

DISASTER RELIEF CHARITY CALLS FOR VOLUNTEERS IN NORTH DAKOTA

FARGO, ND – Disaster relief specialists Operation Blessing International (OBI) are coordinating the volunteer efforts for flood relief in the city of Linton, ND as well all of Emmons county. Volunteers, both from the local area and from around the USA are needed to remove flood debris and clean houses.

Anyone living in the greater Fargo area that would like to volunteer should report to the Emmons County Court House (100 4th St. NW, Linton) on Friday and/or Saturday mornings by 8:00am. Then, starting Monday, all volunteers should report to OBI's volunteer base camp, which will be located at St. Anthony's Catholic Church (613 N. Broadway St., Linton).

OBI is also accepting teams of volunteers from anywhere in the USA and will provide all meals, lodging and supervision. Volunteers will have to arrange their own travel. All volunteers must be 18 years of age and must sign up in teams of at least two people. OBI will provide separate sleeping quarters for men and women. Cots are available, but volunteers are responsible for bringing blankets, sleeping bags, pillows, and towels for showers.

Volunteers are needed next week to help residents remove debris and sheet-rock from their flooded homes. OBI will provide all personal protective equipment and tools. Volunteers should wear work clothes with work boots/hard-soled shoes.

Volunteers are asked to report to the above locations by 8:00 AM and will be deployed with a construction foreman by 8:30AM each day. Volunteers will work from 8:30 AM-4:30 PM each day. Lunch and water will be provided.

Local Volunteer Questions: Please call 701.321.0180

Out-of-Town Volunteers: Please call 757.226.3407

Operation Blessing International's disaster relief team arrived in North Dakota last week and is coordinating with volunteer relief agencies and local officials to bring relief to rural and poor areas that are not receiving much aid. OBI has deployed a mobile kitchen unit, which can feed up to 1,500 hot meals a day, to help support emergency management officials and first responders. OBI has adopted the small town of Linton, ND, and is helping residents, many of whom are elderly and disabled, to salvage their belongings. OBI is also taking work orders from families who need recovery assistance, assembling teams of volunteers and dispatching construction/clean-up trailers packed with personal protective equipment and tools for volunteer clean-up crews arriving this week.

To donate, volunteer, or read updates on OBI's efforts, please log on to www.ob.org and/or www.myowneyes.org.

ABOUT OPERATION BLESSING INTERNATIONAL:

Operation Blessing International (OBI) is one of the largest charities in America, providing strategic disaster relief, medical aid, hunger relief, clean water and community development in 22 countries around the world on a daily basis. In 2008, OBI responded to 33 disasters in 16 foreign countries as well as 7 major domestic disasters. Most recently, OBI mobilized teams and

funded major relief and recovery efforts in Myanmar, the Sichuan Province of China, Rift Valley in Kenya, Bangladesh, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, the Darfur region of Sudan, Pakistan, Somalia, India, Indonesia, Mozambique and the Philippines. OBI has also made headlines as a first responder to U.S. hurricanes, floods and tornadoes as well as the tsunami disaster in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India and Thailand. In addition to directing major disaster relief efforts, OBI has often filled the role of logistical arm to organizations including the International Red Cross, the Salvation Army, UNICEF and the United Nations World Food Program. Founded in 1978, Operation Blessing International has touched the lives of more than 209.3 million people in more than 105 countries and 50 states, providing goods and services valued at over \$1.7 billion to date.

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To interview Jody Herrington, director of U.S. disaster relief for OBI, please contact:
Chris Roslan
DRC Inc. Public Relations
(212) 966-4600
chris@drcpublicrelations.com