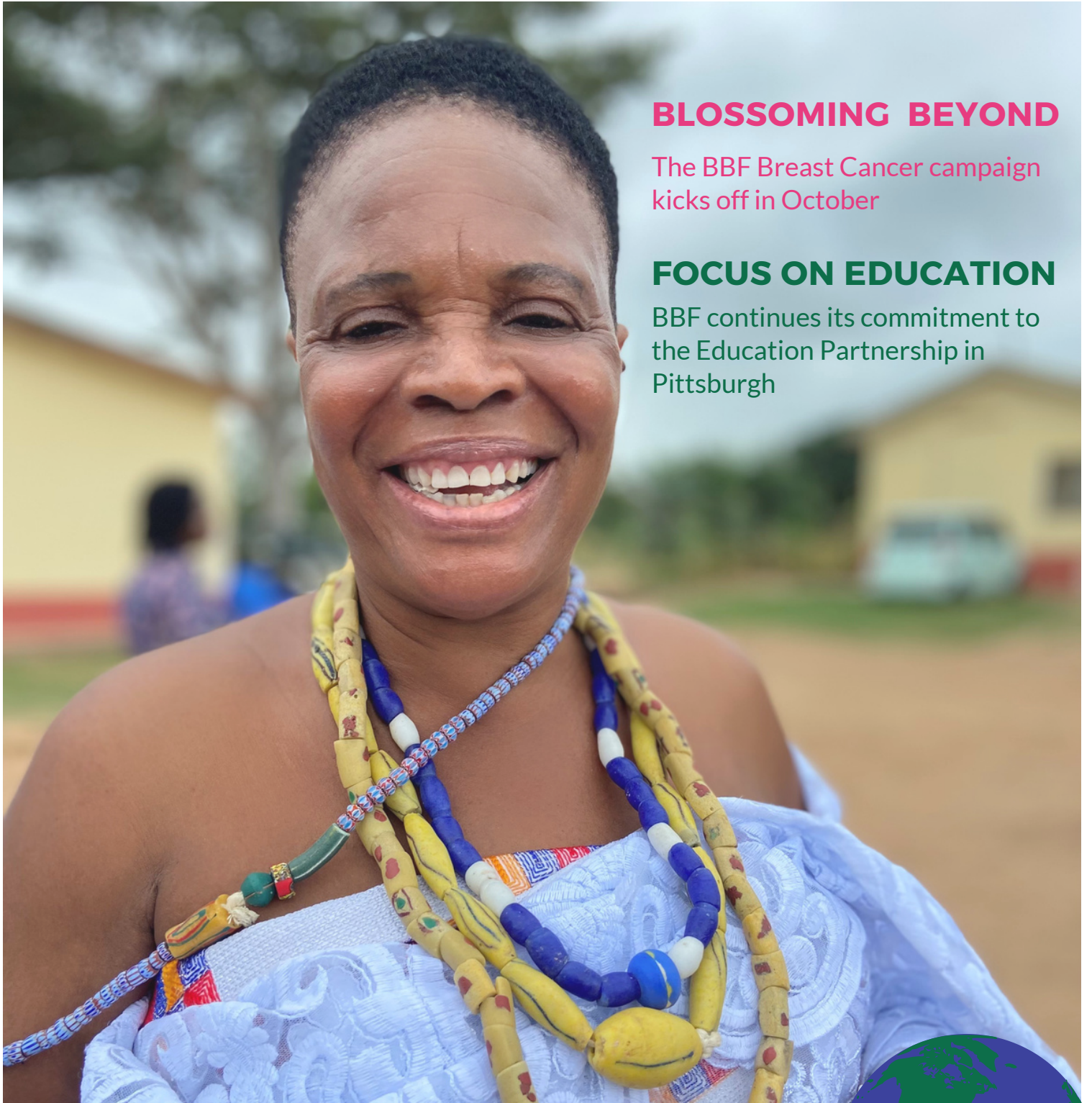


BBF GLOBAL RELIEF QUARTERLY



BLOSSOMING BEYOND

The BBF Breast Cancer campaign
kicks off in October

FOCUS ON EDUCATION

BBF continues its commitment to
the Education Partnership in
Pittsburgh



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





Dear Friends,

I have always loved fall. It is a vibrant season of change and renewal. The cool, crisp air is energizing and inspires me to create. This year, my BBF Development Office to-do list is overflowing as we have brainstormed so many fresh ideas for the fall and end of the year.

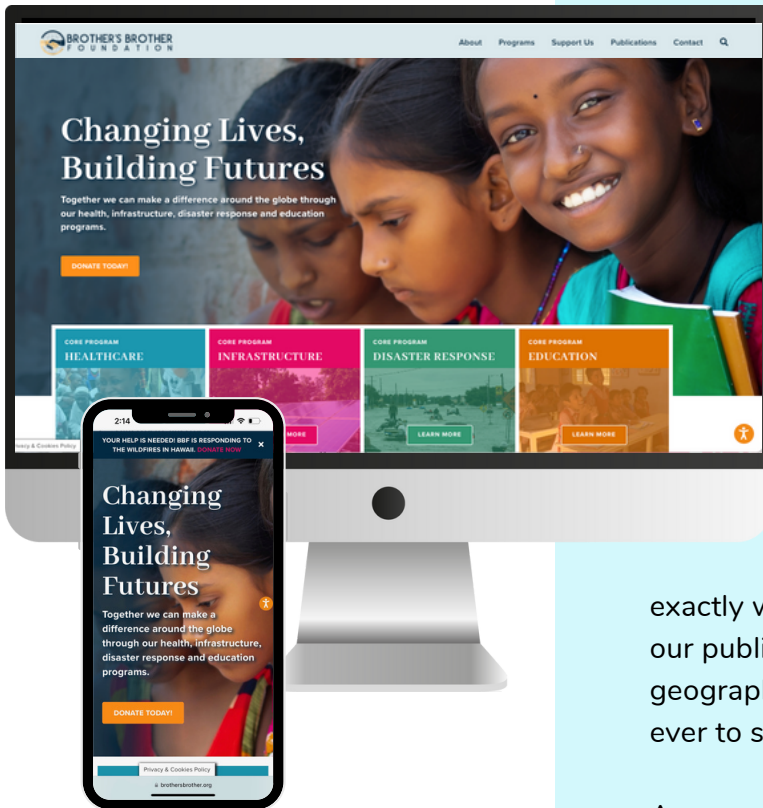
Before we start with one of the many new projects, what more appropriate time than fall to unveil our new BBF Global Relief website? The newly-designed site is a beautiful visual representation of BBF's work and provides an enhanced user experience, allowing you to access our program descriptions, articles, and donations in fewer clicks. The homepage is updated regularly so we can communicate our newest programs and initiatives with you. With the new search feature, you can quickly find exactly what you are looking for, and by using the filter on our publications page, you can sort by program, geographic area, or publication type. It is now easier than ever to see the impact of our work and share it with others.

