

# BBF GLOBAL RELIEF BROTHER'S BROTHER FOUNDATION—

# 04 | BBF Global Relief 2024 Giving Guide

# YOUR GENEROSITY MAKES AN IMPACT

Dear Friends,

As we come to the close of another remarkable year, I am excited to share our Giving Guide—a reflection of the work we've accomplished together and a look ahead at what's possible with your continued support. Every shipment, every program, every life changed this year has been made possible because of your generosity.

BBF responded to multiple natural disasters this year, including a large-scale relief effort for communities devastated by Hurricanes Helene and Milton. We sent shipments of bottled water, hygiene kits, PPE, and generators, and provided \$140,000 in grants to food banks across the Southeast. In Ghana, we launched a new computer lab and library, giving students a dedicated space to build digital skills and ignite their love for learning. Locally, our ongoing sponsorship of West Liberty Elementary School ensured that every child started the school year with the necessary supplies to thrive.

The Giving Guide showcases these efforts and more. As we look toward 2025, we are inspired to extend our reach and deepen our commitment to those we serve. Your partnership remains crucial in meeting the evolving needs of communities worldwide, and together, we can continue transforming lives.

On behalf of everyone at BBF, thank you for your generosity and support. Wishing you and your family a joyful holiday season and a Happy New Year.

With warm regards,

Laura Kelly

Vice President of Communications and Development

# WAYS TO GIVE

# **BY MAIL**

Donations may be made by check, payable to Brother's Brother Foundation, and indicate the program or fund in the memo line.

Mail to: Brother's Brother Foundation

PO Box 645934 Pittsburgh, PA 15264-5257

# **PHONE**

412 - 321 - 3160

We are available Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. to assist with your donation.

# **ONLINE**

Donations made online may also be in honor, in memoriam, and can also be set up as a monthly recurring gift. Visit our website to donate:

www.brothersbrother.org/donate

# PARTICIPATE IN GIVING TUESDAY!

Make your donation online on December 3rd.

# INCLUDE BBF IN YOUR ESTATE PLAN

For information on including BBF in your will or estate plan, or to make a gift of stock, please call us at 412-321-3160.

# HEALTHCARE PROGRAM

At the core of our mission is helping address the healthcare needs of underserved community members around the world. In the first three quarters of 2024, BBF sent the volume equivalent of 83 ocean-going containers to 16 countries and supplied 22 Med-Surg trips to 13 countries.

# Healthcare Program Highlight

### MOBILE HEALTH PROGRAM

Regular visits to the doctor are a key component of disease prevention, but in communities with limited access to healthcare, unreliable transportation and a lack of health insurance prevent many people from seeing a doctor at all. BBF's Mobile Health Clinic program helps to eliminate the obstacles between the patient and the exam chair by bringing the diagnostic equipment and the physician directly to the patient. BBF has donated four mobile health vans: two in the Pittsburgh area, one in western Kentucky and one in Palm Beach County, Florida.



# **AHN Mobile Health Clinic**

In April, BBF celebrated the inauguration of our fourth mobile health van at a ribbon-cutting ceremony at our warehouse. The van was donated to local healthcare provider Allegheny Health Network and is used to provide primary care services to individuals in under-served areas.

The van is equipped with an exam table, sink, and a refrigerator for medicine and vaccine storage.

AHN Primary Care and AHN Pediatrics have been utilizing the van to meet the healthcare needs of the community. This fall they hosted flu and COVID vaccine clinics at Sto-Rox School District and PrimeTime Lutheran Senior Center in Bellevue, as well as provided hypertension screenings on the Northside and in Grove City. The hypertension screenings were held in partnership with Grove City Hospital and AHN's Healthy Food Center Pop-Up Food Pantry, supporting holistic health by addressing both medical and nutritional needs.

In June, the van was stationed outside a local school and provided affordable sports physicals to students who might otherwise have struggled to access them. "Unfortunately, there are

students in the region who do not participate in sports just because sports physicals may be a barrier for them, and it's just easier to not participate than it is to get the physical. By bringing the physical to them, we can really increase sports participation rates," said Michael Talotta, an AHN physician assistant.

The AHN van was also utilized for community health initiatives, including biometric screenings at Monroeville's Community Day and Pittsburgh's Juneteenth celebration.

# **EyeVan Extends Community Care**

BBF's first mobile health van, the EyeVan, was donated to the Eye and Ear Foundation of Pittsburgh in 2023 and currently operates as part of the Department of Ophthalmology's Community Outreach & Remote Access Initiative. Comprised of volunteer eye doctors and medical students, the team provides muchneeded eye care to underserved communities in the Greater Pittsburgh area.



