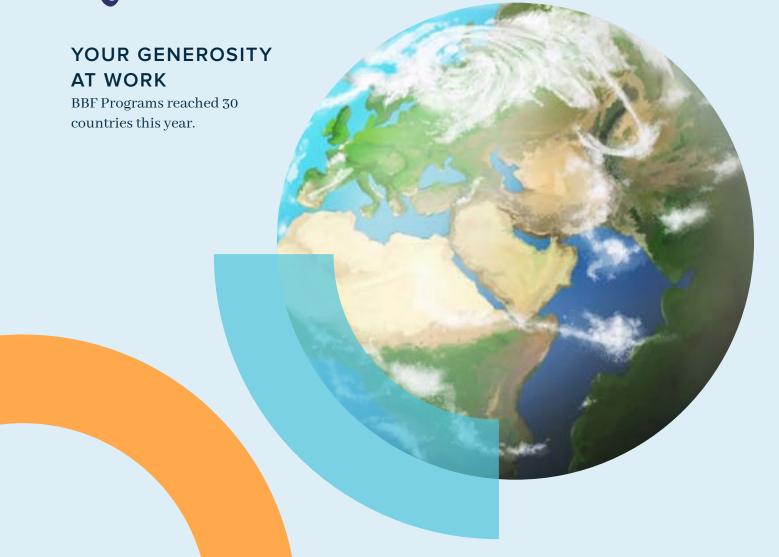


VOLUME 2, ISSUE 4
WINTER 2024

BBF GLOBAL RELIEF QUARTERLY



THE SEASON OF GIVING

A LETTER FROM OUR VP OF COMMUNICATIONS & DEVELOPMENT

Dear Friends,

As we approach the end of 2024, we are excited to celebrate the close of another impactful year and look ahead to all that 2025 will bring. This past year, we accomplished incredible milestones, many of which we've shared in this magazine and throughout the year in our Global Relief Quarterly magazines. Thanks to the generosity of donors like you, BBF Programs reached 30 countries this year.

In this issue, we highlight BBF's large-scale response to Hurricanes Helene and Milton. From distributing essential supplies to partnering with volunteers in our warehouse to assemble hygiene kits, these efforts have been a testament to the power of collaboration. Our Hygiene Kit Program has already provided over 3,000 kits to communities affected by these storms.

This year, we also introduced our Hygiene Kit Store, where you can purchase items for kits to directly support this vital program. We encourage you to visit our website to learn more and explore how you can get involved.

As we reflect on 2024, we are deeply grateful for your generosity, which has made all of these efforts possible. Thank you for supporting our efforts to bring relief and recovery to communities in need. We wish you and your loved ones a joyful holiday season and a wonderful start to the new year.



Warm regards,

Laura Kelly

VP of Communications and Development

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Global Relief Quarterly

From Our President Ozzy Samad

RESPONDING TO DISASTER - HURRICANES HELENE, MILTON AND THE ENSUING TORNADOES

As some of you may have seen through news coverage BBF has recently received, Hurricanes Helene and Milton, along with the ensuing tornadoes in South Florida, have been a major focal point of our work since early October. Your generosity along with the added support of local foundations, has allowed BBF to commit over a million dollars to assist those affected by the disasters. BBF has also received multiple truckloads of PPE and other medical supplies from Highmark/AHN, over 100,000 bottles of water from Gi

medical supplies from Highmark/AHN, over 100,000 bottles of water from Giant Eagle, two truckloads of safety equipment from MSA, more than 2,500 bottles of Boost nutritional drink from Owens & Minor, and thousands of hygiene kits donated and packed in our Behan warehouse by community members across Pittsburgh and the surrounding areas.



BBF's response and recovery efforts include three key phases:

- 1. Providing Financial support to help partners such as foodbanks, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), Free Clinics, and local community organizations allowing them to address immediate needs through the purchase of critical supplies and ensure that vulnerable members of society receive essential medical care.
- 2. Sending Relief shipments of needed humanitarian and medical supplies such as blankets, hygiene kits, nutritional supplements, water, tarps, diapers, cleaning products, PPE, goggles, wipes, and generators.
- 3. Recovery support including mental health and infrastructure repairs based on community needs.

