

BBF GLOBAL RELIEF QUARTERLY

SUMMER CAMP IN UKRAINE

BBF supports a summer music program for displaced children

EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE UPDATE

Shipments and aid continue for Turkey and Northern Syria

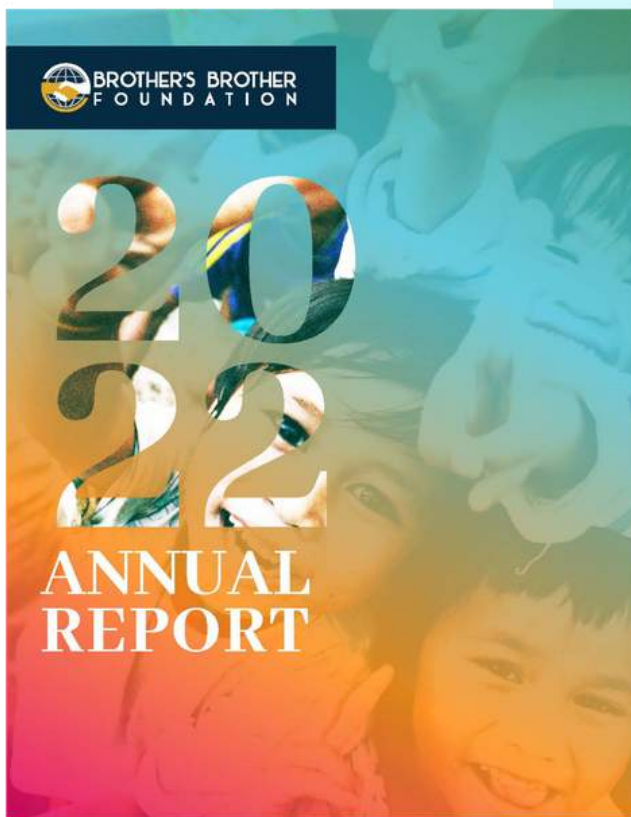
INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT UNDERWAY IN NEPAL



BROTHER'S BROTHER
F O U N D A T I O N

The printing of this magazine has been generously funded by the Board of Trustees





BBF continues to be part of the Combined Federal Campaign.

Find us on the website at cfcgiving.opm.gov. BBF's Combined Federal Campaign number is 12228. This is a great way to give.

Thank you!

Dear Friends,

A quick look out my window and it's clear that summer has officially arrived. The bees are buzzing, the grass is fresh and green, and the sun is shining for several extra hours each day. These welcome signs of summer accompany the arrival of the summer issue of Global Relief Quarterly as well as our 2022 Annual Report. I am pleased to share the Annual Report is now available on our website and I encourage you to read it - it is an excellent representation of the work BBF does and the impact your donations have through our programs. The charts, graphics, photographs, and writing were all specifically selected to tell the story of BBF's work in 2022 and the result is an impressive narrative of our humanitarian work around the globe. I know you will be pleased with all we have accomplished in 2022 made possible by your generosity. If you would like a hard copy of the annual report, please call the office and we would be happy to mail one to you.

This spring has been busy in the Development Office. You should have received the colorful spring 'Give From the Heart' donation card in the mail in April. After a brief hiatus last year, we brought back this annual campaign that raises money for all our core programs. We are also hard at work planning our Third Annual Golf Classic to be held July 17 at Fox Chapel Golf Club in Pittsburgh. The event raises money for our local Education and Healthcare initiatives. Looking forward, we will begin work on a fall education fundraiser. Be on the lookout for more information about that soon.

Thank you for your continued support of BBF and our programs. I hope you enjoy this issue of Global Relief Quarterly and find inspiration from the pages within. Your donations are what make these stories possible!



Sincerely,

Laura Kelly
VP of Communications and Development

BBF GLOBAL RELIEF QUARTERLY

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— From our President
Ozzy Samad

Making A Difference

Avenues to further expand BBF's impact.

Last week, we had the pleasure of hosting a long-time donor and her similarly engaged friend at BBF's offices on Pittsburgh's North Side, followed by a meeting the next day with a local TV station's very supportive head of community relations – also a gracious donor. After talking about our ongoing work in Ukraine and the H.I.D.E program categories of Healthcare, Infrastructure, Disaster Response and Education, the discussions moved towards BBF's vision for expanding the organization's efforts around the globe.

I had just made a presentation on these plans for growth to BBF's Board of Trustees at the April Board meeting and was excited at the interest and passion expressed by our guests. They concurred that sharing what are the scribbled highlights of the plan on the whiteboard in my office, may be of interest to our supporters wherever they may be.

In addition to BBF's ongoing efforts most visibly seen through the donations of pharmaceuticals (our largest program and a major focus of expansion led by Board Member Lance Kann), medical supplies and equipment,



support of physician-led Med-Surg trips, solar and WASH projects, responses to disasters, and work in the educational area, BBF's strategy to make an even greater impact is highlighted by Domestic and International initiatives outlined below.

I. Domestic: BBF's domestic strategy revolves around addressing the needs of underserved community members both locally and across our country. This includes donating mobile health clinics (MHCs) to implementation partners who are direct care providers and can also deliver continuity of care to patients as needed. Current and potential MHC funding sources include both individual and institutional donors.

BBF has also conducted an in-depth study titled *Addressing Unmet Healthcare Needs in South-West PA* along with studies on the need and

effectiveness of both vision and audiology mobile clinics. As you will see below, we are working with major health systems, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), Free Clinics, and other community service organizations.

