BBF Staff Make Site Visits to Peru and Philippines

Terri Webb, BBF Inventory Coordinator, Dr. Sanchez, General Director of Victor Larco Herrera Hospital, and Dr. Tips, Executive Director of that hospital, in Lima, Peru beside a pharmaceutical donation from BBF.

BBF Staff members Carol Taylor, Education Coordinator, and Christa Moore, Special Projects Coordinator, were in the Philippines February 28- March 11 visiting in connection with the BBF and Rotary education program and working with USAID colleague organizations. Ms. Taylor and Ms. Moore presented funds to a representative of Rotary International for work related to the recent deadly mudslides in Philippines. BBF has a three year commitment working with USAID to send books to the Mindanao area of Philippines to help provide educational opportunities in this primarily poor Muslim area. This program, called EQuALLS, has BBF and partner non-governmental organizations (NGOs) making a difference in the lives of many in the Mindanao area. (The report of Ms. Taylor and Ms. Moore on their trip is on page 3)

Disaster Relief Tracker

Tsunami Statistics
Received over $1.8 million in monetary donations
To date BBF has provided over $60 million in requested aid to India, Sri Lanka and Indonesia

Hurricane Statistics
Received over $816,000 in monetary donations
To date BBF has provided over $6.5 million in requested aid to various afflicted areas of the United States

Earthquake Statistics
Received over $87,000 in monetary donations
To date BBF has provided over $5.3 million in requested aid to Pakistan

Country Updates
Direct shipments in 2006 were received by people in need in the following 20 countries: Argentina, Armenia, Belarus, Burma, Cambodia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Ghana, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Iraq, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Philippines, Romania, Senegal and United States of America.
President’s Report

By Luke L. Hingson

Five years ago Brother Brother Foundation distributed 250,000 bottles of requested pharmaceuticals: antibiotics, heart medicines, skin ointments and other products. Last year, Brother’s Brother Foundation distributed over 2,500,000 bottles of lifesaving and/or life enhancing medicines to people in need in 46 countries on five continents. All in all, BBF loaded and shipped 192 tractor trailer loads of donated goods and helped ship 305 tractor trailer loads of goods donated by other charities around the world in 2005. Thanks to our loyal supporters, we did a lot of heavy lifting. To facilitate future shipments, BBF purchased a second forklift (two ton capacity). With the help of our loyal supporters, we are able to provide donations of medicines, books, relief supplies and other items which give immediate support and assistance to those in need around the world. BBF Board member, Robert Verscharen introduced Apotex Corp, a pharmaceutical company based in Canada, to BBF. Via this introduction, I am pleased to report that Apotex has agreed to make significant pharmaceutical donations to BBF in the very near future.

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New BBF Board Members and Officers

At the January meeting of the Brother’s Brother Foundation (BBF), John P. Tymitz, Ph.D., Executive Dean, Institute of Ship Board Education, was re-elected BBF’s Board Chair; Roy G. Dorrance, U.S. Steel Corp. (retired) was elected BBF’s Vice Chair; Elena A. Baylis, Esq., University of Pittsburgh School of Law was re-elected BBF’s Secretary; Charles F. Bekoe, M.D., General Surgeon (retired) was re-elected Medical Director; and Joseph T. Senko of McKeever, Varga & Senko was re-elected Treasurer. Luke L. Hingson was re-elected as BBF’s President. New Trustees are Christina W. Michelmore, Chatham College; Robert S. Verscharen, Eckerd Corporation (retired) and Jerry (Chip) V. Lambert, Jr., M.D., Allegheny General Hospital. On March 15, BBF Trustee, Dr. Seth Bekoe, is visiting his native country of Ghana where BBF supports Rotary-sponsored educational efforts. Dr. Bekoe reviewed Tema Rotary’s efforts to distribute BBF donated books to students throughout Ghana and delivered medicines to Ridge Hospital in Accra, Ghana. Dr. Bekoe will return to Pittsburgh on March 15th. BBF Trustee Dr. Chip Lambert worked in his native town in Mississippi helping with hurricane reconstruction on March 4-10th. Dr. Lambert also traveled to Nicaragua from March 11-19 to assist with the work of a medical mission team in Bluefields, Nicaragua. This town on the east coast was affected by Hurricane Beta. Dr. Lambert took BBF donated pharmaceuticals to both locations.