As we move into October, our focus shifts to our Third Annual Breast Cancer Campaign. This year's theme is **"Blossoming Beyond - Celebrating Second Chances."** The campaign goes beyond the iconic pink ribbon and focuses on renewal and growth after surviving breast cancer. BBF will be collaborating with organizations to host special events during the month of October - both virtual and in person. Learn more about the campaign on pages 13-14 and become a supporter today by donating to the BBF Breast Cancer Fund.

I hope you enjoy this fall issue of Global Relief Quarterly and find inspiration for your next donation to BBF. Thank you again for your support!

Sincerely,

Laura Kelly
VP of Communications and Development



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!



BBF GLOBAL RELIEF QUARTERLY

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From our President

Responding to disaster and helping address longer-term needs – your impact on both fronts.



Having developed an avid interest in World War II history since my teenage years, though differing in magnitude, the burnt out remains of the town of Lāhainā in Maui, rekindled images of a near obliterated Dresden after the bombing runs over the German city towards the end of the war. As we come to terms with the damage and loss of life in Lāhainā, of note through the somber stories and pictures, is the spirit of community that we share as a country – to empathize in times of adversity, coalesce around and come to the assistance of those affected, and start the process of helping rebuild lives as best as possible. Your generosity and kindness have allowed BBF to respond once again to such challenges – as now faced by the people of Maui.

THERE ARE TWO MAJOR PARTS TO BBF'S EFFORTS:

Immediate Response:

As our initial response to the disaster, BBF is sending 14 pallets of baby formula generously donated by the Giant Eagle Corporation and two pallets of hygiene kits assembled by local volunteers at our warehouse on the North Side, along with providing grants to local organizations assisting wildfire victims such as the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement, the Maui Foodbank, and MODO for the People – a Maui non-profit extending no-cost medical aid to wildfire victims onsite at their clinic and via a mobile medical unit. We are continuing to assess the needs of those affected by the fires and will send more supplies and aid as appropriate.

Follow-up response and long-term recovery:

BBF's strategy is based on our experience in responding to natural disasters such as those in Puerto Rico, Florida, Texas, and Turkey, along with man-made crises such as Ukraine. For Maui, this is multifaceted, where in addition to providing locally sourced supplies as needed, BBF will:

1. Support the medical safety net on the ground: These include Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), evacuation shelters, hospitals in Maui County, the major burn unit at Straub Medical Center, and local non-profit providers treating mental and physical trauma in children and adults. BBF has compiled a preliminary framework of safety net partners which is a working document and is being updated on an ongoing basis. We are also in discussions with mental healthcare

providers here in Pittsburgh with whom BBF has worked with extensively on our response in Ukraine and their colleagues on the island, to assess needs for the children affected by the disaster in particular.

2. Evaluate and support infrastructure projects as needed: Examples from BBF's work in other disasters include providing resilient power sources such as solar panels and generators for medical and educational facilities, assessing needs for temporary modular housing such as those provided to families displaced by the earthquakes in Türkiye, retrofitting buildings like storm shelters in Puerto Rico, rehabbing of school facilities, and expanding the reach of providers by utilizing mobile health clinics to assist those impacted by the disaster. As you may know, BBF has provided four mobile clinics to address the needs of underserved community members in the continental United States and is planning for additional units to be implemented.

A Pittsburgh connection – as we were discussing BBF's response to the wildfires in Maui, one of our Trustees saw Hawaii's Governor, Josh Green, wipe his brow with a Terrible Towel at a press conference. Intrigued by the sight and after a little Google search, he revealed that Dr. Green graduated as a valedictorian from the Quaker Valley High School up the Ohio river from the City and did his medical residency at the University of Pittsburgh – a direct connection and small world indeed.

As always, thank you so much for your consideration and support of our relief efforts and BBF's work around the globe.



Thank you to the Board of Trustees for generously funding the publication of this magazine.



HEALTHCARE PROGRAM

NEWBORN SCREENING IN LATIN AMERICA

Written by

Christina Briscoe Abath, MD EdM, BBF Board Member

Juan Francisco Cabello, MD

Agnieszka Kielian, MD, BBF Board Member

You likely had a small heel prick when you were born. If you have children, you probably saw this happen for them too. For most people, this small test is quickly forgotten. However, for about 1 in 1000 newborns, this heel prick test alters their life and family's destiny.

Newborn screening is the process of identifying, confirming, and treating rare diseases before symptoms start. Diseases are added to the newborn screen when it is possible to prevent severe neurologic disabilities and/or death with early treatment. In the U.S., there are currently at least 35 conditions that are tested for by newborn screening. (babysfirsttest.org). Early initiation of appropriate treatment can also be a cost-effective public health measure.

Unfortunately, even today, most newborns in the world do not have access to any newborn screening. As a result, children with treatable

conditions die or acquire preventable severe intellectual and physical disabilities. During my short time in Chile, we saw multiple newborn babies with irreversible brain damage from diseases like Ornithine transcarbamylase deficiency (OTC deficiency) and Maple Syrup Urine Disease (MSUD). At least one of them died. If they had been diagnosed with newborn screening, they likely would have led normal lives.

Chile is in a unique position to be a starting point to change this reality. Unlike most other countries in Latin America, Chile already screens for two conditions and has a robust public health infrastructure to treat the diseases identified.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Cabello and his team from the Universidad de Chile (INTA, www.inta.cl) collaborated with the Chilean Ministry of Health to run a successful pilot program to expand the newborn screen to 26 conditions. Uruguay, Costa Rica, and other countries are in the process of expanding and improving their newborn screening programs. Others look to start newborn screening programs where none exist.