Supporting larger organizations may seem counterintuitive, but they often have the staffing and operational plans to conduct such work. Well deserving smaller healthcare providers can be doing impactful work but may need the mobile clinic and funding for additional staffing. Our research and discussions to date have shown that though these organizations may have different operational characteristics, they are all dedicated to helping those in need.

BBF IS CURRENTLY INVOLVED IN THE FOLLOWING DOMESTIC PROJECTS:

1. Eye & Ear Foundation Guerilla Eye Service, Pittsburgh, PA – Vision and Diabetes Screening Mobile Health Clinic (MHC) – delivered and in service assisting homeless and underserved community members in collaboration with students from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.

2. Allegheny Health Network (AHN), Pittsburgh, PA – Primary Care MHC to address the needs of the elderly in underserved communities. The MHC is currently being fabricated – 06/16 completion date.

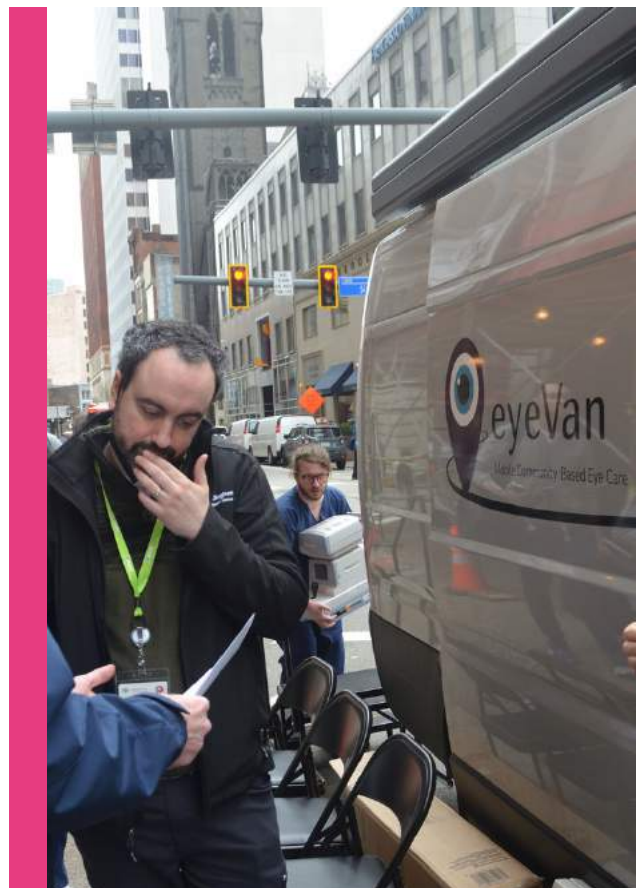
3. Caridad Center, Free Clinic, Boynton Beach, FL – Vision and Diabetes Screening MHC to see patients who cannot come to their facility. MHC is currently being fabricated – 06/16 completion date.

4. Kentucky Care, FQHC, multiple locations including school-based clinics, KY – Primary Care MHC to visit patients in rural areas who cannot come to medical facilities. The MHC is currently being fabricated – 06/16 completion date.

5. Local Pittsburgh organization (not publicly announced as yet) providing hearing services, Pittsburgh, PA – Proposed audiology MHC to assist the elderly and others in underserved communities who cannot come to the clinic. We are anticipating foundational funding for the MHC and additional staffing after completion of the operational plan by their Executive Director.



Vision and Diabetes Mobile Health Clinic



6. Eye & Ear Foundation, Pittsburgh, PA – Proposed audiology MHC to assist underserved community members in potential collaboration with the hearing services organization mentioned above. We are awaiting an operational plan and will thereafter seek funding for the program.

7. Major healthcare partner (not publicly announced as yet) – Proposed mammography MHC. BBF provided a research report focusing on needs assessment and the current availability of services. The project is in preliminary planning stages and may require foundational funding in addition to the implementing partner's internal funding commitment.

II. International: BBF became a USAID (United States Agency for International Development) partner in March of 2023. This designation now allows us to apply for USAID grants in any area of the world where they have a presence. We are particularly interested in USAID's ASHA (American Schools and Hospitals Abroad) program given its potential synergy with BBF's areas of work. As we continue to further learn about and understand USAID's grant process, BBF's focus is on working with established and credible local in-country partners to get the projects funded. Some programs such as Chile Newborn screening, will require outside funding as USAID does not work in the country.

BBF'S INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

1. Chile – Newborn Screening Program as written about in an earlier newsletter this year. In collaboration with BBF Board members Drs. Christina Briscoe Abath, Agnes Kielian, their Chilean neurologist colleague Dr. Juan Francisco Cabello at the University of Valparaíso in Chile, along with the Chilean Ministry of Health.
2. Global Neurology Initiative – This includes an expansion of our support for neurology programs which stemmed from the Ukraine response. The initiative is led by BBF Board member Dr. Svetlana Faktorovich in a potential collaboration with the American Academy of Neurology (AAN) and local in-country partner organizations.

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Water installation in Ghana.

3. Ghana – Providing support for schools and medical facilities in collaboration with Dr. Steve Greene, of Hope for Ghana. As you may have seen from our highlights of Dr. Greene's work, it includes building schools, providing solar panels for electricity, setting up clean water systems, and providing computers for learning.

