

NEW EYEGLASSES FOR 1,400 JAPAN QUAKE/Tsunami SURVIVORS: OPERATION BLESSING INTERNATIONAL HOSTING THREE FREE EYE CLINICS THIS WEEKEND

SHIOGAMA, JAPAN (March 30, 2011) – The Virginia Beach-based humanitarian organization, Operation Blessing International will be providing 1,400 survivors of the earthquake and tsunami in Japan with free prescription eyeglasses and reading glasses this weekend when the charity hosts three free eye clinics.

The clinics will take place on Friday (10am-4pm), Saturday (9am-4pm) and Sunday (9-4pm) in Shioyama. On hand at each clinic will be an optometrist, a lens technician, and a leadership team from Operation Blessing International including president Bill Horan, director of international disaster relief David Darg, and Japan disaster relief manager Don Thomson. Patients will have the option to choose from 5 different frames. OBI will initially be offering free prescription glasses to 800 people and free reading glasses to 600 people.

Operation Blessing International was a first responder to the disaster, with David Darg, the charity's director of international disaster relief, arriving roughly 72 hours after the March 11th earthquake and tsunami. To date, OBI has delivered emergency relief supplies including thousands of pounds of rice, bread, fruit, warm clothing, cooking stoves, candles and canned food, bottled water, hygiene supplies, and kerosene that have helped thousands of survivors in cities including Rikuzen Takata, Shioyama, and Ishinomaki.

"In addition to our distributions of vital supplies such as food and fuel, we found out that there was a need for everyday items such as eyeglasses," said Darg. Many tsunami victims lost all their possessions including prescription glasses, some as they fled from the wave, others when their homes were destroyed. Being able to see clearly is a good first step in helping the survivors to deal with their loss and begin to look forward to recovery."

Darg added, "Thanks to the generosity of our donors, Operation Blessing International has been able to purchase the 1,400 pairs of glasses needed for this effort."

To donate to this effort or learn more about Operation Blessing International's relief efforts in Japan or humanitarian work in 23 other countries, please log on to www.ob.org or www.myowneye.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 23 countries around the world on a daily basis. OBI was awarded Charity Navigator's coveted 4 star rating for sound fiscal management for the fifth year in a row (2009), a feat that only 4% of rated charities have ever achieved. In November 2010, Forbes named OBI as the 6th most efficient charity in America. Additionally, the Chronicle of Philanthropy currently ranks OBI as the 23rd largest charity and the 6th largest international charity. Founded in 1978, Operation Blessing International has touched the lives of more than 235 million people in more than 105 countries and 50 states, providing goods and services valued at over \$2.7 billion to date.

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