During the summer months, the EyeVan served patients across multiple community events, including clinics at the Kay Boys Club,

Dr. Evan Waxman using the equipment in the EyeVan. Photo credit: PA Medical Society

McKeesport, East Liberty Community Health Center, and a Bhutanese community event. The EyeVan also participated in the African American Male Wellness Agency event.

This fall the EyeVan will hold senior-focused educational seminars and vision clinics at retirement communities and senior living facilities, continuing to reach vulnerable populations. Accessibility modifications, including the installation of an under vehicle lift, are also underway, ensuring the EyeVan remains equipped to serve all members of the community.

## KentuckyCare Mobile Health Clinic

BBF donated a mobile heath van to KentuckyCare in the fall of 2023 to help the organization expand their primary care services into rural areas without healthcare facilities. KentuckyCare has used the van to host clinics in parking lots of community kitchens and schools. This fall, they supported an event that provided free clinical breast exams, educational resources, and mammogram referrals at no cost, enhancing community access to life-saving care.

"Thank you for the ability to drive into the community and offer care right where it is needed the most. This is a blessing that bridges the access to care within small communities by closing gaps in healthcare," said Tiffany Newhouse, APRN, KentuckyCare.

### **HEALTHCARE SHIPMENT PARTNER STORY**

# St Joseph's Mission Hospital, Malawi

In May, a 40-foot container of medical supplies and medical equipment from BBF Global Relief arrived at St. Joseph's Mission Hospital in Nguludi, Malawi. The shipment included 30 hospital beds, thousands of FIGS scrubs, and 10,000 syringes.

Sister Mercy Kanyumbu, the hospital administrator at St. Joseph's, shared that the donation of FIGS scrubs and surgical instruments has made a meaningful impact, enhancing surgical procedures, supporting the maternity labor ward, and even benefiting a sister hospital.

"We are sincerely grateful for Brother's Brother Foundation's ongoing support, which has positively transformed our hospital's services and reputation. Thank you."

St. Joseph's Hospital was founded in the 1950s, beginning as a modest mission facility with an orphanage and outpatient unit, later expanding to include a maternity unit. Over time, additional beds were added to meet the needs of patients requiring specialized care. In 1957, after a nearby teacher training college was vacated, the buildings were repurposed to function as a hospital. Today, St. Joseph's Hospital in Nguludi has grown into a vibrant district hospital,

providing a full range of health services in alignment with Malawi's healthcare system.

BBF has shipped containers of medical supplies and equipment to St. Joseph's Mission Hospital and College of Nursing since 2015. These shipments have included essential items such as latex gloves, wheelchairs, curtains, and laptop computers.



### **HEALTHCARE MED-SURG HIGHLIGHT**

# Med-Surg Group Provides Care in Rural Honduras

A donation of pharmaceuticals enabled Cutting Edge Relief, a Pittsburgh-based organization, to provide medical care to more than 700 people in a rural town in Honduras.

Laurel Houck, a registered nurse with over 15 years of medical mission experience, traveled with Cutting Edge Relief to Urrocco, Honduras. She described the town as a central point for "a number of very small, very poor, rural villages," where residents have no access to healthcare services.

For this Med-Surg trip, BBF supplied more than 350 units of medication. These medications, alongside education on diet and lifestyle changes, were used to treat common conditions such as diabetes, high blood pressure, and chronic pain.

"We had to use medications to at least get the ball rolling, so we could start getting the disease under control," Houck explained.



Laurel Houck speaks with clinic patients during Cutting Edge Relief's Med-Surg trip to Urrocco, Honduras.

One of the most valuable treatments provided was Diclofenac Sodium gel, used to relieve pain and arthritis. This was especially helpful for treating back pain caused by manual labor.

"For the average rural Honduran, pain is a daily reality, and there's no way to escape it," Houck said. "Providing the diclofenac gel was really helpful in giving them some relief so they could continue with their daily tasks and hopefully improve their overall health."



## **HEALTHCARE PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT**

# **Blossoming Beyond**

The BBF Blossoming Beyond Program was started in October of 2021 by Laura Kelly, BBF's Vice President of Communications and Development, following her own diagnosis of Stage III Invasive Breast Cancer. The program supports vital breast cancer research, treatment, and post-recovery resources, with a focus on empowering survivors and providing holistic care for physical, emotional, and psychological well-being.