4. Pakistan – Providing support for the rehabilitation of pediatric emergency rooms in collaboration with Child Life Foundation.

The impact of the program has been highlighted on the 60 minutes TV show and universally acclaimed for substantially decreasing the child mortality rate in the rehabbed ERs.

5. Malawi – BBF has worked extensively in Malawi and recently provided optical equipment to the Mulanje Mission Hospital (MMH). Though currently in the preliminary stages, the vision is to provide a mobile ophthalmology clinic to MMH within the larger context of providing MHCs to medical facilities across the country. This program would be further scalable and replicable in other countries such as Ghana.



Solar installation in Ghana.



Cataract surgeries at MMH, Malawi.

A number of the initiatives mentioned above are already underway through your generous contributions. Others will require additional time, research, and successful grant proposals for institutional support. We put them before you to share the impact that you are making and our commitment to expanding BBF's work to new horizons.

As always, thank you for your thoughtfulness and generosity in helping improve the lives of so many around the world.

New Partnership Expands Mobile Eye Van's Reach

Brother's Brother Foundation donated the Mobile Eye Van to the Eye and Ear Foundation of Pittsburgh in a ceremony held March 2. The van will be used by the Foundation's Guerrilla Eye Service (GES), a program led by UPMC Eye Director Dr. Evan Waxman and carried out by students from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, to address the needs of underserved community members.

Similar to an ophthalmologist's office, the van has all of the equipment necessary for performing eye exams and diabetes screenings. Providing this care on-site allows patients to receive the same quality of care as they would in office while eliminating physical and financial barriers.

GES held two clinics in Pittsburgh's Downtown and South Side communities on March 22 to provide care to the homeless and others in need. Staff and health care workers from Allegheny Health Network's Center for Inclusion Health and Pittsburgh Mercy's Operation Safety Net program were on site to connect GES with the patients.

"When you're trying to overcome food security and housing security issues, trying to get back on



your feet, get a job – you need to be able to see," Dr. Waxman said at the Eye Van handing over ceremony at Mercy Hospital.

Prior to having a van, GES clinics were limited to buildings where they could set up their ophthalmology equipment. Waxman has thought about getting a van for several years and worked with Dr. José Alain-Sahel, the director of UPMC's Vision Institute and a world-leading expert in vision restoration research, to try to make the project to come to fruition.

"During the pandemic, I wrote to UPMC management saying that we have to do something because we have a lot of people that need repeated treatments and they are not going to be able to come to us, and we have to put something together," Sahel said. "I suggested we buy a van and we go to neighborhoods and we provide care, injections and all of that."

The eye van donation from BBF enables Waxman and other UPMC ophthalmologists to provide the community outreach without any complications.