As part of our relief efforts, BBF has provided financial support to seven foodbanks in North Carolina, Georgia, and Florida, along with ten FQHCs and free clinics located across communities impacted by disaster in all three states. Our first three truckloads of relief shipments included the bottled water, nutritional supplement, and hygiene kits mentioned earlier. These were sent to Asheville, North Carolina, Macon, Georgia, and Tampa Bay, Florida. With electricity still unavailable and temperatures falling in some of the storm hit areas, BBF then sent three truckloads of generators to assist families as they attempt to recover from the devastation. BBF is now supporting local community organizations that are helping with recovery and rebuilding efforts.

You may recall from BBF's response to the wildfires in Maui that helping address the mental health needs of those affected by disaster is a key aspect of our work. A post hurricane evaluation by our partners concluded that there was already adequate available capacity in the affected areas.

The excerpts below from our partners perhaps best express the impact that you are making through your generosity.

Harry Chapin Food Bank, Ft. Myers, Florida

BBF's support ...will enable us to supply approximately 14,000 meals, to those impacted by the hurricane. This support will be critical in helping us address the immediate surge in food insecurity following the disaster. With your partnership, we can ensure that our neighbors have access to essential nourishment and clean water during this time of crisis.

Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD), Tallahassee, Florida

APD supports individuals with unique abilities and their families in living, learning and working within their communities by creating multiple pathways to possibilities.

To be eligible for APD services, a person must have one or more of the following diagnoses: Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Down Syndrome, Intellectual Disability, Phelan-McDermid Syndrome, Prader-Willi Syndrome, Spina Bifida

APD, in working with Volunteer Florida and Farm Share, will distribute the generators, carbon monoxide detectors, and safety information to identified Group Homes. This generous donation from BBF is so greatly appreciated and will make a huge difference in the safety and well-being of Group Home residents and the staff who care for them.

I hope these first-hand accounts were able to convey the difference you are making in so many lives. It is invaluable and indeed lifesaving.

As always, thank you so much for your trust and support of BBF and our work here at home and around the world!

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

Health Equity in America: When Traditional Models Aren't Enough

By Julie Cousler, Executive Director, Pennsylvania School-Based Health Alliance

or many children and adolescents, America's medical home model of one provider serving and coordinating all primary health care is sufficient; but for many others, it is simply not enough. For youth who live in poverty, and especially those living with a chronic condition, it is woefully insufficient. These vulnerable children need more preventive healthcare and ease of access, understandable health education, and support navigating resources for public benefits that help to lessen the equity gap. School-based health centers are that critical safety net for so many children and teens, meeting them where they spend the majority of their time: in school.

Children and adolescents with Medicaid public insurance provide an opportunity to monitor and assess our most vulnerable youth for risk factors and collaborate with their schools to provide them with care. Using data and trusted relationships, the school nurse knows who needs more than just our traditional model of care. These school nurses at the forefront need help serving their most vulnerable students and, also, meeting Pennsylvania's ambitious expectations in its state mandate for school health services. Chronic disease among children has risen more than 400% since 1960, primarily in the areas of asthma, obesity, mental health, and neurodevelopmental disorders. The collaboration of schools and medical providers with the medical home saves millions of dollars on the backend through decreased hospital use, increased preventive healthcare, and increased school attendance for better academic outcomes.

MORE THAN 40 YEARS OF RESEARCH clearly demonstrates that SBHCs reduce hospital use by 70-75%, ensure better controlled asthma, yield much higher rates of adolescent well-child and reproductive health care, promote engagement in mental health services, increase school attendance, and boost grade point averages and high school completion rates.

The Brother's Brother Foundation understands the inadequacies of our system for many and embraces the power of data to strengthen the safety net for vulnerable youth in Pennsylvania. The Pennsylvania School-based Health Alliance (PSBHA) is teaming up with the foundation and others from the philanthropic community to work with the state to assess and quantify the impact and cost savings realized through school-based health centers (SBHCs) across the state. In 2023 Pennsylvania spent \$386 million to backfill

hospitals for uncompensated care, just for children and teens, in addition to claims paid for hospital visits and hospitalizations. More than 40 years of research clearly demonstrates that SBHCs reduce hospital use by 70-75%, ensure better controlled asthma, yield much higher rates of adolescent well-child and reproductive health care, promote engagement in mental health services, increase school attendance, and boost grade point averages and high school completion rates.