While newborn screening ultimately saves more money by preventing hospitalizations and severe disabilities, startup costs are very high. This prevents many public health systems from being able to afford them.

Brother's Brother Foundation (BBF) collaborates with neurologists to reach people that are often most vulnerable and sometimes forgotten: people with disabilities in underserved parts of the world. Newborn screening has been one example, which has not received sufficient attention or funding from philanthropic or non-profit groups.

BBF looks to collaborate with physicians, nutritionists, and public health officials to close this important health inequity gap. By defraying start-up costs of the expanded newborn screening, we can help to give newborn babies and their families a chance to live out their best life. Your contribution, or sharing the link with possible donors, can help us make this a reality.

To learn more, visit: brothersbrother.org/program-highlights/newborn-screening



UKRAINE RESPONSE UPDATE

THE UKRAINE NEUROLOGY INITIATIVE

Written by Svetlana Faktorovich, MD
Neurologist and BBF Board Member



Dr. Olha Tychkivska, Neurologist in Lviv, Ukraine



A young recipient of the seizure medication shipped by BBF

Prior to February 24, 2022, the day of the Ukrainian invasion, approximately 250,000 people, including 40,000 children, were living with epilepsy in Ukraine. Epilepsy, a potentially life-threatening neurological disorder of recurrent seizures, is also a frequent complication of traumatic brain injury, a common injury in a time of war. Having access to medication to treat this disease is critical to controlling it.

With the onset of war, millions of people across the country lost access to medication for their chronic illnesses and hospital supplies dwindled with overwhelming hospitalizations, including anti-epileptic medications. Desperate to help their pediatric patients who were rapidly running out of their medication, a group of Ukrainian neurologists, led by Dr. Olha Tychkivska, developed a spreadsheet of over 6,000 children with epilepsy around Ukraine as well as their whereabouts and their medication needs. With the help of her US based colleagues at the Boston Children's Hospital Drs. Aris Hadjinicolaou, Agnieszka Kielian and Christina Briscoe, Dr. Tychkivska published a plea for medication to the medical community on social media, bringing to light a long standing deficiency in humanitarian aid: anti-epileptic medications, which previously have not been prioritized by humanitarian organizations.

Dr. Tyckivska's letter which was shared among neurology communities online in the early days of the war, bringing together a group of neurologists around the country including myself, many of whom had never met prior to the war. We created a task force known as the "Ukraine Neurology Initiative (UNI)" aimed to supply the most critical neurological medications to the children of Ukraine. A member of our group, Danielle Friedman, a neurology nurse, facilitated a meeting with Ozzy Samad, President of BBF back in March 2022, who immediately recognized an area of need and without hesitation created a neurology dedicated fund. This fund to date has raised more than \$700,000 for the treatment of neurological illness.

Since then, we have worked closely with Dr. Tyckivska and her colleagues around Ukraine to ship and distribute the most critical neurological medications directly into the hands of patients and hospitals. These incredible on the ground clinicians and volunteers work tirelessly to track the needs of thousands of children with neurological illness around Ukraine, including those that have been displaced from their homes. By reassessing needs regularly, we have been able to purchase medications in greatest demand at any given time.

To date we have shipped more than \$220,000 worth of critical medication to treat neurological illness including epilepsy, stroke, Parkinson's disease and more. That includes medications purchased at cost with the help of some of our partners including Baptist Health System, Israel's Ministry of Health/Sar El, Operation Mordechai as well as donated medications from the ROW Foundation. We've also shipped 8 EEG machines for the diagnosis of seizures to hospitals around Ukraine and over \$200,000 worth of neurorehabilitation equipment.



Ukraine's Ambassador Oksana Markarova (center) with Dr. Svetlana Faktorovich and BBF President Ozzy Samad on a visit to MCOP Washington, DC to meet the three injured servicemen receiving new prosthetics.

The Ukraine Neurology Initiative has been one of the most successful humanitarian initiatives since Brother's Brother Foundation was founded in 1968. It also represents a novel approach to aid distribution: partnering directly with public hospitals and trusted clinicians to distribute specialized supplies directly to patients rather than through a governmental agency. With the ability to regularly reassess local medication needs, we've been able to prioritize donated funds towards what's needed most throughout the last 18 months. This has also allowed us to distribute even the most highly specialized medication, such for the treatment of a rare life threatening seizure disorder known as infantile spasms and a brain tumor disorder known as Tuberous Sclerosis Complex.

Another area of focus has been supporting those that have lost limbs in the war. Targeted attacks on civilian populations have left tens of thousands of individuals including servicemen and civilians with missing limbs, many of whom do not have

To date we have shipped more than \$220,000 worth of critical medication to treat neurological illness including epilepsy, stroke, Parkinson's disease and more.



Irina Vaschuk Discipio, President of Revived Soldiers Ukraine, Dr. Svetlana Faktorovich and BBF President Ozzy Samad stand with Alex and Ruslan, two injured Ukrainian servicemen and recipients of new prosthetic legs

access to prosthetic care in Ukraine. Working with a partner humanitarian organization Revived Soldiers Ukraine and prosthetic clinics in the US, including the Hanger Clinic and Medical Center Orthotics and Prosthetics (MCOP) we've been able to bring 10 injured Ukrainian servicemen with complicated, proximal amputations to the US for prosthetic care. We also arranged and helped fund a mission trip for an experienced prosthetist from the Hanger Clinic, Todd Stone, CPO, and his team to travel to Unbroken Ukraine, a newly built, public rehabilitation center in Lviv, Ukraine. During his time there, he trained local prosthetists on modern methods and brought equipment to fit 50 people with new limbs.

We are now 18 months into this horrific war and unfortunately Ukrainian people continue to suffer daily. Thanks to our generous donors, our work in Ukraine continues today just as it did the first week of the war.