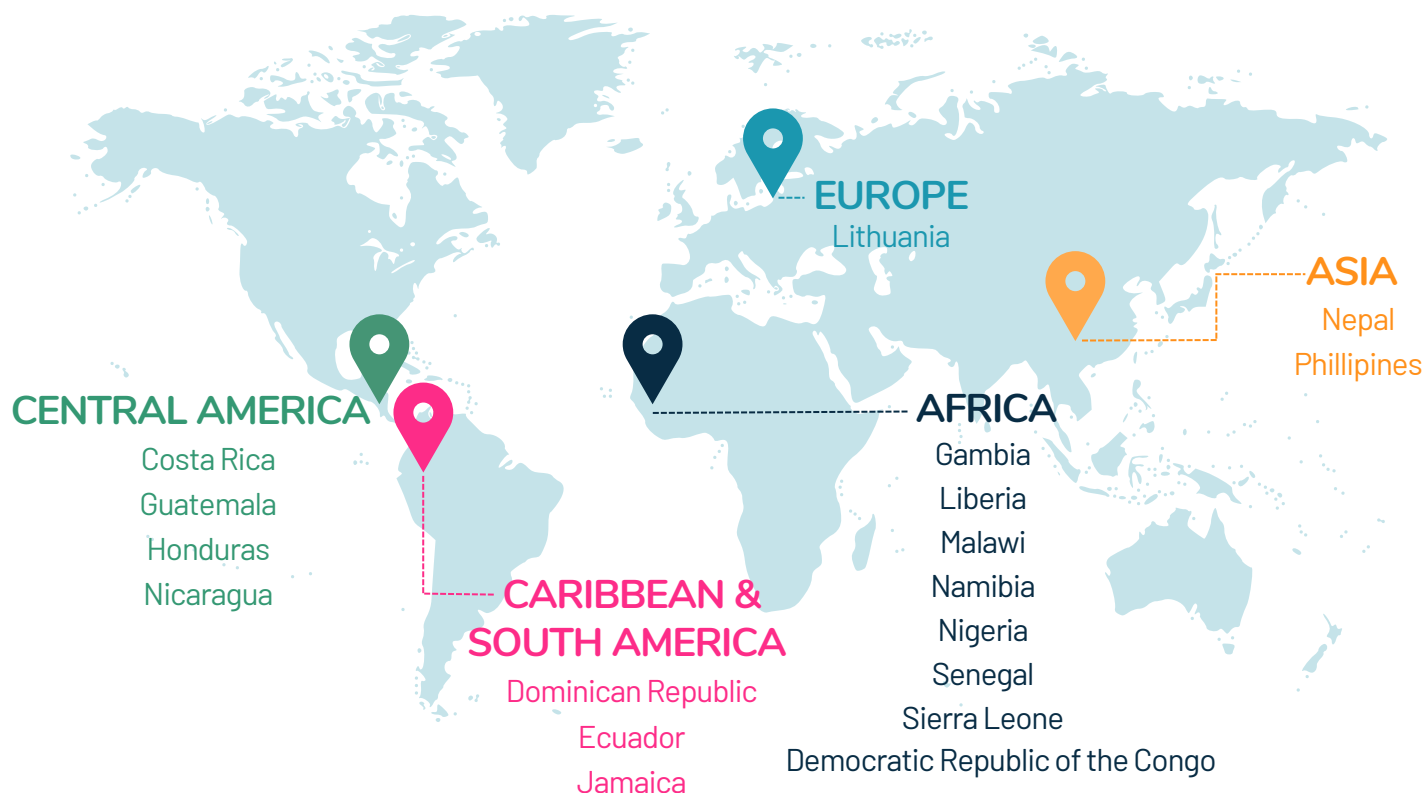


HEALTHCARE PROGRAM | Med-Surg Trips 2023

BBF supports U.S. doctors traveling to provide medical care and training in developing countries through our Medical-Surgical (Med-Surg) program. Non-profit organizations that travel with professionals who have authority to prescribe medication are eligible to request pharmaceuticals for their trip. BBF ships the medications to the organization domestically, which doctors then hand-carry into the country they're visiting.

By receiving medication through BBF's Med-Surg program, doctors have the resources to provide care in overlooked communities without navigating the supply shortages, price hikes, and quality control issues they would likely experience if they were to purchase the pharmaceuticals upon their arrival. The program also benefits the patients, who receive medications for high blood pressure, heart arrhythmias, high cholesterol, infections and other life-threatening diseases at no cost.

In the first five months of 2023, BBF supported 21 organizations that traveled to a total of 18 countries. The medical care provided included routine dental and medical exams, screening for chronic diseases, as well as performing specialized surgeries and training local doctors.



PHARMACEUTICALS PROVIDED TO TRAVELING DOCTORS

(not a comprehensive list)

Antibiotics ► Antihypertensives ► Phosphate binders ► Lidocaine ► High cholesterol and triglycerides (fibrates)
Ointments for irritated, swollen, or itchy skin ► Anticonvulsants ► Steroids ► Non steroidal anti-inflammatories
Beta-blockers ► Migraine Medications ► Pain Relievers



HEALTHCARE PROGRAM

EYE CARE IN THE WAKE OF A STORM

The newest outpatient clinic at Mulanje Mission Hospital (MMH) in Malawi opened March 2 with a celebratory welcome dance—and rightfully so. Construction on the eye, rehabilitation, and dental facility had taken 15 months. During the process, hospital staff educated themselves on new equipment and administrators developed ways to optimize the clinic's workflow. The facility was now complete, and the staff was ready to see patients.

When the ceremonial opening arrived, local television and radio stations announced the new medical services across the 800 square-miles of Mulanje District. The media presence, however, did not capture the scope of the clinic's significance—this would be after the disaster that struck ten days later.

———— CYCLONE FREDDY ————

Cyclone Freddy had already taken out parts of Madagascar and Mozambique when it made its final stop in Southern Malawi on March 12. By then, Malawi's wet season was nearing its end and bodies of water were closing in on full capacity. The storm showed no remorse—six months of rain were cast over the region in a span of six days.

In a country already knocked down by the worst cholera outbreak in history, the damage was nothing short of catastrophic. Wind and water washed away entire villages; falling rocks and debris rendered farmland useless. Three-quarters of Mulanje District's maize crops—almost ready to be harvested—were destroyed. Bees, goats, and worst of all, people went missing in the storm.

President Lazarus Chakwera called for two weeks of national mourning in the storm's wake. By the end of the month, the country's death toll had risen to 676 people. Chances of finding the more than 500 people who remained missing were slim.

Amid the chaos and destruction, MMH had managed to stay open, having only suffered minor damage in the storm. The new eye clinic continued its outpatient services and surgical procedures. Patients arrived for services just days after the rain subsided, despite widespread devastation across the district and the surrounding areas.



Extensive damage to roads and bridges in Mulanje



Crops lost due to Cyclone Freddy

IDENTIFYING HEALTHCARE NEEDS

Studies estimate that cataracts are responsible for nearly half of all blindness in adults ages 50 and older in Southern Malawi, yet most of these patients have not undergone effective surgery to remove them. With roughly 1.4 ophthalmologists for every 1 million people in the country, Malawi has far from the number necessary to address the population's unmet eyecare needs.

Cataracts have caused blindness in 5,000 people in Mulanje District alone, according to an estimate from MMH. With the new eye, rehabilitation, and dental unit open, MMH has started to crossing names off that list—despite not having an ophthalmologist on staff.

A grant from Brother's Brother Foundation provided funding for MMH nurses to undergo training in intraocular surgical techniques led by ophthalmologists at Zomba Central Hospital. Afterward, nurses returned to MMH, where they performed the hospital's first cataract surgeries alongside Dr. Owen Kanazawa and his medical team from Zomba Central Hospital. The program is a reflection of Malawi's overarching strategy to use "task switching," teaching lower-level healthcare workers how to fill more specialized roles, as a way to mitigate the consequences of the country's health worker shortage.



Brother's Brother Foundation provided a grant to MMH to support relief efforts in Mulanje that began immediately after the storm ended.

