



**Korle-Bu
Neuroscience
Foundation**

Impact Report 2020



Making Medical Miracles

President's Report:

A Year of Transition and Expansion

In the midst of global chaos, KBNF expanded and grew. While neurosurgery missions were restricted due to aborted international travel, the transformative impact of KBNF's investments continued. A donated C-Arm and a neurosurgery microscope delivered to JFK Hospital in Monrovia required expert setup and training. Dr. Harry Akoto, a KBNF mission neurosurgeon, practicing in Ghana, joined Dr. Alvin Nah Doe in Liberia and enabled the launch of this equipment. Surgeries are now being performed, and two other surgical specialists returning from training in orthopedics and urology are also utilizing the new equipment.

As the world embarked on an unprecedented year, KBNF transitioned from Barn 3 to a donated 10,000 sq. ft. warehouse space in June. Another historic moment occurred when we welcomed our first warehouse manager. As non-profit foundations worldwide were downsizing, halting operations, and facing an unprecedented financial crisis, KBNF was blessed with donors that enabled us to sustain and grow. In addition, new volunteers eager to donate their time and skills found KBNF. Whether donating their time at the warehouse or contributing handmade items, volunteers were buzzing with enthusiasm and joy.

With international aid being seriously curtailed, our donations are more necessary than ever. Meetings with the Liberian healthcare establishment revealed the desperate need for consumables and equipment. Partnering Kamloops firefighters reached out through KBNF to provide protective gear and equipment, the first-of-its-kind donation in Liberia, and the expansion of the ambulance fleet with their second of two North American outfitted emergency vehicles is transforming emergency care delivery.

By year-end, KBNF had shipped three quality containers to support neurosurgery in Liberia and Nigeria and first-line responder support and health and maternal care across Liberia.

We are building an incredible international family. Thank you.



Marjorie Ratel RN BSN
President
Korle-Bu Neuroscience Foundation



Who We Are:

We are a charity developing Neuroscience and healthcare in West Africa

Purpose:

Since 2000 KBNF has worked with governments and medical officials in multiple West African nations to enhance the delivery and quality of healthcare with a special focus on those affected by injury and diseases of the brain and spine and related medical issues.

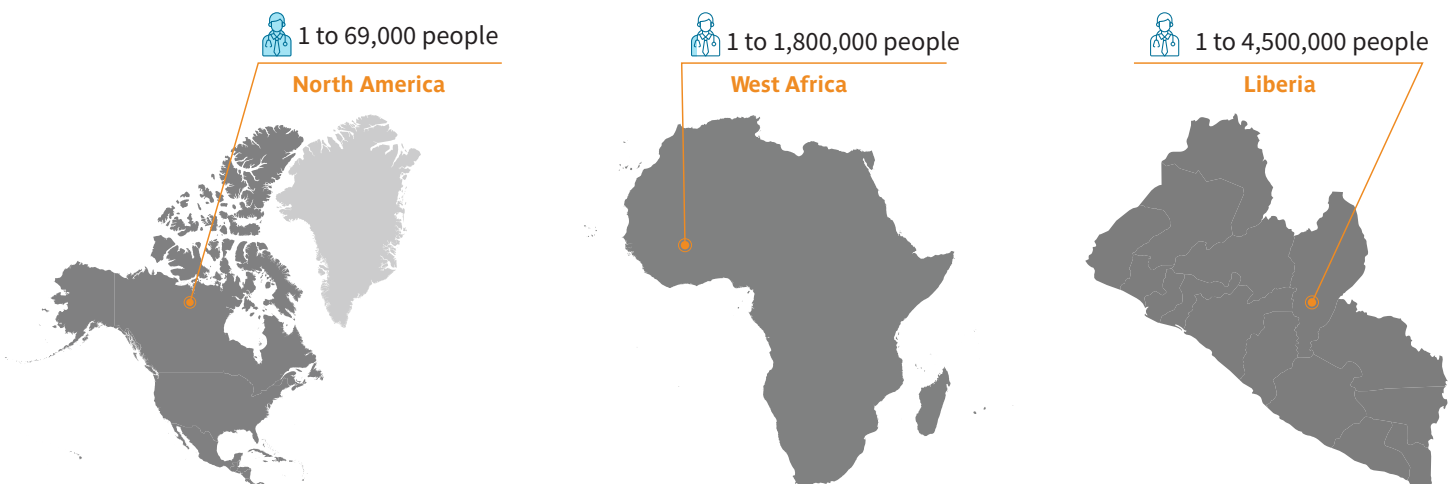
Focus:

To partner with West African nations developing fully equipped, staffed, and self-sustaining neuroscience programs and facilities.



Why Does KBNF Exist?

Every year more than 5 million patients will have no access to qualified neurosurgeons resulting in otherwise avoidable disability or death. KBNF exists to help provide medical supplies and services that would otherwise be unavailable.



What We Do:

Surgical Missions:

We send neurosurgeons, anesthesiologists, and nurses to work alongside local doctors and surgeons to perform surgeries and perioperative care that would be outside the scope of current capabilities.

Biomedical engineers also take part in these missions to evaluate and repair existing equipment and install new equipment.

KBNF aims to schedule one to two of these surgical missions annually.

**The COVID-19 pandemic restricted our ability to perform surgical missions in 2020, but KBNF is planning to return with a team in November 2021.*



Shipment of Medical Supplies and Equipment:

KBNF works with local and international governments and organizations to supply and distribute needed and life-saving equipment and supplies to individual hospitals, clinics, and medical facilities.

Items shipped range from neuro specific equipment such as C-Arms, microscopes, OR tables, X-ray and ultrasound machines to supplies such as hospital beds, wheelchairs, surgery tools, PPE, rehab equipment, consumables, and linens.



**KBNF was only able to send three containers in 2020 due to Covid related interruptions, but the impact of those containers was monumental. Some of the items shipped included: 1,311 boxes of medical supplies, 150 boxes of hospital linen, 126 boxes of pediatric supplies, and 131 pieces of hospital equipment.*

Education and Training:

During surgical missions, KBNF provides education and training for surgeons, doctors, nurses, technicians, and first responders.

Throughout the year, North American surgeons are in regular communication with their West African counterparts over caseloads and new patients, providing mentorship and ongoing training to North American Standards.

**The COVID-19 pandemic affected the ability to attend and arrange training in 2020.*



Building Infrastructure:

Over KBNF's 20+ year history we have worked with West African governments to further develop and enhance neurosurgical facilities and to enable the building of new hospitals and clinics.

KBNF partners with the Liberian Ministry of Health on establishing and operating their country's first Emergency Medical Services (EMS) by supplying and outfitting ambulances as well as providing medic training.



The Impact of a Donated C-Arm & Microscope:

By November 2020, a C-Arm and Neurosurgery Microscope generously donated by Royal Columbia Hospital in BC, Canada, were up and running at JFK Hospital in Monrovia. A C-Arm is an imaging scanner intensifier used to provide high-resolution X-ray images in real-time and allows a physician to monitor progress and immediately make corrections.

A Neurosurgery Microscope is a type of operating microscope especially adapted for surgeries involving the spinal cord, brain, and spine.

Neurosurgeon Dr. Harry Akoto of Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital and FOCOS Orthopedic Hospital joined Dr. Alvin Nah Doe in Monrovia to conduct four spine surgeries using the recently acquired C-Arm. A committed member of the KBNF family since commencing his career in 2007, Harry was introduced to Alvin by Marj during a KBNF sponsored neurosurgery education trip in 2018. Since then, Harry has made himself available to support KBNF missions in Liberia.