CREATING A GLOBAL NEUROLOGY INITIATIVE

Treatment of neurological illness has been a long standing deficiency in the realm of humanitarian aid, brought to light by the Ukraine war. However

conditions such as epilepsy are universal and our goal is to support neurology communities in need around the world. After a brutal hurricane devastated Syria this past February, we partnered with the Syrian American Medical Society, an organization that supports several hospitals in Northwestern Syria, to provide critical supplies including neurological medication and equipment. To date, we have sent over \$70,000 worth of neurology medications for the treatment of seizures, acute stroke and other neurological conditions, an EEG machine for seizure detection to Syria as well as provided virtual access to educational material for their neurologists in training through the American Academy of Neurology.

We are also in the process of supporting neurology clinics in additional countries including Subsaharan Africa and Zambia.

THANK YOU TO OUR ORGANIZATIONAL AND INDUSTRY PARTNERS:

American Academy of Neurology
Baptist Health System / Boca
Raton Regional Hospital
Boston Children's Hospital
Cadwell
Hanger Clinic, Foundation
International League Against Epilepsy
MCOP
National Air Cargo
Natus Medical Incorporated
Operation Mordechai
Revived Soldiers Ukraine
ROW Foundation
Sar El / Israel Ministry of Health

Mobile Health Clinic Update

Volunteer doctors and medical students visited Ambridge in the “eyeVan” and prescribed nearly 50 pairs of glasses.



The Guerilla Eye Service traveled to Ambridge, PA, this summer to provide free eye exams in the new “eyeVan” at two mobile health clinics. The events prescribed and ordered nearly 50 pairs of glasses for adults and children who would otherwise have difficulty accessing or affording them.

Led by Dr. Evan Waxman, director of UPMC Mercy Hospital’s Eye Center, the Guerilla Eye Service (GES) is a group of volunteer eye doctors and University of Pittsburgh medical students who provide free eye exams and vision screenings in underserved Pittsburgh communities. The program began expanding its reach earlier this year after the Eye and Ear Foundation of Pittsburgh received a mobile health van from Brother’s Brother Foundation. Stocked with the same equipment in a typical ophthalmology office, the mobile clinic allows doctors to provide patients with high-quality care on-site.

GES held the Ambridge clinics in collaboration with UPMC’s Care Mobile, a van that offers pediatric immunizations, well visits, dental care, and asthma care; and Center for Hope, a nonprofit organization that provides food, clothing, and youth programs to under-resourced families in the area.

Ambridge occupies 1.7 square miles along the Ohio River and is just 18 miles northwest of Downtown Pittsburgh. For years, Ambridge thrived, but when the American steel industry collapsed in the early 1980s, it struggled to

regain its footing under the weight of unemployment and has yet to recover.

The community’s 7,700 residents are currently working to rebuild the borough’s identity by taking on projects to reface storefronts and beautify the streets, while plans to replace old factories with new residential buildings are also underway. But as of now, Ambridge continues to fight its decades-long battle against low wages and stunted academic achievement.

Providing free eye exams and glasses to residents on-site is a start to addressing the physical and financial barriers preventing many economically disadvantaged people from receiving the medical care they need. For children, access to eye care is fundamental to healthy development and educational growth. Research has shown that for children with poor eyesight, wearing eyeglasses can lead to academic improvements comparable to receiving up to six months of additional education.

One child arrived at a clinic displaying signs of congenital ptosis, a condition characterized by a drooping upper eyelid, which can interfere with visual development when left untreated.

“We now have the opportunity to potentially save this child’s vision,” Dr. Evan Waxman, who leads the Guerilla Eye Service, said. “Moments like these remind us why we do what we do.”

MAY CLEAN WATER FLOW

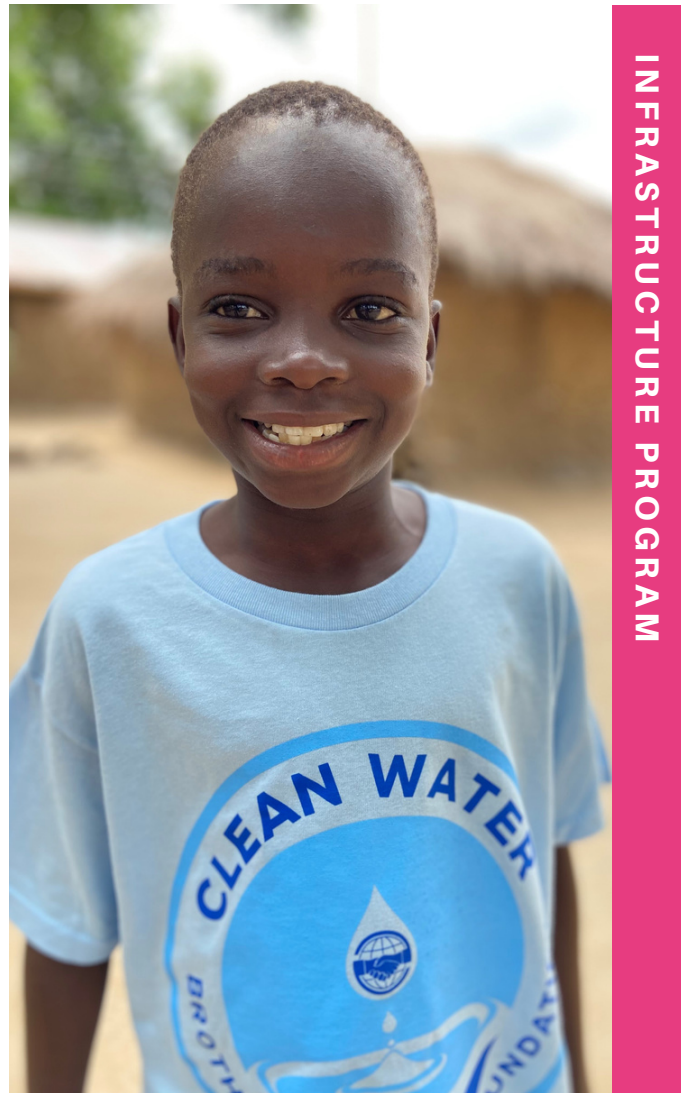
And May It Never Cease

Written by Dr. Steve Greene
President and Founder of Hope for Ghana

2023 has been an exciting year for Hope for Ghana as we reach new heights, in large part because of the incredible partnership with Brother's Brother Foundation. A strong relationship forged at the end of 2021 has been built on the similar visions of a grassroots charity on the ground in Africa and a foundation looking to foster sustainable change overseas. Brother's Brother Foundation's fingerprints are all over the work that Hope for Ghana takes such pride in.