The hospital provided food and medical care to seven refugee camps that housed a total of 1,600 people—a quarter of whom were children under the age of five. MMH sprayed camps to prevent malaria and combat bed bugs, and treated water with chlorine to prevent the spread of waterborne illnesses.

Less than three weeks after the eye unit opened, MMH staff saw over 200 outpatients and completed 45 eye surgeries to remove cataracts, lower eye pressure in patients with glaucoma, and treat other ocular conditions. The hospital performed patients' initial surgeries for free and did not turn anyone away because they could not afford treatment.



RESPONDING TO CYCLONE FREDDY

While MMH's eye unit was busy caring for an influx of patients, other hospital workers addressed crises the Cyclone Freddy's aftermath. A primary care team assessed the community's damage and needs—nearly one thousand homes and more than 2,000 toilets collapsed in 34 villages, leading to the establishment of 130 camps in schools and churches throughout Mulanje District. More than 6,000 people living in these camps were pregnant women.

Brother's Brother Foundation provided a grant to MMH to support relief efforts in Mulanje that began immediately after the storm ended.



Primary Care Team at MMH



Welcome dance at the opening of the Eye, Rehabilitation, and Dental Unit of MMH

Brother's Brother Foundation will continue to support MMH's eye unit by providing the hospital with a shipment of ophthalmology equipment and medical supplies. It will be one of more than a dozen shipments BBF has sent to MMH since 2015.

Phase two of the disaster response focused on rebuilding in a way that prepares the district for future disasters, began on May 15th and is set to last until the end of the year. Plans include training 500 farmers in climate smart agriculture, assisting 400 households with construction materials, building over 1,000 toilets and replanting more than 20,000 trees.

Although Mulanje's journey toward stability will not be easy, MMH's recent work offers a glimpse of the triumphs that could lie ahead. The hospital's quality score improved by 65% since 2021, a significant step toward achieving its goal of becoming an accredited health facility by 2028.

Dr. Andrew Feyi-Waboso, a consultant ophthalmologist who visited MMH, said the hospital is "set to make a big impact on the fight against avoidable blindness not only in Mulanje, but in Malawi." He thinks the hospital can have a self-supporting sustainable eye unit in the next two years, pending the addition of an optometrist and an ophthalmologist.

In the meantime, Brother's Brother Foundation will continue to support MMH's eye unit by providing the hospital with a shipment of ophthalmology equipment and medical supplies. It will be one of more than a dozen shipments BBF has sent to MMH since 2015.



INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

ONE HOME ONE TOILET



*N*estled in the mountains of Nepal's remote Ruby Valley, the village of Sertung can only be accessed by foot — a two-day hike from the nearest road. Homes are made from stone with tin roofs and do not have toilets or running water.

Brother's Brother Foundation provided funding for 18 families to install permanent toilets outside their homes through the "One Home One Toilet" campaign led by nonprofit organization Himalayan HealthCare (HHC). The campaign aims to transform the Ruby Valley by providing families in the area with the supplies, training, and education needed to build and maintain their own toilets.

BBF's grant gave 78 people in Sertung access to toilets and indirectly impacted 4,000 others by preventing the spread of diseases from poor sanitation like cholera, dysentery, and gastroenteritis.

Data collected by HHC has found that approximately 35% of all diseases in the Ruby Valley are gastrointestinal infections related to a lack of sanitation, poor hygiene, or fly-borne diseases. Fatalities from these infections are highest among children, new mothers, and the elderly. But dysentery aside, finding a place outside to use the bathroom poses enough risks on its own.

Without any sanitation infrastructure in place, villagers in the Ruby Valley must use the bathroom outside, which contaminates food and water sources and puts the population at significant risk for diseases.



Carrying materials for toilet construction



Sorting and distributing toilet supplies

"Before [having toilets] we had to go to the river or the forest. Leeches, ledges, and cliffs in the rain were dangerous. We also did not have water to wash," Dhan Maya Tamang says in a video taken outside her home in Sertung. Her husband finished building a toilet for their family of four in the spring. HHC staff asked her about how it had changed her daily life.

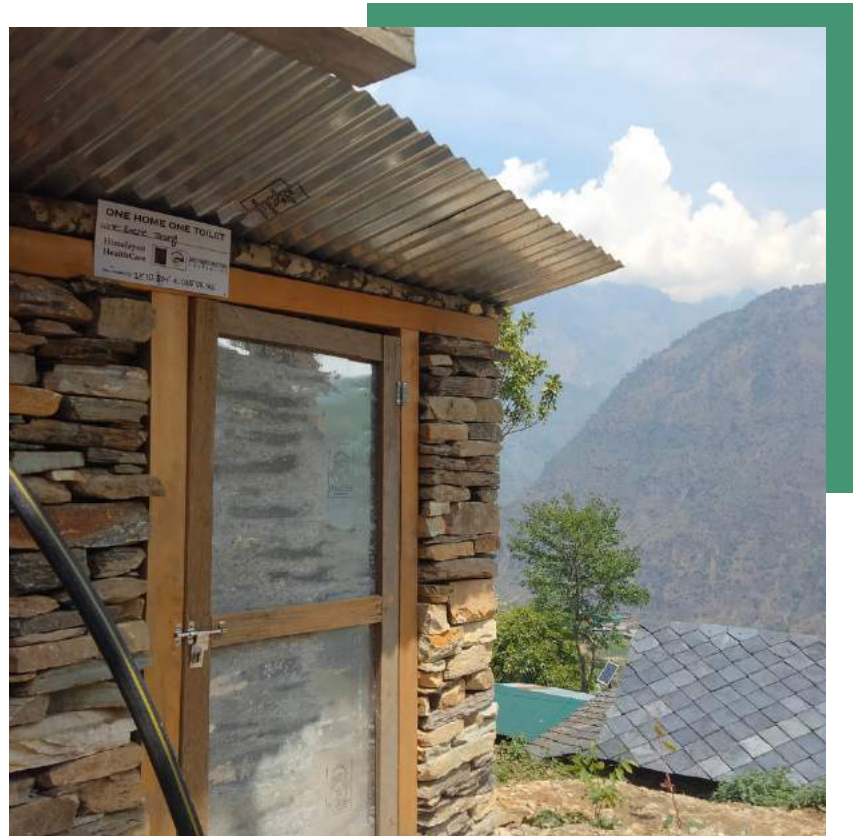
"As women we were always afraid someone would see us," she says. "Now it's so easy. We are so grateful."