Mission Trip Updates:

In the first two and a half months of 2006 BBF has assisted 12 mission trips to the following countries: Belize, Burma, Cambodia, Cuba, Ghana, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines and Senegal with a total value of the donations of over $218,000. Recently Jim Charleton stopped by the BBF warehouse to pick up antibiotics for children including Lornibid and Albuterol for respiratory ailments that had a value of over $32,000. This donation from Brother’s Brother was on its way to the western African country of Senegal. BBF looks forward to hearing about Jim’s mission trip and will report on his efforts in an upcoming issue of Field News.

Honduras

Exciting news from San Jose Del Negrte! Our recent October 2005 medical trip was very encouraging and the Health Committee continues to work hard at improving the community. Shoulder to Shoulder is growing as well, with six universities now having partnerships with Honduran villages… Baylor University, University of Rochester, Brown University, University of North Carolina, University of Cincinnati and of course the University of Pittsburgh! Our project is fortunate to have been allocated from Shoulder to Shoulder, the services of Medardo Rodriguez. The feeding program now provides daily nutritional supplements for over 700 preschool and kindergarten children - more than twice as many as last year! We continue to measure a real trend towards normal growth patterns for the youngest, most vulnerable children. Honduras will never reach its potential unless young minds and spirits are able to flourish. The feeding program provides ongoing instruction in basic hygiene for children and their parents, as well as parent education related to receiving the most nutrition from local food products. Family dynamics, violence and women’s issues are discussed so that family members can be empowered to build healthy families.

Three medical teams and one community outreach team traveled to the village in 2005. Basic medical care continues to be a vital service to this rural area. We still provide medications to patients when they are seen and on an ongoing basis for chronic diseases such as diabetes, hypertension and seizures. This is not cheap, but we work hard to order medications as economically as possible through several mission organizations including Brother’s Brother Foundation. It is a great gift to a patient when you identify a problem, but an even greater gift when you are able to give the medication needed to treat that issue.

Diane Balliet
Shoulder to Shoulder, Pittsburgh PA

BBF Supports Medical Students in Honduras

On behalf of the leadership and all the students that participated in the Medical Students Making Impacts, Inc. (MSMI) December 2005 mission to Honduras, I would personally like to thank you for Brother’s Brother Foundation’s generous donation of medications and medical supplies. All materials were delivered to and used at Hospital Leonardo Martinez in San Pedro Sula, Honduras. With nineteen medical students and fifteen doctors, we conducted a general medical brigade and performed over 50 operations. We began work on several public health outreach projects, in which we investigated the rates and knowledge of breastfeeding, teen pregnancy, HIV, motor vehicle accidents and alternative medicine. This trip was incredibly successful and it would not have been possible without your generosity.

We look forward to working with you again.

Sincerely,

Heather Levin
President, MSMI, Inc.
Embassy of the United States in Manila, Philippines

U.S. Charge d’Affaires Paul W. Jones Remarks at the Ceremonial Turnover of Learning Materials to the Culianan Learning Center January 17, 2006

As the parent of two young children, I can understand your concern for quality education. All children are unique, truly God’s gift; and our schools should be able to respond to their individual needs while preparing them for productive roles as citizens of the Philippines. American support to Philippine education dates back 105 years to the arrival of the American volunteer teachers who we know as the Thomasites, so named in recognition of the vessel that brought them to this country, the S.S. Thomas. The Thomasites came to assist in establishing the public school system throughout the country; and a number of them settled permanently in Zamboanga. Their legacy lives on today in other U.S. government efforts to assist Philippine education.