Thanks to generous donor support, the Blossoming Beyond Program was able to provide a grant in March to Keepers of the Flame (KotF) in Georgia to pilot a counseling program for women. This initiative supports women undergoing breast cancer treatment and those recently completed it with specialized counseling services. Since March, the program has offered therapy sessions to help those facing financial barriers gain access to these crucial mental health services. As of publication, KotF had provided nearly 50 therapy sessions, with more scheduled. In October, BBF provided a second grant to allow for the program to expand.

In addition, BBF has continued our partnership with RAD-AID to support breast cancer screening and a women's health program in Northern India. In collaboration with NIMS University Rajasthan, RAD-AID will launch a women's mobile health program that will, among other services, provide mammography for breast cancer. This initiative aims to bring critical health services to under-served women, ensuring early detection and better outcomes.

# Partnerships and Highlights

# **KEEPERS OF THE FLAME, GEORGIA:**

Funded a pilot program to offer personalized counseling sessions to help survivors navigate life after breast cancer.

# **RAD-AID, INDIA, TANZANIA, VIETNAM:**

Provided a grant to deliver mammograms and essential health services to under-served women in Northern India, Tanzania, and Vietnam.

# **RIBBONS OF LOVE, HONDURAS:**

Provided a grant to support critical care for Honduran women battling breast cancer, including medical treatments and early detection campaigns.

# **MONTEFIORE ST. LUKE'S CORNWALL, NEW YORK:**

Supported breast and prostate cancer patients to ensure they had access to necessary resources and support during their treatment journey.

### **BECOME A SUPPORTER TODAY:**









# **INFRASTRUCTURE**

Our Infrastructure Program focuses on the areas of solar power and WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene). Creating reliable, clean, and affordable access to energy provides security to communities in need leading to a prosperous future for all.

In the first three quarters of 2024, BBF supported infrastructure projects in Ghana, India, Israel, Liberia and Zimbabwe.



BBF, in partnership with Hope for Ghana, funded and installed solar panels at Maureen's School of Hope in Klokpe Village, Ghana, providing a reliable source of energy. The project was completed in April of this year.

# Empowering Girls Through Sustainable Solutions in Zimbabwe

With support from BBF in 2023 and 2024, a twelve-year-old program in Zimbabwe is helping more girls sew their own reusable sanitary supplies to avoid missing school during their monthly cycles. The program, associated with the United Methodist mission in Nyadire helps girls manage their menstrual cycles so they no longer miss valuable class time, opening doors to greater educational opportunities.

The Girl Empowerment Pad (GEP) program focuses on three main goals: keeping girls in school during their menstrual cycle, providing students with tailoring skills, and offering culturally - and age-appropriate health, hygiene, and menstrual education. It operates in seven schools in and around Nyadire and has made a significant impact on the lives of thousands of students.

The program began in 2011 when volunteers from The Nyadire Connection (TNC), based in Pittsburgh, visited local schools. They found that many girls were missing school due to a lack of sanitary products. This issue, common in many countries facing poverty, led to high absenteeism rates among female students. TNC volunteers responded by launching a grassroots movement involving church groups, high school clubs, and local foundations. To date, more than 10,000 pads or kits have been distributed and 4,000 copies of a health book have been shared with students. More than 20 teachers have been trained to teach students to sew pads.

A full interview with BBF Board Member and GEP Program Director Bonnie Lawson can be found at brothersbrother.org/grq24\_education\_gep





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# Infrastructure Partnership: Solar Village Project

BBF has partnered with Solar Village Project to bring sustainable energy solutions to communities in need for many years. This year, BBF funded two solar projects in India to improve access to clean water and reliable electricity.



Solar drinking water taps. Photo credit: Solar Village Project

The first project focused on the Velappanchavadi Government School in Chennai, India. Following Cyclone Michaung's devastating impact on India's southern region, BBF and Solar Village Project installed a solar-powered water filtration system at the school. The system includes a solar array, borewell pump, storage tank, and supplies clean drinking water to the school's 400 students and 12,000 nearby residents. By ensuring a dependable water source, even during emergencies, this project enhances the community's resilience against future natural disasters and reduces health risks from waterborne diseases.

In September, BBF provided a grant to fund the installation of three 1 kW solar systems with battery backup on three buildings within the Vivekananda Tribal Residential School campus in Kerala, India. The school serves 108 students and employs 27 staff. Its remote

location and poor connection to the electric grid results in frequent power outages, leaving students and staff without electricity and other crucial services. The solar project will provide access to continuous power in the main school building as well as the boys' and girls' hostels.