In March 2023 Hope for Ghana opened its third school that already has over 250 children from kindergarten to sixth grade enrolled. This modern 8 classroom school has enormous gifts from Brother's Brother Foundation including a water borehole and purification machine providing clean, potable water to the school and the community, solar power, and a state of the art computer lab. The community is so excited about the potential growth in this rapidly growing school that we are now planning for the addition of a junior high school.

On the heels of this exciting project, Hope for Ghana continued to give the gift of life, providing clean, potable water in remote villages where women and children previously had walked long distances to fetch dirty water, ensuring a community's most basic need while significantly reducing waterborne disease. We were thrilled to take our water mission to a new level this year thanks to the benevolence of Brother's Brother Foundation. The village of Ahlihadzi, where drilled



INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

water had been found to be undrinkable because of several impurities, now has their water going through a reverse osmosis purification machine ensuring the highest standard of clean, potable water, with all electricity provided by solar power.

Pure water at no cost to the village is sustainability at its best, all thanks to the immense generosity of Brother's Brother Foundation. Our biggest water project ever is a testament to how a wonderful partnership is saving lives here in Ghana. Truly this special gift has changed a village forever. May clean water flow and may it never cease.

As all of this was going on, Brother's Brother Foundation was packing up another medical shipment bound for Ghana. BBF's second shipment of desperately needed medical supplies arrived in Ghana's port in April 2023.



“ This is philanthropy at its best. This is what a beautiful collaboration and true partnership can bring to the world. Thank you Brother's Brother Foundation for your love and commitment to our mission and the beautiful people of Ghana. You allow us all to dream big. You especially allow Ghanaians to dream big. You truly do change the whole of Ghana! ”

Twelve maternity delivery tables, 18 hospital beds and mattresses, several surgical instrument trays, 7 medical carts and thousands of disposable medical supplies were waiting to change the landscape of healthcare delivery in Ghana.


Clearing this 40' container from Ghana's port may have been the hardest project I've ever worked on in Ghana, but I was choked up with tears watching the joy that came from the long awaited arrival of Brother's Brother Foundation's medical shipment in mid-July. I couldn't have said it any better than Senyo, our Vice President of Operations, as he beautifully reflected the gratitude and joy of Hope for Ghana and his people. "We are so grateful for this donation. You are transforming lives. You are changing the face of medical health in Ghana. You are transforming the whole of Ghana!"

It was an unforgettable, emotional day celebrating the gift of life, as we later officially handed over Brother's Brother Foundation's generous medical supplies shipment on August 1st. A King, Chiefs, members of Ghana Health Service, doctors and nurses gratefully received the 8200 pounds of medical supplies with sheer joy. Thank you Brother's Brother Foundation for transforming healthcare delivery in Ghana.



BLOSSOMING BEYOND

Celebrating Second Chances



Two years after being diagnosed with invasive stage III breast cancer, Laura Kelly recently returned from the doctor with good news: her PET scan came back clear. She was cancer free from head to toe.

"It was such an incredible feeling of relief, knowing the PET scan results. That night I slept deeply for the first time since my diagnosis two years ago" said Laura Kelly, Vice President of Communications and Development at Brother's Brother Foundation.

Laura spent the past two years undergoing countless treatments, including chemotherapy, radiation, a double mastectomy, reconstructive surgery, and physical therapy. Her radiant smile never faded, and her rigorous schedule remained. In addition to her BBF work, she was also active with duties related to her role as the wife of United States Military Academy at West Point Deputy Commandant, Col Todd Kelly.

"Many people don't understand my breast cancer story is not over yet. They will often come up to me and say 'Oh you look so much better.' They think I'm all done now, but I'm not," Laura said. "It doesn't go away."

Laura still sees multiple doctors and has to take a regimen of different medications each day to continue the fight against breast cancer and maintain her health. Despite doing everything right, there's always a chance that the cancer could come back someday.

"These next five years are critical," said Laura.

It's for that same reason that Laura encouraged Brother's Brother Foundation to use its Breast Cancer Fund to extend its reach to offer support and resources to those who have recently completed treatments as well. In previous years, the fund has supported breast cancer screening and those undergoing treatment.

"It takes a significant amount of resources for a person to regain their health following breast cancer treatment, and supportive care is not always prioritized following the conclusion of treatments. Many cannot afford the extra expenses associated with post-surgery counseling or therapy," said Laura. "Supportive services are essential in recovery - both physical and emotional healing - and are associated with better overall outcomes."

Most recently, BBF's Breast Cancer Fund provided a grant to support a breast cancer imaging program led by RAD-AID, a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving access to medical imaging and radiology in countries with underdeveloped health care. The program will promote early diagnosis through screenings while also strengthening the pathway from diagnosis to treatment by evaluating infrastructure for breast care and creating sustainable programs. The organization currently has outreach initiatives in India, Peru, Guyana, Ghana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, South Africa and the United States.

Brother's Brother Foundation began the Breast Cancer Fund in October of 2021, after Laura was diagnosed. In the time since, it has supported patients undergoing treatment for breast cancer or prostate at the infusion center at St. Luke's Montefiore Hospital in New York—where Laura also received treatment—and Ribbons of Love, a program that provides medical treatment to women battling cancer in Honduras.



Laura Kelly, BBF Vice President of Communications and Development created the Breast Cancer Fund in October 2021 after receiving her diagnosis of Stage III Invasive Breast Cancer.

OCTOBER IS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

The Third Annual BBF Breast Cancer campaign will focus on continuing education and ongoing recovery for breast cancer patients.

This year's campaign theme is renewal and growth after overcoming breast cancer. BBF will host a Survivor's Garden Party where survivors and supporters will come together to celebrate life, share stories of triumph, and plant flowers as a symbol of resilience. More details about this special event will be available soon.

The funds raised will go toward providing post-recovery support services, such as counseling and survivorship programs, to help breast cancer survivors flourish in their new chapters of life.

SUPPORT BREAST CANCER SURVIVORS AND THE BBF BREAST CANCER FUND

Your donation will ensure those recovering from breast cancer have all the resources they need to regain their health. This year, we are introducing three different ways to support the Breast Cancer Fund, each named after a flower that symbolizes strength. The daffodil, tulip, and iris are bulb flowers that blossom in the spring following challenging and difficult winter conditions.