The education materials that we presented in today’s ceremony are a part of USAID’s effort to assist the Philippine government in addressing the problems of teacher shortage, overcrowded classrooms, student drop-out and the need for more individualized learning. Culianan Learning Center is the lead institution under USAID’s EQuALLS project in implementing systemic and pedagogical reforms for elementary schools. Culianan Learning Center embodies the Department of Education’s “School First Initiative” in giving parents and the community an active role in their child’s education; and it employs a system of cooperative learning that helps children develop leadership and teamwork skills essential for their future roles in helping the Philippines achieve its potential.

The American government, working through USAID, the Peace Corps, the Fulbright Commission and the Public Affairs Section of the Embassy, is committed to promoting access to quality education in the Philippines. We are privileged to be working with so talented a corps of professional educators and committed members of the community like yourself in making this happen.

Paul W. Jones

Chernobyl 20th Anniversary Airlift

BBF working with CitiHope International commemorated the 20th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster by donating over $160,000 of children’s antibiotics to the United States Department of State’s “Operation Provide Hope” program. The quantity of antibiotics donated is intended to treat about 28,790 patients in Belarus. The intended distribution of antibiotics is shown to the right.

Gomel Region 30%
Mogilyov Region 30%
Brest Region 15%
Grodno Region 15%
Minsk Region 10%

25% of donation goes to help BBF.
**Hurricane Thank You**

I just wanted to say thank you. We are in the hurricane area and were offered the use of your donated wet/dry vacuums through St. Matthew’s United Methodist Church in Metairie, LA. The machine has been a God-send to us and our whole family (10+ households – damages ranging from totally irreparable to flooded to roofs blown off). We’ve shared it with many. The fact that it will vacuum both water and dry materials has been most helpful. Right now we are using it to get rid of sheetrock dust. Soon we’ll be able to use it to get the loose threads off new carpet as it is installed! We really appreciate your donation and wanted to let you know how much it has helped quite a few victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Sincerely,

Joe Milam

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**Noteworthy**

April is National Volunteer Month

Brother’s Brother Foundation

Thanks

H. J. Heinz Retired Volunteers

for their many hours of service.

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**Spring Donations**

“A man can only do what he can do. But if he does that each day he can sleep at night and do it again the next day.”

- Albert Schweitzer

Your gift to Brother’s Brother Foundation helps to keep Dr. Hingson’s and others’ dreams alive.

Online donations at BBF’s secure site http://www.brothersbrother.org

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**BBF Staff Visit to Peru, Continued**

(From page one)

Chimbote:
BBF has history of working in Chimbote that goes back over thirty-five years. In September 2005 BBF sent a donation of medical supplies and equipment that included Lorabid, a children’s antibiotic with a total value of $424,573. The hospital in Chimbote, sponsored by the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh, is privately owned, with a maternity center, educational programming and family planning, clinical laboratory, outpatient clinic, pediatric services and pharmacy plus a large program for home visits. The hospital staff requested simple supplies such as walkers, wheelchairs, canes, books, diapers, blood pressure machines, etc. Many of these supplies can be sent with the help of BBF.

Lima:
While I was in Lima I was hosted by Dany Porudominsky of B’nai B’rith Peru. We visited three hospitals for mental health, all of which will receive a portion of BBF’s December 2005 donation of Pexeva, valued at $3,302,172. Shipping of this donation was paid for by BBF’s partner Food for the Poor. The locations I visited were: Victor Larco Herrera Hospital, Honorio Delgado-Hideyo Noguchi Hospital and Hermilio Valdivian Hospital. Many of the donated medicine will also be used in their outreach programs into the mountain communities. The need of the Lima hospitals are more sophisticated and include: anti-psychotics and other pharmaceuticals, technical equipment, and so on. My visit was topped off by a special ceremony with Dr. Pilar Mazzetti, the Minister of Health of Peru, who acknowledged BBF’s donation and expressed a wish for further partnership.

My trip to Peru was a wonderful and educational experience. The work of BBF has improved the lives of so many individuals in this remote country.

(Copy and photos courtesy of Terri Webb)