Vivekananda Tribal Residential School in the Wayanad district, Kerala. Photo Credit: Solar Village Project

# **DISASTER RESPONSE**

BBF's Disaster Response program focuses on working hand-in-hand with first responders and relief agencies in the affected areas to provide ongoing support. This includes the sourcing and staging of resources, creating partnerships with transportation networks, and working with local partners and other VOADs (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster), along with engaging with volunteers to sort and send disaster relief supplies.

In the first three quarters of 2024, BBF provided grants, medication, healthcare equipment, and humanitarian supplies for relief and recovery efforts in the USA, India, Nepal, and Ukraine. These disasters included Hurricanes Helene and Milton in the USA, Cyclone Michaung in India, and landslides in Nepal.



Lake Lure, North Carolina. September 28, 2024. Heavy machinery clears a road after heavy rains caused by Hurricane Helene. (Photo credit: Getty Images)

# Hurricanes Helene and Milton Response

In the aftermath of Hurricanes Helene and Milton, BBF provided essential support to communities affected by the storms and associated tornadoes. By the end of October, BBF had provided a total of \$140,000 in grants to seven food banks across Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina. Additionally, BBF expanded outreach to partners in Tennessee, Kentucky, and Virginia to further extend support to other impacted areas.

BBF also sent several truckloads of relief supplies to communities that were hit hardest by Hurricane Helene. The first truck delivered 19 pallets of water—over 38,000 bottles—to Manna Foodbank in Asheville, North Carolina. A second truck sent to Macon, Georgia, carried another 19 pallets of water, along with 2,520 bottles of Boost Nutritional Supplement and nearly 1,800 hygiene kits. On October 25, BBF sent 176 generators to Farm Share in Quincy, Florida. We also sent PPE, hygiene kits, medical supplies, and safety equipment - provided by donors, including Highmark/AHN and MSA, to Feed America First in Murfreesboro, TN. At the time of printing, BBF was coordinaing additional shipments of generators, medical equipment, PPE, hygiene kits with partners in the Southeast.



Support from individuals was bolstered by foundation and corporate partners. Major contributions included a \$500,000 grant from the Richard King Mellon Foundation, \$100,000 from the Eden Hall Foundation, and additional grants from family foundations. Highmark/



Pallets of water are prepared for loading at the BBF warehouse on November 1. The shipment was sent to Tampa Bay, Florida.

AHN provided financial support along with eight truckloads of PPE and medical supplies, Giant Eagle donated 54 pallets of water totaling over 108,000 bottles, MSA supplied a truckload of safety equipment, and Owens & Minor contributed over 2,000 bottles of Boost. Thousands of hygiene kits were also donated and assembled by local organizations and community members.

# BBF Responds to Landslides in Nepal's Ruby Valley

BBF provided a grant to Himalayan Health Care (HHC) in response to the 6.4-magnitude earthquake that struck Jajarkot, Nepal on November 3, 2023. The disaster killed over 150 people and damaged or destroyed more than 50,000 structures.

Himalayan Health Care partnered with Mr. Rajiv Bikram Shah, the elected member of Parliament from Jajarkot, and his team to carry out a response to the earthquake. Funding from BBF helped HHC distribute 50 family-size tents with waterproof ground sheets, 150 tarps, and 150 blankets to families, schools, and health institutions.

The tents provided shelter to 179 people displaced by the disaster. They also helped 2,500 students resume their studies by providing 15 schools with makeshift classrooms and teacher offices. Two tents established clinics in village health posts that treated hundreds of patients.

BBF has worked with HHC to provide resources to the communities in the Ruby Valley since 2016. Previous grants have provided funding for HHC's livestock program that distributed animals to families who were on the brink of famine, and helped reconstruct a school building for 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.





Above left: Due to extensive landslide damage, vehicles could only reach halfway to the valley, requiring people to carry their supplies and tents by foot over a two-day journey. Above right: Ritu Maya Tamang in front of her new temporary home. Photo credit: Himalayan Health Care

# 2024 Disaster Response Overview

# Cyclone Michaung, India

Partnered with Solar Village Project to support the Chennai Disaster Relief Water Filtration Project for the Velappanchavadi Government School.

# Tornado Responses, USA

Responded to tornadoes in Arkansas, Iowa, Kentucky, Oklahoma, and Texas.

