

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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GREATER NEW ORLEANS
“HEALTH RECOVERY WEEK”
EVENT TO PROVIDE FREE MEDICAL
SERVICES TO THOUSANDS;
JANUARY 28-FEBRUARY 3

**Over 200 Doctors, Nurses And Medical Volunteers Will
Converge In East New Orleans To Provide Free Services,
Thousands Expected To Attend**

EAST NEW ORLEANS – Operation Blessing International (OBI) and Remote Area Medical (RAM), in partnership with the City of New Orleans Health Department and International Medical Alliance (IMA), will host a free, week-long medical fair from January 28 through February 3.

The event will take place at Operation Blessing’s free medical clinic (5501 Read Blvd) which is being expanded with an additional 20,000 square feet of tents that will serve as exam and treatment rooms.

Over 200 physicians, nurses and medical volunteers will be in attendance to provide free services that include dental care (free fillings, cleaning and extractions), eye care (exams, free eyeglasses), and general medical exams and treatment (free prescriptions, OBGYN services, pediatrics, cardiology).

Anyone from the greater New Orleans area is welcome to attend the fair, especially those who no longer have health insurance, are unemployed, or otherwise cannot pay for regular health services.

Registration begins at 6am each and patients will be seen on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Bill Horan, president of Operation Blessing International, says, "There are thousands of people in and around New Orleans that we call the 'newly-made poor.' People who before Katrina were not poor, but are now. Katrina washed away their homes, jobs and health insurance, but not their high blood pressure, diabetes and other illnesses. These folks simply cannot afford to see doctors and pay for prescription medicines, and as a result, are dying every day. The 'newly-made poor,' plus the chronically-underserved poor, add up to an overwhelming health crisis unlike anything we've ever seen in America. We hope that the Greater New Orleans Medical Recovery Week will not only alleviate suffering for thousands, but also put a media spotlight on a very dark situation."

Operation Blessing International (OBI) is ranked one of the top 50 charities in the USA by The NonProfit Times. A 240 million dollar a year humanitarian organization, OBI strategically provides disaster relief, medical aid, hunger relief, clean water and community development around the world. Specializing in disaster relief, OBI made headlines in 2004 as a first responder in the four major U.S. hurricanes; tsunami disaster in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India and Thailand; and again when they were on the ground staging supplies along the Gulf Coast days before Katrina. Today in New Orleans, OBI has provided nearly \$60 million in support and continues to mobilize an army of volunteers and provide relief through a number of recovery programs.

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