

## OPERATION BLESSING INTL. RESTORES CLEAN WATER TO HAITI'S LARGEST HOSPITAL

OBI Delivers And Sets Up Water Purification Unit In Port-Au-Prince's General (National) Hospital That Will Provide Up To 10,000 Gallons Of Clean Water Daily

PORT-AU-PRINCE (January 20, 2010) – Operation Blessing International (OBI) has delivered and set up a water purification plant in Haiti's largest hospital today, General Hospital (also called National Hospital), restoring clean water to the facility.

The 700-bed hospital has a staff of 2,000, yet does not have running potable water. Prior to the earthquake the hospital had been purchasing truckloads of potable water and pumping that water into holding tanks. Since the quake, the trucks have not been operating and the hospital has been without clean water.

Operation Blessing International has been working with the hospital since before the earthquake. At the request of the office of the United Nations Special Envoy For Haiti, OBI has been undertaking an assessment of the water systems in all ten of the General Hospitals in the country, none of which have running potable water systems. OBI's Haiti national director, Eric Lotz, was working at the General Hospital in Port-Au-Prince when the quake hit.

After the devastation, when the water trucks stopped operating, the hospital's administration asked OBI to connect a reverse osmosis system the hospital had purchased some time ago but was not able to get operating. The hospital has three water wells, however each is contaminated. In order to supply safe water from a contaminated well, OBI, yesterday, was able to source a WMI purification plant from partner charity Samaritan's Purse. OBI delivered the unit and its team has been working round the clock since yesterday to set it up. The clean water began flowing at roughly 2pm Eastern today.

Called the Living Water™ Treatment System by Water Missions International (WMI), the unit uses alum as a coagulant, garnet and anthracite for filtration with a back wash system so that it can be used indefinitely with no filter replacement costs, and a chlorinator for biological purification. The unit will produce up to 10,000 gallons of filtered water per day.

OBI currently has 10 additional WMI units being shipped to Haiti on the U.S. Navy ship, Sacagawea, to arrive over the weekend.

OBI has been working to help the people of Haiti since May, 2009 and had staff on the ground when the earthquake hit. The charity mobilized its international disaster relief team under the direction of David Darg, who arrived on Friday (Jan. 15<sup>th</sup>). The charity has been involved in a number of efforts including sourcing trucks to break the logistical logjam at the airport, delivering search and rescue teams to the quake zone, as well as setting up a makeshift medical clinic with a team of 12 doctors from IsraAID ([www.israaid.org.il](http://www.israaid.org.il)) in the local soccer stadium. OBI also has dispatched a team of Spanish-speaking doctors from El Salvador who are currently helping with earthquake victims on the border of the Dominican Republic and Haiti.

Operation Blessing International will send 100% of all money donated directly to the Haiti relief effort. To donate money or for more information on Operation Blessing International's efforts please log on to [www.ob.org](http://www.ob.org) or [www.myowneyes.org](http://www.myowneyes.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 22 countries around the world on a daily basis. In 2009, OBI was awarded Charity Navigator's coveted 4 star rating for sound fiscal management for the fifth year in a row, a feat that only 4% of rated charities have ever achieved. Forbes, which currently ranks OBI as one of "America's 200 Largest Charities" as well as one of "America's Most Efficient Charities," awarded OBI a perfect 100% rating in fundraising efficiency and 99% efficiency in charitable commitment. Additionally, the Chronicle of Philanthropy currently ranks OBI as the 39<sup>th</sup> largest charity and the 7<sup>th</sup> largest international charity.

Founded in 1978, Operation Blessing International has touched the lives of more than 215 million people in more than 105 countries and 50 states, providing goods and services valued at over \$2.1 billion to date.

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#### FOR INTERVIEWS:

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