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**Olentangy Students Redirect Hospital Supplies,
Sending Them to Clinics Around the World**



Project MedBridge Team Lead Ben Kurian and operations lead Naman Soni at the completion of the organization's first large-scale medical supply pickup.

August 6, 2026, COLUMBUS, Ohio — Five Olentangy-area students have redirected nearly 50 pallets, an estimated \$250,000 worth of medical supplies, from OhioHealth into an international medical aid network, giving the health system's remaining COVID-era overstock a second life in healthcare facilities around the world.

Through Project MedBridge, students Ben Kurian, Naman Soni, Vahin Dubey, Arjun Pandya and Aayush Pande secured the donation of 9,393 boxes of 3M N95 respirators and 20,736 reusable hot/cold therapy packs from OhioHealth. The supplies were collected from OhioHealth's Distribution Center and a Cardinal Health facility holding inventory on the health system's behalf.

The inventory dates back to emergency stock accumulated during the COVID-19 pandemic, when OhioHealth, like health systems nationwide, significantly increased its supply reserves. OhioHealth supply-chain staff told Project MedBridge that the donation represented the very last of the system's major remaining COVID-era surplus.

Rather than allowing that inventory to remain in storage or reach the end of its useful life, Project MedBridge secured a pathway for the entire donation to be put back into circulation.

The supplies are now en route to Brother's Brother Foundation, a Pittsburgh-based humanitarian organization that distributes donated medical supplies and equipment to hospitals and clinics worldwide. In 2025, the foundation's healthcare program sent 100 shipments to partners in 15 countries, with recent medical aid reaching communities in Central America, the Caribbean, Ukraine and Nigeria.

"The supplies already existed, and the need already existed," said Ben Kurian, an incoming junior at Olentangy Liberty High School and Team Lead of Project MedBridge. "What was missing was a way to connect the two."

For the students, the result far exceeded the scope they initially imagined. The team initially set a goal of redirecting roughly 1,000 to 2,000 pounds of medical supplies by the end of 2027. Instead, within months, their first donation grew to 30,000.

The project had already earned national recognition before the first trucks left Columbus.

Project MedBridge was selected as one of 71 teams nationwide in the 2026 Carnegie Young Leaders for Civic Preparedness class, a program of the Institute for Citizens & Scholars backed by Carnegie Corporation of New York. The program provides teams \$7,500 in funding, along with a year of coaching and access to a national network of young civic leaders. Project MedBridge was one of only two Ohio teams selected for the 2026 class.

On July 27, Kurian was flown out to New Brunswick, New Jersey, for an all-expenses-paid trip to the program's national kickoff, joining students from across the country developing projects addressing challenges ranging from environmental sustainability to civic engagement.



Ben Kurian (left-most) at the CYL kickoff convening in New Brunswick.

“Being in a room with young people from across the country who were already building serious projects in their communities made it very clear that age doesn’t have to determine the scale of a problem you can take on,” Kurian said. “Not even a week later, we were back in Ohio moving a donation larger than anything we could’ve dreamed of.”

Project MedBridge’s connection with OhioHealth began through Jean M. Halpin, president of Grant Medical Center, who responded to the students’ initial outreach and connected them with OhioHealth’s central supply operation.

“Glad you are doing this work. It saves the planet and helps others in our world,” Halpin told the Project MedBridge team.

With its first major donation completed, Project MedBridge has set its next target: 100,000 pounds of medical supplies redirected by the end of 2027. The team plans to grow its network of hospital and healthcare partners across the state to make large-scale redistribution a continuous effort rather than a one-time shipment.

“This is the first,” said Naman Soni, operations lead for Project MedBridge. “The next step is making sure our work doesn’t stop with just one hospital.”

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