program; educating and training doctors while completing 12 cardiac catheterization procedures and one pacemaker procedure. Dr. Andrew Goldstone brought his entire team from Columbia/Morgan Stanley Presbyterian Children's Hospital in New York. Their initial goal was to perform four to six surgeries in one week. However, once they arrived they were overwhelmed by the need. They saw 250 patients by appointment in addition to many other walk-ins who came from areas across Nigeria. In an effort to treat as many patients as possible, several medical volunteers changed their flights and stayed another week. At the end of the two weeks, they were able to complete a total of 14 surgeries. Dr. Shahab Nozohoor and Voom Foundation Medical Mission Director, Dr. Adanna

Akujuo, led a team of volunteers from Skaane Hospital in Sweden. Their team was able to perform open-heart surgery on 11 adults.

Twenty-five open-heart surgeries may seem small in comparison to the 500,000 completed in the United States every year. However, according to a 2018 study, these 25 open-heart surgeries account for roughly a quarter of all open-heart surgeries performed in Nigeria annually. With more than half of Nigerians living in poverty, most who need open-heart surgery cannot afford the \$11,000 price tag that comes with it. Those who can afford it struggle to find surgeons qualified to operate. As of 2018, only five cardiothoracic surgeons in Nigeria could perform the open-heart surgery without receiving additional instruction.

In Nigeria, a diagnosis of congenital heart disease comes with high stakes. For the 25 people who laid on operating tables at DIOM Hospital last November, surgery provided by VOOM's highly specialized medical volunteers and funding from BBF has made the difference between life and death. ■



Twelve-year-old Chikamos arrived at DIOM Hospital with aortic insufficiency and severe mitral insufficiency. Following his surgery he said he was looking forward to feeling better and living life as a normal kid. Chikamos' mother expressed her gratitude to Brother's Brother Foundation for providing her son a second chance on life and providing hope to their entire family.



Chimbuchi, a four-month-old, was the youngest patient to receive open-heart surgery during the VOOM Foundation's recent mission trip to Nigeria. VOOM's medical staff report he is doing very well.



Cardiothoracic surgeon Dr. Reza Khodaverdian trains Nigerian cardiothoracic surgeon Dr. Bode Falase during an open-heart surgery organized through the VOOM Foundation.

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## BBF Receives Critical Medicines from Avet Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

All of us at BBF are pleased to announce a large donation from Avet Pharmaceuticals, Inc., which donated nearly 18.5 million doses of medicine to BBF in October. This donation includes anti-diabetics, antibiotics, and other critical drugs that are in demand throughout the world. The medicines have already been placed with partners in Latin America and will be delivered soon. We are thankful for Avet's support and look forward to a long and fruitful partnership. ■



## Thank You Donors

This past October marked BBF's second year raising money for our Breast Cancer Awareness Fund (BCAF). The campaign was a huge success and will allow BBF to provide more services to women in need in the coming year.

The most recent partner update from Honduras reported that BBF's BCAF 2021 donations were able to help more than 80 women in Honduras access and pay for treatment, including 16 surgeries and hundreds of radiation and chemotherapy treatments. They also reported the best outcome – two

women who received treatments are now cancer-free! In 2022, BBF also made a donation to St Luke's Montefiore Hospital System in New York. In 2023, we are expanding the program with a new partnership with RAD-AID International to increase access to radiology and imaging services.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Breast Cancer Awareness Fund in 2022. Your donations are saving lives! ■



BBF staff took part in Go Pink in October for breast cancer awareness

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### Combined Federal Campaign

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!**