Photo credit: PA School-Based Health Alliance

The goal of state investment in SBHCs – as is the case in 23 other states – is to close the gaps left by

uncompensated care, and enable and improve critical strategic communication with the school, parents, medical home, and insurance payers toward a schoolwide culture of health. PSBHA and the SBHC operators across the state are working to quantify these cost savings and improved health and academic outcomes right here in Pennsylvania. It is more critical now than ever that we know and deploy the strategies that are most effective and cost-efficient to narrow and close the health and education equity

gap in Pennsylvania.

Photo credit: PA School-Based Health Alliance

The Brother's Brother Foundation is supporting the SBHC Data Hub that was launched in 2022 with the Health Equity grant from the Pennsylvania Senate to collect demographic and utilization data from 30 SBHCs. Now it is time to analyze the data and quantify the cost savings to our Medicaid and CHIP safety nets, in order to justify putting a fraction of this expense on the frontend for maximum impact and benefit for our most fragile families.

Fighting Inequality with Healthcare in Honduras

The excerpt below is from a report provided to BBF Global Relief by longstanding partner Food for the Poor (FFTP) regarding a BBF pharma container donation that went to Honduras. It shows the impact that the pharma donation program is making on the lives of underserved community members.

Honduras is one of the most impoverished countries in Latin America with one of the highest levels of income inequality in the region. According to the CIA World Factbook, more than 48 percent of the population lives below the poverty line. Although violence is on the decline, Honduras still has one of the world's highest murder rates.

Unemployment, gang violence and a widespread lack of opportunity contribute to the challenging landscape. Chronic malnutrition is rampant in Honduras. Infant and child mortality rates are also high.

Honduras remains one of the most vulnerable countries to natural disasters in the world, frequently being affected by severe droughts that deplete the availability of basic crops. COVID-19 and severe storm-related setbacks in 2020 and 2021 crippled the country's economic activity. As a result, the most vulnerable populations in Honduras continue to suffer from hunger and food insecurity.

In remote, impoverished areas of Honduras, access to health care is mostly nonexistent. It is with donations such as the one BBF recently sent to FFTP that our in-country partners are able to coordinate and arrange medical brigades to reach people most in need. These brigades go into rural areas and provide much needed medical services to populations who would otherwise not have access to critical healthcare.

"Thanks to the continued support and generous donations of medicine, there are two medical brigades that are carried out each month to reach the most vulnerable communities in our country," explains Heydy



Photo credit: Food for the Poor

Bu, Food For The Poor's in-country partner representative. "We are most grateful for the contribution that we are able to make thanks to these donations."



Photo credit: Food for the Poor

In this shipment, Brother's Brother Foundation donated thousands of bottles of medicine for the treatment of hypertension, diabetes, kidney dysfunction and even Parkinson's disease and malaria. This medicine allows impoverished children and families in Honduras to treat their acute and chronic medical conditions and would otherwise be unavailable without this donation.

This container shipment from Pittsburgh also included personal protective equipment such as N95 respirator face masks, exam gloves, disposable lab coats and procedure face masks.

Since January 1, 2024, BBF has sent eight pharma shipments in the form of 40' ocean-going containers.

All of us at BBF are pleased to continue this partnership with Food for the Poor and in-country partner CEPUDO! It is through relationships like these that BBF is able to work in so many places and provide access to much needed medicine, supplies, and healthcare services.





Photo credit: Food for the Poor

Providing Hope Through Mental Support

or many breast cancer patients and survivors, the journey doesn't end with physical recovery. Navigating the emotional aftermath—diagnosis anxiety, survivor's guilt, and family concerns—can be as challenging as the medical battle itself. BBF has partnered with Keepers of the Flame Foundation (KotF) to ensure that survivors have access to affordable, professional counseling services.

This year, BBF has provided two grants to support KotF's counseling program. These funds enable breast cancer patients and survivors to access low- or no-cost therapy sessions, helping them address the mental and emotional toll of their experience. Since the program's inception, KotF has provided 50 hours of professional counseling to participants, offering both individual and family-focused support.

Each program participant is given three months to complete five therapy sessions. This structured timeframe ensures funds are utilized effectively, allowing the program to support as many individuals as possible.



Lisa Gardner, Director of Operations at Water's Edge Counseling, emphasized the program's impact: "Partnering with Keepers of the Flame has allowed us to provide compassionate therapy for breast cancer patients who need support in their healing journey. Their commitment to making mental health care accessible has been inspiring, and together, we are helping patients find strength and hope during a challenging time."

