## OPERATION BLESSING INTERNATIONAL DEPLOYING U.S. DISASTER RELIEF TEAM TO TEXAS TORNADO AREA

VIRGINIA BEACH, VA (April 4, 2012) – Humanitarian organization Operation Blessing International (OBI) has deployed its domestic disaster relief team to the Dallas, TX area to help with tornado relief efforts.

An advance team led by U.S. disaster relief director Jody Herrington arrived in Dallas last night and will begin assessing damages this morning and meeting with local officials to determine the greatest needs.

Also today, OBI is deploying equipment and supplies from the organization's warehouses in Chesapeake, VA, Ocala, FL, and Grand Prairie, TX including a mobile command center, multiple construction trailers, a mobile kitchen capable of feeding thousands each day, a skid steer for debris removal, and a truck filled with tarps and roofing supplies.

The team just recently returned from a 3-week long deployment in Harrisburg, IL to help with tornado relief. There, OBI coordinated more than 3,100 volunteers removing debris, cleaning homes and preparing thousands of meals for local residents. OBI also hosted members of the St. Louis Rams football team for cleanup efforts there, partnered with Future Farmers of America for farm cleanup, in addition to surprising a young mother, daughter and newborn baby with a renovated home, which made national headlines.

Stay tuned to www.ob.org for updates and more information.

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.

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Jody Herrington, director of US disaster relief for the organization, will be available live from the disaster area via Skype later today...

Photos and b-roll will also be available...

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