

## **OPERATION BLESSING PHILIPPINES READY TO DEPLOY DISASTER RELIEF EFFORTS FOLLOWING TYPHOON HAIYAN**

VIRGINIA BEACH, VA (November 8, 2013) – The Virginia Beach-based humanitarian organization, Operation Blessing International (OBI) is set to deploy first responder teams to help with disaster relief operations following Typhoon Haiyan.

Typhoon Haiyan slammed into the Philippines this morning with sustained winds in excess of 195mph and gusts as high as 235mph, making it perhaps the strongest cyclone to hit land in recorded history. The storm is expected to last until early Saturday morning before heading out to sea.

OBI's Philippines' arm, Operation Blessing Foundation Philippines, had pre-staged teams and emergency supplies and equipment in advance of the storm. As soon as Haiyan fully passes, disaster relief team leaders will begin to assess the damage and respond as needed. Efforts are expected to include providing clean water and food, emergency shelter materials and medical assistance.

Bill Horan, president of Operation Blessing International, said, "Due to the power of this super storm, we are expecting massive damage to buildings, homes and roads. The most critical need in the immediate aftermath will be providing clean water, and Operation Blessing is ready to deploy mobile filtration and disinfection units that will enable us to provide clean water for tens of thousands of people each day. In the meantime, we will also position medical teams in the hardest hit areas and later coordinate volunteer efforts to begin the cleanup."

Operation Blessing Foundation Philippines has provided humanitarian efforts in the Philippines for over 14 years. Under the direction of Dr. Kim April C. Pascual, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, the charity works to fight hunger, disease, unemployment, illiteracy, abuse, and to respond to major disasters. To date, more than a million Filipinos have been helped through various humanitarian outreaches spearheaded by OB or in collaboration with OB partner agencies such as non-profit organizations, local government units, the Department of Health, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), and the Armed Forces of the Philippines. In recognition of OB's efforts, it was awarded as NGO of the Year for Peace Efforts by the Philippines government in 2002 and 2003, and as NGO of the Year in 2006 and 2007.

For more information or to donate to the relief efforts, please visit [www.ob.org](http://www.ob.org).

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