“The C-Arm has helped in doing procedures that we wouldn’t have been comfortable doing, such as spine instrumentation.” Said Dr. Akoto, “We have done quite a few complex cases such as Vertebral Column Resection. With poor intraoperative imaging availability, the C-Arm is a useful tool to have. With increasing operative tools, we can start performing trans-sphenoidal resection of pituitary brain tumors.”



“

“If you want to be happy for one hour, take a nap. If you want to be happy for one day, go fishing. If you want to be happy for a year, inherit a fortune. But if you want to be happy for a lifetime, find somebody to serve.”

Dr. Akoto

Expanding Korle-Bu's Impact with Partnerships:



“Diamond Delivery and KBNF have developed a great partnership over the past 15 plus years. The two teams have seen many challenges overcome and COVID was no exception. The KBNF team headed by Marj has been nothing but amazing to the Diamond team. KBNF managing to get container loads of medical supplies sorted and shipped around the world this past year has been an inspiration to all Diamond staff. We look forward to many more years of assisting KBNF to gather up the essential medical equipment and giving it a new life through KBNF. So many lives depend on it!”

Karl Gillies

President

Diamond Delivery

This year Korle-bu worked with the following partners.



“Rick’s Heart Foundation has been involved with Korle- Bu Neuroscience Foundation (KBNF) for over ten years. From supplying local shipping needs to sponsoring overseas shipments of supplies to Africa. Medical equipment and training are desperately needed in many places across Africa. Rick’s Heart Foundation strongly believes everyone should have access to medical help when needed. One thing KBNF does excellently is supply training to local doctors and nurses, better equipping them to help their communities.”

Rick Diamond

Founder

Rick’s Heart Foundation

2020 Highlights:

- In March 2020, a second fully-equipped, North American standard ambulance arrived in Liberia. Since its arrival, it has been involved in over 170 transports.

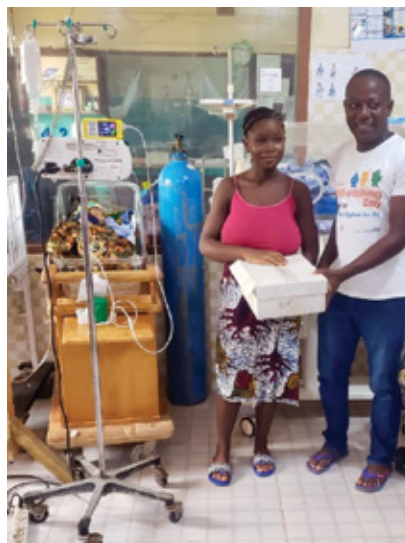


- Walk for the Bu is Korle-Bu Neuroscience Foundation's annual walk-roll-run-a-thon to raise funds for West African Brain & Spinal Health Care. On Oct 10th, 2020, our Walk for the Bu was held simultaneously in Liberia and in Canada.



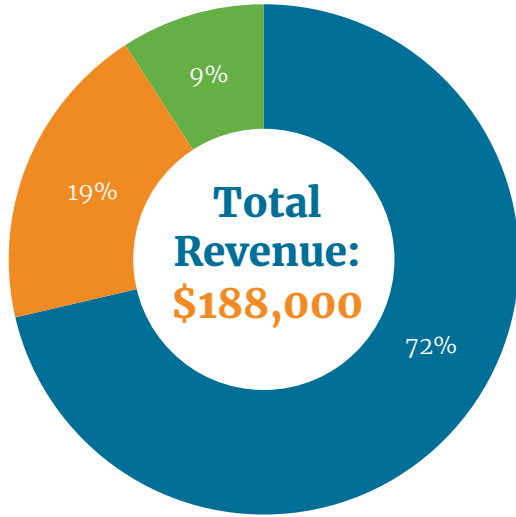
- Newborn baby boxes are now being given out to new mothers as part of KBNF's Perinatal Care Program. Each box includes: a handmade pouch, two onesies, a diaper cover and three diaper inserts, a hand knit baby hat, a small hand knit stuffy, a washcloth and soap, a small handmade quilt, a tiny comb, sanitary pads, and new underwear for the mother.