Tamang would say more but can't, explaining, "I speak poor Nepali, so all I can say is thank you so much."

The extreme poverty and illiteracy found in the Ruby Valley reflects a caste system that, despite being declared unconstitutional in 1951, still has pervasive effects today. The region is mostly inhabited by the Tamang and the Dalit, two groups that were formerly classified at the bottom of the Nepalese caste system as the "Untouchables."

Geographic isolation from cities and large communities has hindered the Ruby Valley's economic growth and access to healthcare for decades. Things took a significant turn for the





worse in 2015, however, when a 7.8-magnitude earthquake struck Nepal. The recent pandemic has only exacerbated the region's recovery.

BBF formed a relationship with HHC during the response to the earthquake in 2015 and 2016. Grants to HHC funded a livestock program that distributed 816 animals to 242 families in the Ruby Valley who were on the brink of famine and helped reconstruct a school building for 567 students in the village of Lapa. In 2020, BBF began contributing to HHC's "One Home One Toilet" campaign by funding 15 permanent toilet installations for families in Tipling village. The project provided toilet access to 71 people and helped protect more than 3,300 members of the community from diseases.

The toilets installed through BBF's partnership with HHC do more than meet communities' immediate needs—they're also designed to stimulate the local economy. The door and walls surrounding the toilet are made from locally sourced wood and rocks, while HHC purchases materials unavailable in the Ruby Valley in Dhading Besi, the headquarters of Nepal's Dhading District.

HHC relies on mules and porters—people who carry supplies for a fee—to help bring the supplies up the mountain. It's the first step in connecting the Ruby Valley with the rest of Nepal—physically through items but also socially. As more toilets are built in the region, the hope is this progress will pave the way for other public health-related projects in the area.

TORNADO SEASON



Severe tornado outbreaks brought a devastating start to 2023 for many towns throughout the United States. By the end of April, a total of 595 tornadoes claimed 63 lives across 10 states. The death toll is unsettlingly close to the yearly average of 71, especially given that the brunt of tornado season usually continues through June.

Meteorologists attribute this year's heightened tragedies to stronger tornadoes and worse timing. Many storms occurred at night when they are twice as fatal. As one tornado followed another, televisions across America reinforced a harsh truth that disasters can strike anywhere and in the most vulnerable of moments.

When timing is unpredictable,
preparation is everything.

The Brother's Brother Foundation warehouse remains stocked with emergency supplies to enable quick responses. Bottles of water, tarps, hygiene kits—these items are kept stocked and ready to go in the wake of a storm. In the hours following these tornado outbreaks, BBF staff reached out to local organizations about the best way to meet each community's needs. BBF supported on-the-ground recovery efforts in Alabama, Mississippi, and Arkansas by shipping supplies that aided displaced residents and giving grants to local food banks.

BBF also supplied 2,296 hygiene kits to on-the-ground organizations involved in local tornado responses. The drawstring bags are filled with everyday essentials disaster victims often go without in the days following a storm, including toothbrushes, shampoo, wipes and more. Volunteers in and around the Pittsburgh region assemble each hygiene kit at our warehouse on the North Side in Pittsburgh.

JANUARY 12 ALABAMA

Feelings of hope after starting a new year turned into utter devastation in Alabama when 14 tornadoes struck Autauga County and its surrounding areas. The most severe storm in the outbreak traveled 82 miles and wind speeds reached up to 150 miles per hour, making it one of the longest on record in the state. Nine people lost their lives in the disaster.

March 28: BBF ships 648 tarps, 1,269 hygiene kits and 10 pallets (roughly 20,160 bottles of water) to Humphreys County through the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency.

January 18: BBF provides a \$10,000 grant to Montgomery Area Food Bank

January 19: BBF ships 648 tarps, 1,027 hygiene kits and 10 pallets (roughly 20,160 bottles of water)

MARCH 24 MISSISSIPPI

Powerful storms swept through Mississippi on the evening of March 24, producing multiple tornadoes that leveled homes in Monroe, Humphreys, and Sharkey counties. The series of tornadoes killed 21 people.

MARCH 31 ARKANSAS

A tornado outbreak in late March damaged over 2,100 homes in Wynne and Little Rock, Arkansas, causing the governor to declare a state of emergency.

April 4: BBF supported local recovery efforts by providing a \$5,000 grant to the Arkansas Food Bank.