Provided grants to local food banks in each region to support impacted communities.

# **Hurricane Preparedness, Puerto Rico**

Sent requested supplies to Ponce Medical School Foundation for hurricane preparedness.

# Hygiene Kit Distribution, Pittsburgh, PA

Provided hygiene kits to Light of Life Rescue Mission and Allegheny Traditional Academy.

# Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton, USA

Following landfall in Florida on September 26, 2024, BBF began a large-scale response to include providing \$140,000 in grants to food banks and shipping bottled water, hygiene kits, medical equiptment, and generators to affected communities.

# Landslides, Nepal

Partnered with Himalayan Healthcare, issued a grant for family tents, solar lamps, blankets, and other essential items.

## Wildfires in Northern California, USA

Issued a grant to Northern Valley Catholic Social Services to provide psychological first aid and counseling services to wildfire-affected individuals.

# **Hurricane Debby, USA**

Issued a grant to Second Harvest of the Big Bend in Florida to support communities impacted by Hurricane Debby.

### **Ukraine War**

Our response in Ukraine continues with essential shipments and grants, including medicines and medical supplies sent to Odesa and Lviv hospitals and support for NGOs aiding in disaster relief. Recent grants to Revivied Soldiers Ukraine and Doctors Collaborating to Help Children have funded advanced prosthetics, rehabilitation equipment for wounded soldiers, and pediatric care.

# **EDUCATION**

BBF's Education Program began with publishers donating books to us for recipients in countries around the world. The program has since grown to working with local communities to help repair schools damaged by disasters, installing solar power panels, providing refurbished computers along with educational software, and providing sporting equipment for a holistic learning experience.

In 2024, with the help of our partners, BBF has supported education programs and sent education materials to partners in seven countries as well as in the Pittsburgh area.



# **Tools for Success**

BBF provided a grant to sponsor West Liberty Elementary School in The Education Partnership's (TEP) Adopt-A-School program. The funding provides essential school supplies to students and ensures that economically disadvantaged students receive the everyday educational tools they need to succeed in the classroom.

In September, BBF staff attended an assembly at West Liberty Elementary and distributed "Power Tools Homework Kits." Power Tools Homework Kits are designed to provide the basic supplies students need to fully engage in their schoolwork. TEP has different kit types for different grade levels, ensuring that every student gets a kit tailored to their needs. The kits West Liberty students received were filled with school supply items including markers, glue, notebooks, and pencils.

BBF began sponsoring West Liberty Elementary in the Adopt-A-School program in 2022. The school is located in Pittsburgh's Brookeline neighbrhood and serves children from pre-K to fifth grade.



Sarah Bechek, Development Coordinator for BBF, hands a West Liberty student their Power Towels Homework Kit.



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# Building Brighter Fu<mark>tures in Ghana</mark>

A solar-powered school and clean drinking water are opening doors to a brighter future for students in a rural Ghanaian community. The new 11-classroom school serves more than 200 students from kindergarten through ninth grade and includes facilities such as a library, computer lab, staff room, and bathrooms—a vast improvement from the single shed where classes were once held.

BBF funded a borehole and reverse osmosis system to provide clean drinking water, along with a 10kW solar array that powers 100 percent of the school's electricity needs. The solar setup fuels everything from lights and fans to computers and the water system, ensuring a reliable and sustainable energy source.

Ghana's location near the equator provides abundant sunlight, making solar power an ideal energy solution for the school. Grid power in this area can be costly and unreliable, but solar energy offers a consistent and sustainable alternative.

"If the school had to depend on the National Grid, the cost of running it would be prohibitive," said Dr. Steve Greene, founder of Hope for Ghana. "Solar power provides these amenities at no cost to the community—this is sustainability at its best."

With electricity available around the clock, the school has become a community hub. In the evenings, students and parents often visit to complete homework or enjoy the library, embracing an opportunity for education and growth previously out of reach.



Students in Wlitey, Ghana, explore new learning opportunities at the Tyler Ball Library. BBF funded six computers featuring educational software and a collection of textbooks and storybooks.

























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With heartfelt appreciation, we send warm wishes for a season filled with joy and a bright year to come.

Sincerely, The BBF Team



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BBF relies upon the generosity of our donors who want to make a difference. Monetary donations make it possible to continue our health, infrastructure, disaster response, and educational programs around the globe.

To make a donation, please visit our website, at <a href="https://brothersbrother.org/">https://brothersbrother.org/</a>

# THANK YOU!

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