Julie Roberts, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker at Water's Edge Counseling, shared her perspective: "It has been a joy to meet women who are physically recovering from breast cancer and support the emotional impact on the whole person. The survivors I have had the honor to support through therapy are the epitome of hope, strength, and how to move forward in life. Having an emotionally safe space to process the complex feelings about cancer treatment and survivorship is a sacred honor that these women have given to me."



By making counseling accessible, the Blossoming Beyond program offers more than just support—it provides hope, resilience, and a pathway forward for survivors navigating life after breast cancer. Together, BBF and KotF are ensuring that no one faces this journey alone.

The Oaklander Hotel in Pittsburgh Supports BBF's Hurricane Relief Efforts

Volunteers from The Oaklander Hotel in Pittsburgh visited BBF in November to assemble hygiene kits for individuals and families affected by the Hurricanes Helene and Milton. The volunteers worked to prepare and load the kits, which include essential personal care items such as soap and shampoo.

"The news coming out of the South is absolutely heartbreaking. The damage and devastation are simply unimaginable. Here at The Oaklander, our team believes in the power of community, empathy, and love. We hope that collecting critical supplies to address the immediate needs of those hardest hit will make a significant difference." - Perry Ivery, General Manager

Hygiene kits are part of BBF's ongoing disaster response efforts in regions impacted by Hurricanes Helene and Milton, including North Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. BBF has already shipped more than 3,000 hygiene kits to partners for distribution. Visit BBF's website to learn more about the Hygiene Kit Program and ways to support it.









DISASTER RESPONSE

Hurricanes Helene and Milton: Updates from the Field

BBF'S DISASTER RESPONSE BEGINS WITH ANALYTICS, BUT IS SHAPED, REFINED. AND IMPLEMENTED THROUGH HUMAN CONNECTIONS.

By Julia van den Bergh, BBF Director of Strategic Initiatives

uring Hurricanes Helen and Milton, we mapped organizations in the anticipated path of disasters and created databases of potential partners on-the-ground such as foodbanks, nonprofit healthcare providers, and local community associations. As the disasters evolved, we connected with partners across the southeast, who painted a full picture of how and where our support was most needed.

On September 26th, Helene slammed into the Big Bend area of Florida's Gulf Coast. Food Banks from Tallahassee to Asheville reported an urgent need for food, water, and essential supplies. Food Banks such as the Second Harvest of the Big Bend (Tallahassee, FL) increased the capacity of their Mobile Food Pantries to deliver meals directly to the impacted areas. Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) like Blue Ridge Community Health Services needed financial support to provide affordable emergency services (much of it free) in hard-hit North Carolina communities.



Photo Credit: ABCCM Medical Ministry

ABCCM Medical Ministry, a Free and Charitable Clinic in Asheville, faced multiple challenges. Miraculously, the ABCCM clinic came out of Helene unscathed, allowing them to open right after the storm passed and treat many patients who usually visited other medical centers. However, Helene completely wiped out the ABCCM Veterans Ministry quarters, leaving many veterans homeless. ABCCM has placed the veterans in local hotels and is still working to restore a clean water supply.

"I wish to express our sincere excitement and gratitude for your generosity in offering a grant to aid in our ministry's disaster recovery efforts and to support the work of the free clinic in providing care for people in our area which was so devastated by the recent hurricane. These funds will be used toward the cost of replacing the medications lost during the storm, the extra pharmacy costs in supporting provision of medications to ineligible (insured) patients when all other pharmacy were closed or inaccessible, and for patients within the emergency shelters. It will also help us pay the costs of the emergency water resource to keep the clinic open and the rent of portable toilets as well as defray

costs of a payment protection program for clinic staff during the first two weeks of the storm." – Dr. Daniel Frayne, Director, ABCCM Doctors' Medical Clinic

Another Asheville free clinic, The Free Clinic, survived Helene with limited damage. The clinic only closed for three days and has experienced a large increase in patients over the last month. The Free Clinic staff now treat patients of many of their medical neighbors who lost their practices during the storm as well as the local homeless population.



Photo credit: Hunger and Health Coalition

Just north of Asheville, the Hunger and Health Coalition in Boone, NC, is focusing on mobile pharmacy services and food delivery to people stranded in rural areas. Immediately after the disaster, the coalition sent food recovery vehicles across the countryside with cleaning supplies, recovery items, and emergency prescriptions such as insulin. The coalition spent \$10,000 on EpiPens in the first month alone as the result of increased yellow jacket activity.

