

Operation Blessing Activating “Snow Buddies” Volunteer Snow Removal Program In Conjunction With The City Of Norfolk Emergency Management And The City Of Virginia Beach Emergency Management

Volunteers Needed Starting Sunday Morning; Hotline Set Up For Residents Needing Help

VIRGINIA BEACH, VA (January 6, 2017) – Operation Blessing, the international humanitarian organization with its headquarters in Virginia Beach, is activating its “Snow Buddies” volunteer snow removal program and is calling for local volunteers to help residents in need throughout Norfolk, Virginia Beach and Chesapeake starting Sunday morning.

The region is currently under a Winter Storm Warning from the National Weather Service, with up to a foot of snow possible starting late Friday.

Working in conjunction with the City of Norfolk Emergency Management and the City of Virginia Beach Emergency Management, Operation Blessing will be coordinating volunteers and accepting requests from residents who need help removing snow from their property (see details below).

The Operation Blessing team is currently pre-staging heavy equipment at the CBN headquarters including a CAT 924 front-end loader, snow plow, fleet of heavy duty trucks & SUVs, a mobile kitchen that will serve hot meals to volunteers and first responders as needed, a construction trailer and box truck full of volunteer tools and supplies, and a mobile command center.

Also today, Operation Blessing is delivering blankets and snacks for the city’s winter emergency shelter program for the homeless.

In 2015, Operation Blessing activated the Snow Buddy program with the City of Norfolk Emergency Management twice in February and processed 335 requests.

“Snow Buddies” Volunteer Snow Removal Operations Need Help / Want to Help Information

NEED HELP: (Phone Lines Open Saturday Morning)

Work Order Phone Line (Residents Needing Help): 757.274.8650 (This will be operational Saturday Morning at 9:00 AM and manned 9AM – 7 PM Daily)

Please Note: Priority will be given based on elderly, sick, disabled, single-moms, patients needing to make it to medical appointments/treatment, etc. and will be based on volunteer availability.

WANT TO HELP: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP SHOVEL SNOW FOR THE VULNERABLE POPULATIONS (Phone Lines Open Today)

Volunteer Phone Line: 757.374.0944 (Operational Now; Manned 9 AM – 5 PM Thursday & Friday then 9 AM – 7 PM Saturday – Monday)

Volunteers Needed: Sunday & Monday (January 8th & 9th)

Orientation Times: 8:30 AM & 1:00 PM each day

Operation Blessing will provide snow shovels, tools and work order coordination. We ask that volunteers provide their own transportation to and from the job sites each day. For all-day and morning volunteers, OB will provide lunch free of charge on site. Please wear snow boots/hard soled shoes and weather appropriate clothing. Operation Blessing will provide volunteers with an Operation Blessing T-shirt.

Where: Meet at the Operation Blessing Mobile Command Center on the CBN Campus at 977 Centerville Turnpike Virginia Beach, VA. Proceed to the parking lot of The Corporate Support Building (the building facing Centerville Turnpike with the satellite dishes on the side.)

ABOUT OPERATION BLESSING INTERNATIONAL:

Operation Blessing International (OBI) is one of the largest charities in America, providing humanitarian services such as strategic disaster relief, medical aid, hunger relief, clean water and community development in 37 countries in the last year. Forbes currently 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 292 million people in more than 105 countries and 50 states, providing goods and services valued at over \$4.2 billion.

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