

# OPERATION | BLESSING INTERNATIONAL



For Immediate Release

## **Operation Blessing International & City of Norfolk To Activate “Snow Buddy” Program To Help Residents Needing Snow Removal**

### **Phone Hotline Set Up For Residents Needing Help: 757.274.8650**

NORFOLK, VA (February 16, 2015) – The Virginia Beach-based humanitarian organization Operation Blessing International has partnered with the City of Norfolk for a second year to activate their “Snow Buddy” volunteer program to help residents who need snow removal but do not have the resources or ability to do so.

This is in response to a major snowstorm that is forecasted to hit on Monday night, which could bring 3-5 inches of snow to the region.

Operation Blessing will coordinate the volunteer effort and take work order requests from residents. The charity is deploying its disaster relief staff from its Virginia Beach headquarters and will also be utilizing some of its heavy equipment if needed.

Volunteers are needed Tuesday and possibly Wednesday to help remove snow from homes. Operation Blessing has established telephone hotlines for residents who need help, as well as for people who wish to volunteer to help. The information is as follows:

#### **RESIDENTS WHO NEED HELP**

If you need assistance with shoveling snow from your home, driveway, and/or residential area and do not have the resources to accomplish this yourself, we can help based on available volunteer labor.

**Please either call: 757.274.8650 or, if possible, come in person to fill out a work request for FREE volunteer help at the following location:**

**Operation Blessing Mobile Command Center, located at  
Lowes parking lot at 1081 N Military Hwy, Norfolk**

**Phones will be manned tonight from 7PM-9PM and tomorrow from 7AM-7PM**

\*All homeowners must sign a work order form and a release form allowing volunteer teams access to be on your property. If you cannot come to the Operation Blessing Command Center to fill out the form, you must **MAKE SURE** you are home when the volunteers arrive to sign the work order form giving the teams permission to be on your property. We will not be able to do any work without a form **SIGNED BY THE HOMEOWNER**.

\*Priority will be given based on elderly, sick, disabled, single-moms, etc., and will be based on availability of volunteers.

## **WANT TO HELP? VOLUNTEERS**

**Meet at the Operation Blessing Mobile Command Center @ 8:00 AM on  
Tuesday and possibly Wednesday**

**Lowes parking lot at 1081 N Military Hwy, Norfolk**

**Local volunteer hotline: 757.374.0944**

**Phones will be manned tonight from 7PM-9PM and tomorrow from 7AM-7PM**

\*Volunteers please bring snow shovels IF you have them, otherwise they will be provided.

In addition to preparing for snow removal, Operation Blessing is also assisting the City of Norfolk with a warming center that is set up at Maury High School (322 Shirley Ave). The team is serving hot food and snacks to roughly 50-60 residents who have taken refuge from the cold.

For more information or to donate to the effort, please log on to [www.ob.org](http://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. In 2014, OBI was awarded Charity Navigator's coveted 4-star rating for sound fiscal management marking 8 years the charity has received this prestigious ranking. Forbes also ranks OBI as one of its "100 Largest Charities" with an efficiency rating of 99%. Founded in 1978, Operation Blessing International has touched the lives of more than 255 million people in more than 105 countries and 50 states, providing goods and services valued at over \$3.3 billion to date.

### **ABOUT TEAM NORFOLK:**

Established in 2012, Team Norfolk is a City of Norfolk lead collaboration between public, private, non-profit, higher education and military organizations. Team Norfolk meets monthly to synchronize disaster plans to address potential issues before, during and after an incident.

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### **CONTACT:**

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