

OPERATION BLESSING INTERNATIONAL PREPARED FOR
MAJOR HURRICANE RESPONSE IN HAMPTON ROADS AREA

VIRGINIA BEACH, VA (August 26, 2011) – Operation Blessing International (OBI) is prepared for a major relief effort should Hurricane Irene strike the Hampton Roads area as predicted.

The humanitarian organization's domestic disaster relief team, which has its headquarters in Virginia Beach, has pre-staged staff and equipment in order to provide disaster relief resources immediately after the storm passes and a level of support during the storm.

The team, led by Jody Herrington-Gettys, director of U.S. disaster relief for OBI, has partnered with local officials including the Virginia Beach Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and the Virginia Beach Emergency Manager to coordinate response.

To prepare for a rapid response, OBI has pre-staged an array of heavy equipment from Ocala, Florida at its headquarters near the Christian Broadcasting Network and Regent University campuses. Current in place or en route are:

- Mobile Command Center
- Mobile kitchen equipped to feed 2500+ meals per day
- 70 KW Generator with the wiring needed to power entire buildings.
- Two Clean-up/Construction Trailers packed full supplies, tools, and equipment to coordinate/manage volunteer teams to help residents recover their belongings and clean-up their property
- 40K Square Ft. of roofing material including tarps and wood
- Shower Trailer - Equipped with 8 showers (hot and cold water) which be available for residents, volunteers and/or staff
- Skid Steer - Used to clear debris from roadways and private property
- Box truck full of relief supplies such as MREs, water, hygiene kits, and more
- CAT 924 Loader: Used for clearing roadways for emergency personnel and home owners
- 20 Ton Peterbuilt Crane

Additionally, OBI's Chesapeake warehouse is stocked with some 200 cots, a 40' X 60' large tent, several 10 X 20 tents, food and many other supplies that will augment volunteer operations, including setting up a POD (Point of Distribution) and feeding operations.

Jody Herrington-Gettys said, "Operation Blessing is a first responder to disasters all over the world, providing life sustaining resources within hours. Now we are faced with a potentially historic hurricane

right here at home. Our equipment and seasoned staff are safely positioned in Virginia Beach and ready to provide the same life sustaining resources to the Hampton Roads community immediately after the storm passes.”

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

Should there be extensive damage in the Hampton Roads community, OBI will be accepting volunteers in teams of three or more people (no individuals) to help remove debris, repair homes and serve hot meals. Volunteers must provide their own transportation to and from job sites and OBI will provide lodging, food, tools, work order coordination and management. Out-of-Town Volunteers wishing to help must call OBI's office of National Volunteer Management at 757.226.3407 or via e-mail at volunteer@ob.org. Out-of-Town Volunteers must register at least 48 hours in advance. For more information on volunteer opportunities please stay tuned to www.ob.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 7th year in a row (2011), a feat that only 2% 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.

So far in 2011, OBI's domestic disaster relief team has responded to tornadoes in Joplin, MO, Deltaville, VA and Birmingham, AL. During those efforts, the charity has coordinated more than 36,000 volunteer hours, delivered more than 91,000lbs of food, provided nearly 29,000 meals and led efforts with partner organizations including The Home Depot on a number of rebuilding projects.

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