"For 42 years the Hunger and Health Coalition has been a beacon in western North Carolina; a spearhead for food and medicine access with the mission to transform our community's hunger into health. We never imagined the devastation that would hit our community and completely reimagine the needs of our neighbors on Friday, October 27th, 2024. Our distribution work and relief support reflect our organization's quiding principles as we ensure dignified and equitable access. We are communitycentered relief, boots on the ground, speaking directly to those who are impacted and the community leaders guiding rural assistance. Last year, our pharmacy distributed over \$2 million in prescriptions at

absolutely no cost to our community – now exacerbated by those finding themselves in new or worse financial burden. Our Food is Medicine initiative works in tandem with our free pharmacy to provide wrap-around holistic approaches to improving the health and lives of our community members. The need for medically tailored food and life-sustaining medications does not cease after a natural disaster. In the wake of long-term hurricane relief, funds would be spent on pharmacy operations providing direct relief, including medication purchasing; ensuring those in need have access to their prescriptions."- Maura McClain, Director of Strategic Initiatives, Hunger and Health Coalition

Hurricane Milton landed just south of Sarasota on October 5th. traveling east towards Melbourne. We Care Manatee, a free clinic located just north of Sarasota, reported that Free and Charitable



Photo credit: Hunger and Health Coalition

Clinics held a state-wide meeting in the wake of the disasters. While some clinics across the state were damaged, not many were destroyed. Unfortunately, many of their clients on the west coast lost their homes and jobs due to flooding and high winds.

"Our community took a direct hit from Hurricane Milton causing extensive damage to homes and businesses. Recovery is still ongoing with many of our patients being impacted through loss of income, uninhabitable houses, repairs they can't afford, and health issues. This grant will provide disaster recovery assistance to our patients that have been directly impacted. We expect this to include things such as helping directly with food, shelter, and repairs, as well as medical issues that may arise due to the hurricane and the aftermath. We have an established intake process that will vet and confirm the needs of our patients that will allow us to easily distribute this to those most in need. We are so grateful for this opportunity to be able to impact our patients lives through your generosity." - Shannon Hoyt, Executive Director, We Care Manatee

Our contacts across western and central Florida directed us to the southeast, an area hit especially hard by Milton's tornadoes. Underserved populations in this area receive medical care from Oceana Community Health, a Free Clinic located in Boynton Beach.



Photo credit: Oceana Community Health

"This grant will be used to expand medical access to the Spanish Lakes community that was eviscerated by the Hurricane Milton tornadoes. Oceana Community Health is currently leading an emergency medical response and disaster relief initiative, which provides acute care/triage and resource distribution, respectively, in these impacted communities. The generous contribution from BBF will allow us to continue these efforts and work towards implementing a more sustainable solution for this community's rehabilitation. Most importantly, thank you for your recognition and unwavering support. Oceana prides itself on being a center to turn to when patients have

nowhere else to rely, and BBF's generosity helps advance this mission and further our cause. I sincerely appreciate your generosity and kindheartedness." – Dr. Usef Motti, Executive Director, Oceana Community Health

While it was incredibly hard to see hurricanes and tornadoes tear through the southeast, updates from the field remind us of how many driven people and inspiring organizations are working hand-in-hand to support impacted individuals.

None of this could have happened without the generosity of the Pittsburgh community. Thank you so much for your support.

2024 Magee-Womens Summit

BF funded the attendance for four healthcare professionals at the 2024 Magee-Womens Summit, an event hosted by Magee-Womens Research Institute in collaboration with UPMC clinicians and University of Pittsburgh researchers. The summit was held over two days in November, gathering global experts in reproductive sciences and women's health to share research, foster collaboration, and address critical health challenges.

"Many thanks [for BBF's] generous support of [our attendance] to the Magee Womens Summit. We all were amazed at the advancement of women health through research and innovation that influence early practice and policies. Each of the briefings were interesting with opportunities to view the use of technology as the next generation finds ways to improve healthcare outcomes. I reflect on the comments of Dr. Judy Omumbo, Senior Program Manager Science for Africa Foundation "The health of women affect health of family". Jerry Ann Allen, MPM., BSN.,RN.,FCN, Faith Community Nurse, Allen Place Community Services, Inc.