DAFFODIL
\$25



TULIP
\$50



IRIS
\$100+

HAWAII WILDFIRE RESPONSE

The wildfires that swept across the Hawaiian island of Maui on August 8th have become the deadliest wildfire outbreak in the United States in over a century, taking more than 100 lives and leaving over 1,000 others unaccounted for. As first responders, DNA analysts and anthropologists continue to search for and identify the people who remain missing, survivors begin the long and painful road to recovery.

Brother's Brother Foundation sent 835 hygiene kits to a facility in Kahului on the island of Maui, where they were distributed by World Central Kitchen. Assembled by volunteers at BBF's warehouse in Pittsburgh, each hygiene kit contains the everyday essentials needed in the wake of a disaster, from shampoo and toothbrushes to tissues and feminine hygiene products.

BBF also sent fourteen pallets of baby formula donated by Giant Eagle to the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement (CNHA) in Honolulu. CNHA has been working closely with state and county leaders, local nonprofit organizations, and community members to understand the needs in Maui and distribute aid accordingly.

Funding from BBF will support on-the-ground recovery efforts overseen by All Hands and Hearts (AHAH). The organization has been asked by Hawaii Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) to lead the coordination of all volunteer activities on the Island of Maui. AHAH will then work with communities to identify gaps in support



for future work efforts while looking ahead to longer-term rebuilding needs.

BBF has also given a grant to the Maui Food Bank, which staged food for people as they arrived at local shelters in the disaster's immediate aftermath. Currently, the food bank is mass distributing food, hygiene items and paper goods at shelters and distribution points throughout Maui. BBF staff are currently in communication with two other local nonprofit organizations about assisting additional needs on the island.

The Maui wildfires occurred as Hurricane Dora, a category 4 storm, was building in the Pacific Ocean. Winds from the storm became fuel for the fires which, in some areas, traveled as fast as one mile every minute. At least 2,200 buildings in West Maui were damaged or destroyed. In Lahaina, a historic town in West Maui home to 13,000 people, nearly every building was reduced to ashes. Thousands of locals will need housing for several weeks. The current damage from the fires is estimated at around \$6 billion.

DISASTER RESPONSE PROGRAM

VERMONT UNDERWATER

Brother's Brother Foundation provided a grant to Capstone Community Action, a non-profit organization headquartered in Barre, VT, that helps people in crisis access food, housing and job training. BBF also sent hygiene kits and tarps for Capstone to distribute to flood victims.

Smooth roads and Main Street shops in Barre, VT, turned into heaps of jagged asphalt and water-logged basements when a July rainstorm drenched the state with two months of rain over two days.

"This is going to be a years – if not a decade – long recovery for the state of Vermont," the Vermont Public Safety Commissioner, Jennifer Morrison, said in a news conference after the storm passed.

BBF responded to the disaster by providing a grant to Capstone Community Action, a non-profit organization headquartered in Barre, VT, that helps people in crisis access food, housing, and job training. BBF also sent hygiene kits and tarps for Capstone to distribute to flood victims.

All four Capstone facilities—located in Orange, Washington, and Lamoille counties—have ongoing responses to support flood recovery.

In the immediate aftermath, Capstone partnered with local catering companies, World Central Kitchen and the Salvation Army to distribute free meals to anyone impacted by the flooding. It also provided bottled water, frozen meals, infant formula, hygiene kits and tarps to those in need.

Nearly 25% of Barre's residents live in poverty and the recent storm exacerbated a food and housing crisis that was already prevalent in Vermont.

Capstone runs the largest food shelf in the area. Prior to the recent storm, it supported up to 80 people a day.

Capstone has also turned its attention to helping small businesses by launching the Vermont Main Street Flood Recovery Fund, which provides local store owners with grants to cover costs for equipment replacement, supplies, and clean-up help.

The fund began distributing grants two weeks after the storm passed, helping small business owners recover while they waited for federal and state assistance to hit their bank accounts.

HAITI RESPONSE UPDATE

There's never an ideal moment for the ground to start shaking, but June 6 was particularly bad timing for an earthquake in Haiti.

It had only been a few days since a torrential rainstorm overflowed rivers across the country, causing severe flash flooding, rockslides and landslides. The storm impacted 45,000 households and killed 58 people. Another four would lose their lives in the 4.9-magnitude earthquake that would strike the country's southwestern coast three days later.

Brother's Brother Foundation responded to the back-to-back disasters by providing a grant to long-time partner Food For the Poor. Funds are being used to assemble and distribute 144 resealable five-gallon buckets filled with cleaning supplies that include laundry detergent, scouring pads, work gloves, heavy-duty trash bags, N95 masks, a clothesline and clothespins, air freshener spray, and reusable wipes.

BBF also air-shipped 35,000 pairs of industrial gloves and 690 hygiene kits from its warehouse in Pittsburgh to Food For The Poor's office in Port-au-Prince, Haiti's capital city. Assembled by volunteers at BBF's warehouse in Pittsburgh, each hygiene kit contains everyday essentials such as shampoo and toothpaste, tissues, and feminine hygiene products.

The recent disasters are the latest developments in what has been a devastating two years for Haitians. The assassination of President Jovenel Moïse in July 2021 thrust the country into chaos and uncertainty. A month later, more than 2,200 Haitians lost their lives in a 7.2-magnitude earthquake that left 130,000 homes and 900 schools either damaged or destroyed. The disaster impacted an estimated 800,000 people and resulted in more than \$1.5 billion in damages.

BBF enacted an extensive response to the 2021 earthquake that air shipped medication and supplies into the country and provided funding to transport Haitian medical teams to clinics where patients were receiving treatment. In addition, BBF signed a grant to support the Haitian government and its partners as they devised a plan to improve access to basic care in rural communities.

In the two years since Haiti's 2021 earthquake, BBF has supplied a total of 35 shipments of medical supplies, pharmaceuticals and durable medical equipment to eight organizations working on the ground in the country.