Pitt WIDE RECEIVERS "GO LONG" TO HELP

The wide receivers on Pitt's Football Team and their coach, Tiquan Underwood, participated in Pitt Football's Day of Giving by spending time volunteering at BBF's warehouse. The team assembled over 400 hygiene kits in just under an hour, showing they have just as much speed off the field as they do on.

UKRAINE RESPONSE UPDATE

As the war in Ukraine continues, so does humanitarian aid from Brother's Brother Foundation. Here is a look at the work we have done over the last few months:

UKRAINE NEUROLOGY INITIATIVE

In April, BBF purchased and sent four EEG machines to hospitals and are currently working to send another three. By measuring the electrical activity in the brain, EEG machines enable doctors to diagnose and treat epilepsy and other conditions that may cause abnormal brain activity, such as head trauma.

BBF also provided a grant to the EMERGEN Foundation to supply seizure medications to St. Nicholas Children's Hospital in Lviv. This follows several other BBF grants and shipments that have addressed the shortage of neurology medications.

HELPING PEDIATRIC SURGEONS PERFORM LESS INVASIVE SURGERIES

The Dnipro Children's Hospital has become a major treatment center for children in Eastern Ukraine who have sustained injuries from the war. BBF sent the hospital two shipments of surgical equipment that have made it possible for doctors to operate less invasively by using endoscopes. Not only does this equipment enable a faster recovery, but it also limits scarring. In cases where a child has wounds impacting visible or delicate areas of the body, such as the head or neck, these surgeries can improve their quality of life.

IMPROVING ACCESS TO CANCER TREATMENTS

BBF joined a partnership with the Allegheny Health Network Cancer Institute (AHNCI), Radiating Hope, and the Elekta Neuroscience company to provide specialized cancer equipment and training to medical professionals at the National Medical University in Kyiv. In May, BBF shipped a linear accelerator (LINAC) machine to the University, where it will be used to treat cancer patients undergoing radiation treatments.

BBF has pledged \$25,000 to support AHNCI as they make site visits to train Ukrainian medical professionals how to operate the equipment.

KEEPING CIVILIANS WARM THROUGH THE WINTER

A new partnership with Patagonia helped BBF supply Ukrainians with clothing for late winter and early spring. Two shipments with more than 500 jackets, shirts, and gloves arrived in Ukraine and were distributed by Revived Soldiers Ukraine and Dr. Olha Tychkivska. This followed an 88-pallet shipment of warm Backcountry clothing BBF sent to Ukraine in January, with the support of National Airlines.

UPDATE

Aid to Turkey and Northern Syria Continues

Several months after the 7.8 and 7.5-magnitude earthquakes decimated parts of Turkey and Northwest Syria, the road to recovery remains arduous. Brother's Brother Foundation has continued to provide aid by shipping medical supplies and pharmaceuticals, and purchasing everyday necessities for survival and shelter.

NORTHERN SYRIA: SUPPORTING MEDICAL WORKERS

BBF sent 21 pallets of medical supplies to Adana, Turkey, that were received by the Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS). The organization distributed the supplies to health clinics in Syria caring for and operating wounded earthquake victims.

NORTHERN SYRIA: PROVIDING WARMTH & REFUGE

BBF purchased and sent 300 family-sized tents and 1,500 blankets to Gaziantep, Turkey for relief efforts in northern Syria. The supplies were distributed in collaboration with Life for Relief and Development and The Emergency Response Team, a local Turkish non-profit organization.

SOUTHERN TURKEY: FOOD & HYGIENE NEEDS

BBF and Life for Relief Development (LIFE) distributed 400 food packages and 130 hygiene kits to families in Southern Turkey. This is the second phase of BBF's response with LIFE.

ELBISTAN, TURKEY: PROVIDING SHELTER

Brother's Brother Foundation purchased 10 container homes in the town of Elbistan in Kahramanmaraş, Turkey in support of an initiative led by the Foreign Economic Relations Board of Turkey (DEİK) to alleviate the nation's housing crisis. Each home is equipped with the furniture and appliances needed to house a family of four, including a toilet, shower, refrigerator and washing machine. They will also be stocked with everyday necessities, such as towels, plates, cutlery and bed sheets.

NORTHERN SYRIA: ADDRESSING NEEDS IN NEUROLOGY

BBF's partnership with SAMS has created an avenue to address other non-disaster related needs in Syrian hospitals. In early May, BBF sent a shipment of neurology medications that included Tenecteplase (TNK), an IV therapy medicine used to treat acute stroke.





EDUCATION PROGRAM

SUMMER CAMP IN UKRAINE

The chances of finding any summer camp in a war-torn country like Ukraine would seem unlikely, but it's here where the role of summer camp and its diversions and merriment become even more important.



Summer camp has a way of evoking joy. What starts as a break from routine turns into a season of excitement that can only exist when school is out of session.

"We had a child last summer who said, 'This is the first time I've been happy since the war started,'" Steve Benham, president of Music in World Cultures (MIWC), said.

MIWC held two summer camps in the Ukrainian regions of Khotiv and Mukachevo in 2022. In both regions, it served children who lived in the cities prior to the war, and newly arrived internally displaced persons (IDPs) who came after fleeing homes in Eastern Ukraine. Nearly half the children who attend the summer camp in Mukachevo were IDPs. Those living in the town permanently faced an equally difficult reality, as parents struggled to provide for the influx of people amid hyperinflation and unemployment. The need for summer programming in both areas was strong.