Most of the items are handmade with love by volunteers in British Columbia, Canada.



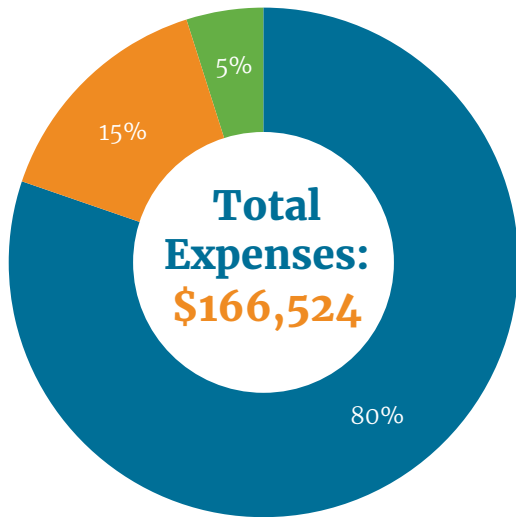
Financial Overview:

Where does your donation go?



Donations:

- Individuals: **\$134,150**
- Corporate Donors: **\$36,500**
- Foundations: **\$17,350**



Fund Stewardship:

- Programs: **\$133,503.00**
- Administration: **\$25,000**
- Fundraising and Marketing: **\$8,021**

Note: Due to the Covid-19 pandemic there were no surgical missions & only 3 container shipments. Expense graph based on 2020 unaudited financials:

Impact of KBNF Donations in Nigeria:

In November 2019, the Neurosurgery Unit of the Lagos University Teaching Hospital (LUTH) took delivery of its very first container load of donated items from the Korle-Bu Neuroscience Foundation. The arrival of the donation was accompanied by much excitement as the unit was equipping its newly created ward.

Little did we know what 2020 would bring! After unpacking and cataloging the many items, we consulted various hospital departments to direct items deemed most beneficial to them. One of the primary beneficiaries of this largesse was the nursing services department which received all sorts of hospital consumables and loads of linen.

As 2020 unfolded, the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic on existing healthcare services quickly became evident. As a result, an entire block of four wards (including the ward previously designated for Neurosurgery) was converted to the main COVID 19 section of the hospital. This was made possible because of KBNF donations, which equipped the first of the four wards in the block with beds, linen, and furniture; a significant, though unintended benefit of the KBNF donations!

Lagos, a mega-city of over 18 million people, was the epicenter of the COVID 19 pandemic in Nigeria. LUTH had the second-largest center in the state treating such patients at the height of the pandemic. The beddings provided by KBNF were (and still are) used to make these patients comfortable. Also, the provision of N95 masks was a significant blessing in the early dark days of the pandemic.

All of these were unforeseen events, but the donation by KBNF gave us the luxury of having sufficient supplies to tide us over during the trying period.



Olufemi Bankole MD
Consultant Neurosurgeon



Korle Bu's Impact:



4850

Volunteer Hours



1

Ambulance to Liberia



561

Ambulance Transports



36

Monthly Donors



3

Containers Sent



\$188,000

Raised



4258

Medical Items Sent

Thank you for supporting KBNF:



I would like to thank the entire KBNF family. Those that donated medical supplies, volunteers, corporate sponsors, donors, board members, biomedical engineers, medical professionals, friends, and partners here and around the world; thank you! We cannot continue the wonderful work we do in West Africa without each and every one of you.

Thank you to our partners in Ghana, Nigeria, and Liberia that tirelessly work to serve and help the people of West Africa.

In a year of significant challenges worldwide, KBNF persevered because of the strong foundation and deep commitment we have from you. We had time to implement more structures and processes and build on what we already had in expectation of growth and expansion. We are looking forward to the many more amazing things we will achieve together in 2021 and the future.

Thank you from the depth of my heart.

Rose Woller
Executive Director