Transportation difficulties have prevented the distribution of food and fuel and the disposal of waste, creating a hunger crisis and a breeding ground for Cholera. In September 2022, Haiti reported its first case of Cholera in three years. By February of 2023, the number of Cholera cases had surpassed 31,000 and spread to the country's 10 departments.

Haiti's need for aid has skyrocketed. In the two years since Haiti's 2021 earthquake, BBF has supplied a total of 35 shipments of medical supplies, pharmaceuticals and durable medical equipment to eight organizations working on the ground in the country. Items received included anything from ventilation masks and crutches to high blood pressure medications and antibiotics used to treat severe cases of Cholera. Twenty-six of the shipments were 40' containers, one of which began its journey to Haiti just two weeks prior to the arrival of the torrential rainstorm in June.

BBF continues to provide relief in Haiti through its partnership with Food For The Poor. Plans to air ship disaster response supplies are ongoing as BBF staff monitor the situation.





EDUCATION PROGRAM

BOOTING UP A MORE *TECH*UITABLE PITTSBURGH



Laptops and smartphones from Brother's Brother Foundation are helping students in economically disadvantaged communities learn the skills they need to enter a job market fueled by digital literacy.

The Steel City is transforming into a tech town as more companies choose Pittsburgh for their headquarters. But today's youth will need modern technology skills if they want to work at companies like the language app Duolingo or spacecraft-builder Astrobotic.

"The dexterity to just drag a file [across the screen] literally brought this girl to tears, it was so difficult for her," Patrick Cooper says, recalling a student he taught through the tech literacy program Building Our Own Technology Uplifting the People, Pittsburgh (BootUp PGH). "There are just things like that you would never even think about as being a barrier, that if no one was there to help her work through that in a safe environment and in an encouraging environment, she could just all of a sudden be like 'I can't even do the most basic thing...I should just avoid technology [and] careers that have to do with technology.'"

Cooper is a Co-Founder and Board Member of Locally Grown, a nonprofit organization that oversees Community Forge, an incubator for local businesses in Wilkesburg, a borough adjacent to Pittsburgh. Community Forge also serves the Wilkesburg and Greater Pittsburgh communities by implementing educational programs such as BootUP PGH, which counteracts Pittsburgh's digital divide by putting technology into the hands of Pittsburgh's youth, specifically those in economically disadvantaged communities who otherwise wouldn't have access to them.

In July, Brother's Brother Foundation provided BootUp PGH with a donation of 100 Dell laptops and 113 smartphones, in addition to webcams and chargers. The devices will be used to teach local children the skills they need to enter a professional setting after high school.

Amil Cook is the director of technology curriculum and programs at Locally Grown and has taught technology at the high school level for more than 10 years. He says that, for today's graduates, "the

expectation is that Windows is second nature," but many don't have access to Windows operating systems in schools that opt for the more affordable option of Chromebooks.

"During the pandemic, a lot of schools will say they have a one-to-one relationship with devices to kids, but they're giving them a Chromebook, which is a glorified web browser. They're not learning file systems, they're not understanding the back end of how to install a program," he says. "Having these Windows devices, it opens up our community to a whole new professional class of apps and services that are essential for them to procure employment, advance their entrepreneurial goals, and basically function in modern society."

BootUp PGH partners with Pittsburgh Public Schools to bring technology devices into classrooms and teach students how to use them—a facet of their program made possible through a donation of 110 iPads from BBF in the spring of 2022. The donation, received shortly after BootUP PGH was launched, enabled Cook and Cooper to teach students how to use iPads in two classrooms simultaneously, which Cook says "enhanced and amplified what we could do programmatically."

"It's been a powerful, powerful donation," he says.





EDUCATION PROGRAM

SUPPLIES FOR SUCCESS



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"Anyone need a brand-new air purifier?" Abbie Marx asks after removing the shrink wrap from a pallet of brown boxes.

A wall fan hums in the background as hands begin to dart into the air—one, two, then three.

It's a Thursday in the middle of July and a dozen teachers with shopping carts are making their way through The Education Partnership's Teacher Resource Center.

This, in case you've been wondering, is where many Pennsylvania teachers disappear to on those long, sought-after summer vacations—a former welding building on Pittsburgh's West End that has been renovated into The Education Partnership's warehouse and office space.

The Teacher Resource Center occupies a rectangular room the size of an elementary school cafeteria. Aisles are created by a line of the same hip-high cardboard containers grocery

stores fill with watermelons—only here, they hold brown markers and weathered copies of Jack London’s “Call of the Wild.”

Every teacher who enters the room has arrived for the same reason: they’re here to prepare for the year ahead. More specifically, they’re here to prepare for what they won’t have in the year ahead: books, glue sticks, hand sanitizer, tissues, notebooks, pens, pencils, colored pencils—the list, unfortunately, goes on.

The teachers make their way through the aisles thumbing through coloring books and stocking up on packages of socks. Marx, the Teacher Resource Center’s program manager, watches as they “play Tetris with their carts,” reorganizing boxes of books to make room for a stack of backpacks. After an hour, they leave the building to pack their car trunks with \$1,000 worth of school supplies. Not once do they reach for their wallets.

After an hour, they leave the building to pack their car trunks with \$1,000 worth of school supplies. Not once do they reach for their wallets.

For teachers at 160 schools in southwest Pennsylvania, the Teacher Resource Center is a solution—often the only solution—to a decades-long, state-wide problem which almost always comes at the teachers’ expense. For that reason, some drive over an hour away to get here.

Brother’s Brother Foundation began working with The Education Partnership (TEP) in 2022 when it sponsored West Liberty Elementary PreK-5 in TEP’s Adopt-A-School Program. The funding provided a year’s worth of school supplies to each of the school’s 200 students and gave every teacher at the school two opportunities to visit the Teacher Resource Center; once at the beginning of the year and once halfway through.



Above: Abbie Marx, program manager of The Education Partnership’s Teacher Resource Center

Left: Melissa Paulos teaches second grade at State Street Elementary School in Ambridge. At the Teacher Resource Center, she prepares for the year ahead by stocking up on socks, books, and paper to create bulletin boards.

BBF is sponsoring West Liberty Elementary in the Adopt-A-School program again this year and for the next two years. It’s a commitment that will ensure teachers and students have the supplies they need to thrive in the classroom until 2026.