MIWC had organized several camps in Ukraine in the years leading up to the war, but none of them compared to the ones held during war, when the sound of balloons popping triggered memories of bombings that had destroyed sacred places from a childhood once lived.

"There's no 'post' in post-traumatic stress if you're still living in the middle of trauma," Benham said.

In moments of stress and trauma "you don't think about anything else other than your survival," Benham said. "Your body gets a shot of adrenaline... It's a necessary assistance to help you survive, but you can't live on adrenaline."

**We had a child last summer who said,
"This is the first time I've been happy
since the war started."**





Fifteen months since the start of the war, however, many children in Ukraine still are and have not had any time to process the trauma they've experienced.

MIWC is returning to Khotiv and Mukachevo this summer to hold two week-long summer camps in July. By exploring the sounds of different instruments and participating in group singing activities, children will develop tools to help them process the emotions that arise from trauma.



Music has multi-sensory capacities that activate the limbic system, the part of the brain responsible for nonverbal communication. It also stimulates dopamine in the brain, a chemical which can help children build new neural pathways that “reprogram” their brains to be less impacted by trauma.





“The gift from BBF to these camps allows us to be able to focus on the work, to focus on the mission, and we're so appreciative of that,” Benham said. “It says to this child that somebody values them and we get to be the messengers of that.”

Brother’s Brother Foundation has given MIWC a grant to help send 120 children to this year’s camps. Funding will go toward covering some of the camps’ largest and most vital expenses, including food for daily meals and fuel for transportation.

At a time when Ukraine’s economy is particularly volatile, BBF’s support will help ensure the camps continue despite any unexpected changes. It will also allow staff at MIWC spend less time fundraising and more time preparing for the program.

WHAT YOU MISSED ONLINE

BBF maintains an active presence on social media by posting updates, photos, and blog articles several times a week. Follow us online for uplifting and informative stories in your newsfeed.



facebook.com/brothersbrother

BBF Shipment Supplies Medical Brigades in El Salvador. Full story on the BBF Blog.



[Linkedin.com/company/brother-s-brother-foundation](https://linkedin.com/company/brother-s-brother-foundation)

BBF President Ozzy Samad attended the Partnership for Quality Medical Donations (PQMD) Global Health Policy Forum in Paris in April where he participated in the NGO (non-governmental organization) CEO roundtable. The panel discussed what European policy makers should prioritize so real collaborative change is possible.



twitter.com/Brothersbf_

BBF sent three pallets of bottled water to East Palestine, Ohio.



instagram.com/brothersbrotherfoundation

Construction on the reverse osmosis machine in Ahlihadzi, Ghana, is underway.



THE BBF BLOG

brothersbrother.org/blog

Pharma Program at Work in Guatemala: The impact of a BBF medical shipment

A Gentler Method for Pediatric Surgeries in Ukraine

Hospital Bed Donation Provides Comfort and Rest for Patients in Guyana

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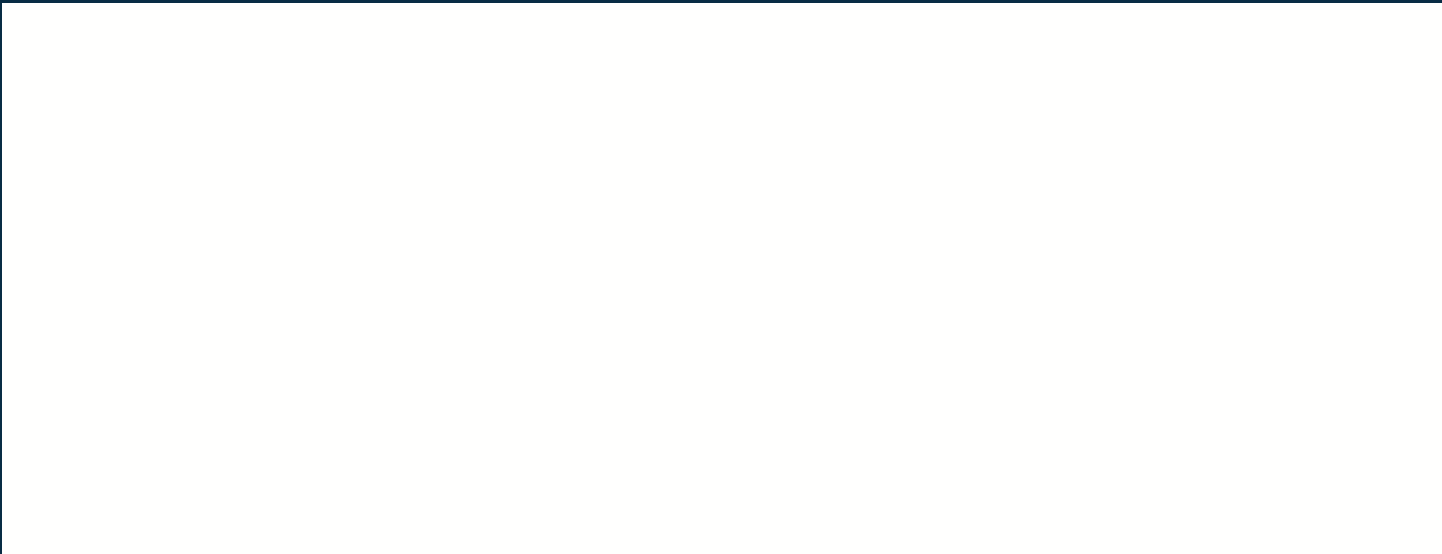
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