

OPERATION BLESSING PHILIPPINES UPDATE ON TYPHOON HAIYAN RELIEF EFFORTS

--Charity Sending State-Of-The-Art Chlorine Generators To Philippines From Chesapeake Warehouse Today--

VIRGINIA BEACH, VA (November 11, 2013) – Operation Blessing Foundation Philippines, the local outreach of Virginia Beach-based humanitarian organization, Operation Blessing International (OBI), has deployed disaster relief teams in multiple locations following massive devastation from Typhoon Haiyan.

Some 40 staff members from Operation Blessing Philippines are currently in Tacloban City and across the province of Leyte, the provinces of Ilo-ilo, Aklan and Eastern Samar. Due to the severe damage to roads, teams will be involved in clearing operations so that relief goods and personnel can be brought in the hardest hit areas. OB also now has medical personnel on the ground and will begin medical missions shortly.

Also today, Operation Blessing International will be shipping several state-of-the-art water purification devices to the Philippines from its warehouse in Chesapeake, VA. The first device is a SAN6 chlorine generator that can produce enough food-grade chlorine (sodium hypochlorite) to disinfect over 300,000 gallons of water each day. OBI will also be sending five portable chlorine generators, each the size of a briefcase. These portable units can run off of a car battery and each unit can provide enough food-grade chlorine to disinfect 60,000 gallons of water a day. The devices are scheduled to arrive on Wednesday and once set up, the chlorine will be distributed in the hardest hit areas in order to disinfect water, treat water wells and also be used for surface disinfection.

In addition, David Darg, Operation Blessing's vice president of international operations, is en route to the disaster area. David will be training the local teams in the use of the chlorine generators and assisting with the Operation Blessing Philippines team's efforts.

Typhoon Haiyan slammed into the Philippines this on November 8 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. According to reports, at least 10,000 are feared dead from the storm.

Operation Blessing International began working in the Philippines in the early 1980s by pioneering fresh water programs to the residents of the trash dump known as "Smokey Mountain." In 1996, Operation Blessing Foundation Philippines was created and has worked to fight hunger, disease, unemployment, illiteracy, abuse, and to respond to major disasters ever since. Under the direction of Dr. Kim April C. Pascual, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, 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.

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