Sherine Raymond recently retired from a 40-year career in the Sto-Rox School District, which encompasses McKees Rocks and Stowe Township. Ninety-five percent of the students enrolled in the district come from low-income families and 100% of them can receive free meals through the National School Lunch Program’s Community Eligibility Provision.

Sto-Rox was one of the first school districts to receive supplies and furniture from The Education Partnership after the nonprofit began in 2009. She remembers how having access to school supplies changed the way students saw themselves.

“They didn’t feel left out. It wasn’t where they were looking for a pencil on the floor,” Raymond says. “Learning was taking place. They had a bookbag,



The 2022-23 school year was busy for Danielle Smiley, who teaches fourth grade at Propel Northside K-8. Smiley has been teaching students every subject.



Bethany Sadler fills her cart with socks for the sixth-grade students she'll be teaching at Founders Hall Middle School in McKeesport.



so they were fitting in. When they would get home, they would get their work done because they weren't embarrassed."

The National School Lunch Program (NSLP) uses federal funding to provide free or reduced meals to students from low-income families. Students who qualify for free meals through NSLP come from families with an income at or below 130% of the poverty line—that's \$39,000 a year for a family of four—or families that receive government aid through programs such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families or food stamps. Schools in areas with widespread poverty can qualify for the program's Community Eligibility Provision, which will provide free breakfast and lunch to all students in the school without collecting paperwork from each individual family.

TEP provides services to schools where 70% of the students qualify for free or reduced lunches. Currently, the organization supports 191 schools in eight southwest PA counties, where, on average, 96% of the students qualify for the NSLP.

State funding only covers 38% of Pennsylvania's public education costs—one of the lowest percentages among all states in the country. Local districts rely on property taxes to make up for the difference, but in low-income areas that funding isn't enough, and students from struggling families wind up attending struggling schools.

**But at least one thing was apparent —
when there is a tight budget, school supplies
are one of the first things to get cut.**

The result has created large disparities in the quality of education students receive across the state, even those who live just a few miles apart.

"These kids want to do the same thing. They want to have the same education; they deserve the same education," Marx says. "Why don't they have the supplies?"

People across the state have been asking that same question. In 2014, a group of parents, school districts, and Pennsylvania organizations filed a lawsuit against the state, arguing Pennsylvania's system for public education violates the state's constitution. Among their claims was that Pennsylvania has been underfunding schools to the tune of 4.6 billion dollars.



Alexis Vranesevic is looking forward to her first year working at West Liberty PreK-5, where she'll be providing autistic support for students in kindergarten through second grade.

In a landmark decision in February of this year, the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court ruled the state's funding model for public education unconstitutional, saying its heavy reliance on local tax dollars deprives students in low-income districts of equal protection of the law. At the time of publication, it was not yet clear what this ruling would mean for the future of Pennsylvania's public education.

Some of the teachers who arrive at the Teacher Resource Center have taught students who show up to school not wearing any socks. Some work in schools that have run out of copy paper, and others, toilet paper. Kindergarten teachers have found themselves eating lunch in the same tiny plastic chairs their students squirm in because their classroom doesn't have an adult-sized chair.

After graduating high school from Sto-Rox School District, Raymond pursued a career in education. When many of her high school classmates left the area, she stayed. She became a teacher in the same school district she attended as a student. That's where she stayed for more than 40 years.

When asked why she stayed, she remembers the way students looked up at her with bright eyes the moment a concept they were struggling with finally clicked.

"I loved it," she says.

A DIFFERENT KIND OF TEACHERS' UNION

Schools may be struggling with teacher retention, but some teachers are not ready to leave the public education field.

Seven former school employees found their way to The Education Partnership.

"It's deeply personal to us," says Kiki Reis, advancement director at The Education Partnership. She left her job as a school social worker back in Texas.

"We all have seen it firsthand, the impact that educators can have at schools [and] the difference that a single caring adult can have on students," she says.

Marx taught science at the Academy Charter School in Pittsburgh before coming to The Education Partnership a year-and-a-half ago. As for Raymond, she's found that there's time in retirement for volunteering. She spends a few days every couple of weeks at The Education Partnership, where she stands behind the front desk of the Teacher Resource Center, greeting people who enter.

"[The Education Partnership] gave so much to us, Sto-Rox. I want to give back to them," she says.



WHAT YOU MISSED ONLINE



THE BBF BLOG

brothersbrother.org/blog

The Third Annual BBF Golf Classic was held on July 17 at the Fox Chapel Golf Club in Pittsburgh. The event raised money for local education and healthcare initiatives. Eighty-four golfers played the course, and there were more than 20 sponsors, including main sponsors Highmark and UPMC as well as Caroline and Tom Wentling, Gayle and Bill Simpson, BNY Mellon, DermatologistOnCall, FODIS, First National Bank, Imagine Pharma, Incline Equity Partners, Enscoe Long, Elmhurst Group, Terry Murphy, Jim Royston, Schneider Downs, Circus Saints and Sinners, Charley Family Shop N Save, Dollar Bank, Farrell Group, Mangino Talks Podcast, and Zacharia Brown Elder Law.



facebook.com/brothersbrother

Donated Pharmaceuticals Support Medical Brigades Providing Free Care in Honduras



Linkedin.com/company/brother's-brother-foundation

Tarps and medical supplies are on the way to Mulanje Mission Hospital in Malawi to support Mulanje District's recovery efforts after Cyclone Freddy.



twitter.com/Brothersbf_

Warehouse staff loaded 14 pallets of aid onto a semi-trailer truck, marking BBF's 47th shipment to Ukraine since Russia's invasion last February



instagram.com/brothersbrotherfoundation

Warehouse staff load shipments for partners in Guatemala City (Guatemala), Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic), Pimienta and San Pedro Sula (Honduras).

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A photograph of three children walking away from the camera on a city street. The child on the left is a girl with dark hair in pigtails, wearing a teal jacket and a pink backpack. The child in the middle is a girl with light brown hair in pigtails, wearing a denim jacket and an orange backpack. The child on the right is a boy wearing a blue baseball cap, a red jacket, and a green backpack. All three backpacks feature a small circular logo at the bottom. The background shows a blurred city street with buildings and other people.

Better Schools for a Better Tomorrow

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