"I am beyond appreciative for the opportunity to attend this very informative summit. I received insight on environmental factors that directly [affect] women's health, including agriculture, chemical



"Thank you so much for the opportunity to attend the Magee-Womens Summit. I gained valuable knowledge about community engagement, resource planning, and education initiatives from the providers, scientists, and researchers who shared their expertise. I left inspired by the potential to bridge clinical

factors, and psychosocial factors. I look forward to following up with some of the presenters that were

present and attending another womens summit in the future." Keisha L. Howard AS, RN

research with practical applications for frontline workers, such as doulas, midwives, and community health workers. These roles are vital in addressing gaps in care, and I'm eager to explore ways to integrate these innovative approaches into my own practice. Thank you again for this incredible learning opportunity." Syreeta Gordon

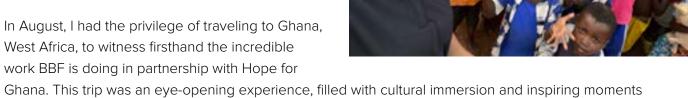
I serve. I'm excited to integrate what I've learned into my work." Tyra Browne MSN, BSN, RN

Experiencing BBF's Work in Ghana

By Sarah Bechek, BBF Development Coordinator

Growing up in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, I've always felt a deep desire to help others and contribute to meaningful change. This passion led me to pursue a degree in Public Health, where I discovered philanthropy and sustainable development. After graduating, I was able to turn my passion into action when I was hired as the development coordinator for BBF.

West Africa, to witness firsthand the incredible work BBF is doing in partnership with Hope for



of community transformation. From new educational initiatives to groundbreaking medical outreach, the impact of BBF's work on local communities in Ghana is inspiring and transformative.

My journey began when I landed at Kotoka International Airport in Accra, Ghana. I received a warm welcome from Dr. Steve Greene, President and Founder of Hope for Ghana, and Senyo Gbormittah, Vice President of Operations. From there, we traveled to Akatsi to celebrate the grand opening of a new computer lab and library donated by BBF. I was welcomed with a traditional Ghanaian ceremony that included young girls dressed in colorful Kente cloth, performing dances, while boys played rhythmically on drums. The elders of the village dressed me in traditional attire and introduced me as a Queen Mother to the community. This deeply symbolic gesture showed the respect and reverence that the people hold for

visitors and their commitment to preserving their culture.

At the opening ceremony, I had the honor of cutting the ribbon to officially open the library and computer lab. Thanks to BBF's support, the village of Wlitey now has access to six new computers, preloaded with educational software, as well as textbooks and storybooks for the children. It was a joy to see the excitement and gratitude from the children and their families.

Later that evening, we visited Sesime, where BBF has donated a similar library and computer lab the previous year. In addition to providing six computers with over 50 software learning programs, BBF has also supplied over 2,000 books to the library. The children in Sesime had previously been attending "school" underneath a tree, but thanks to BBF's efforts, they now have a safe, well-lit environment to learn. Solar panels funded by BBF also provide electricity to the



The following day, we headed to the northern region, stopping at Maureen's School of Hope. Here, BBF had funded a solar-powered library, computer lab, and a water borehole with a reverse osmosis purification machine—providing clean water to both students and surrounding villages. The impact of these initiatives was immediately apparent, as the community now has access to resources that are critical to their development.

In the village of Glisiya, I attended a groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of Hope for Ghana's fifth new school. The village elders spoke with heartfelt gratitude, thanking Hope for Ghana and BBF Global Relief for our ongoing support. Sharing BBF shirts with the children was a truly special moment and their enthusiasm was overwhelming. Their faces lit up with bright smiles as they eagerly gathered around.

One of the last stops of the trip was visiting the Bono East region, where Hope for Ghana's mobile medical outreach initiative was in full swing. Dr. Greene unveiled a third tricycle that will bring medical services to remote villages. The community hosted a ceremony where they provided free health consultations, screenings, medications, and even distributed 500 national health insurance cards to those in need. BBF provided a pharmaceutical donation, which was used for some of the most underserved villages.

My trip to Ghana was an incredible experience that highlighted the power of collaboration, community engagement, and sustainable development. Witnessing firsthand the life-changing work of BBF Global Relief and Hope for Ghana was inspiring and humbling. It was an honor to be part of this journey and see the profound impact we are making in these communities.





Above left: Bono East residents waiting to be seen for their free health consultations at the unveiling of the third tricycle for the mobile health initiative. Above right: Pharmaceuticals provided by BBF Global Relief prepared for distribution.

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



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

