

NEWS FROM THE BU



Korle-Bu
Neuroscience
Foundation



Dear smartname,

"Crossroads" is defined as a point at which a crucial decision must be made that will have a far-reaching impact on our future direction. KBNF is at a crossroads.

As September activities launched a busy fall season, KBNF has also been gearing up on many strategic organizational levels. KBNF has to relocate our warehouse operations by March 31, 2024. We have been truly grateful for the generosity of John and Chawna Volken to facilitate our warehouse and shipping operations in their marketplace basement. Lifetime friendships have been established that we cherish dearly. The building has been sold and we are searching for the next warehouse chapter of our journey.

Recently a KBNF corporate sponsor reaffirmed something that we already knew: this is the worst possible time to be seeking out warehousing in Vancouver's Lower Mainland in the next few years. Occupancy rates are at an all-time high, as are the cost of industrial property. However, that has never stopped us before and it will not stop us now. We have experienced divine rescues in the past, and most importantly, we see firsthand the impact that KBNF is making in West Africa and for individuals struggling with debilitating neurological illness.

Our options include purchasing a 12,000-20,000 sq. ft. warehouse in the Fraser Valley, reaching out to investors and property owners, or leasing a facility temporarily while building

a legacy centre over the next years.

Down to the wire

In the meantime, we are pulling out all the stops to facilitate 800 donated hospital beds to be delivered to KBNF over the next two months. These are decommissioned beds due to their replacements having advanced electronic features. Temporary storage in Richmond and Burnaby have been offered for which we are so very grateful. John, Shirley and Idelette will be galvanizing teams to travel to these sites to tie down each bed frame and prepare them for shipment.

Overseas, the excitement for acquiring these beds is palpable. Korle Bu Teaching Hospital has committed to financially facilitate the shipping of an allotment of beds to them. This will be transformative for that hospital. Liberia's JFK Memorial Hospital is also excited to receive several shipments of beds. Other centres are in tremendous need, everywhere. Rose and Shirley are determining the next recipients and we couldn't be more pleased.

An action-packed fall season is in progress, and we will keep you all posted as it unfolds.





In the midst of drizzling rain, an energetic and unique KBNF family joined together for a wonderful morning of celebration. A 3km beaten path through the forest hosted adventurous Bu walkers, led by Rose and her three adorable, rambunctious kids.



Jack MacLeod and Scott McVicker (pictured below) manned the grill as another amazing top-of-the-line barbecue was enjoyed.



UBC students, excited for their first year as club members, were expressing their passions for joining our spina bifida prevention training project. They are dreaming of the day they can join a neurosurgery mission.



Our volunteers, members and donors enjoyed visiting while we were blessed with Ghana's official representative, the Consul-General Joseph Frimpong (pictured on my left below) and his wife, Mary, who joined in enthusiastically.



Emotions rose high within me as I was reminded of the beauty of what makes KBNF so very special. Our KBNF extended family uniquely arises from many walks of life and nations. What each of you have in common is this: You recognize a need, step out of your comfort zone and choose to own it. Many opportunities cross our life paths that many may acknowledge, but do not act. **Our KBNF family take ownership by reaching out, in love, to meet needs in some way, shape or form.**

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We are not
watching the news.
We are the news.

—Marj Ratel

2023 HEART POWER AWARD: CAROLYN COATES



We honored Carolyn Coates with the KBNF Heart Power Award 2023. A few years ago, Carolyn's church programs were indefinitely paused and Carolyn felt the loss of community. Along came her friend, Eunice, who had heard via the grapevine about KBNF. Carolyn accompanied her friend and wholly embraced the perinatal baby box program. This program saves lives, incentivizing birthing village moms to proactively access prenatal care, followed by safe labour and delivery care.

Carolyn knitted colorful blankets that were packed into dozens of gift boxes along with coordinated baby outfits and accompanying support items for newborns and moms. Soon, Carolyn was driving over three days per week, in spite of imminent eye surgery that

required her to only drive during daylight. Surgery successful, Carolyn filled the gap when the program needed additional leadership. She now encourages other volunteers that are faithfully sewing and supporting the program. Love is packed in every box, while Carolyn devotes her life to moms and babes she might never have the privilege to meet in this life.



2023 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR: GAIL BESWICK

We were delighted to honor Gail Beswick as KBNF's Volunteer of the Year for 2023. Since her arrival from Ontario two years ago, she has expertly taken on our ambitious inventory program, transforming our shipping operations and enhancing our impact abroad. Every item acquired by KBNF for humanitarian medical aid support is identified in lists that are attended to by our local and West African teams and recipients. Loadings have been streamlined from two days of activities to two to three hours. Gail's dedication to spending copious hours standing in front of a portable laptop in our warehouse, week in and week out, raises the bar of organizational excellence and reveals her steadfast commitment.



Where Gail does her beautiful + faithful work.



Thank you all for being a part of our precious family. As we stand at this crossroads, I am grateful to journey with each one of you.

While Aaron, Ross, Karl, Rick, Rose and our board conduct an ongoing search for a permanent home, I embrace this challenge of relocation with both excitement and trepidation. We are at a crossroads, yet we are always cognizant that this journey is divinely

orchestrated. KBNF's impact in West Africa is enormous, both on national and individual levels.

For any of our foundation family that would like to contribute toward this capital project adventure, we welcome you. We reach up and out together to locate our permanent centre.

Love, Marj

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