

PROJECT HOPE, 'AMERICAN IDOL' FINALIST TEAM UP

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The Winchester Star

WINCHESTER — Project HOPE and a 2012 “American Idol” finalist are teaming up to provide support for typhoon disaster relief efforts in the Philippines.

At a Friday press conference, Jeremy Rosado, 21 — brought back as the “wild card” by judge Jennifer Lopez in the 2012 competition — announced that a portion of the proceeds from his new song “Hope for Tomorrow” will go to Project HOPE (Health Opportunities for People Everywhere).

The press conference was held in the Millwood-based global health and humanitarian assistance organization’s distribution center at 402 Bufflick Road, just east of Winchester.

“From the day it happened and I heard the news, my heart shattered into pieces,” said Rosado, who finished in the Top 13 in the “Idol” competition.

Rosado chose to assist Project HOPE because Filipinos are among his most loyal fans and propelled him forward in the competition. He hopes his new song will inspire them.

He also thanked Project HOPE President and Chief Executive Officer John P. Howe III and the non-governmental organization, which, he said, conveys the “biggest sense of love and compassion.”

“It’s amazing to me how much you people give back,” he said, adding that it was “beautiful” to



2012 “American Idol” finalist Jeremy Rosado (from left) helps Project HOPE shipping coordinators Tony Hileman and Paul Smith load boxes with medical supplies at the Project HOPE distribution center in Winchester on Friday. (Photo by Ginger Perry/The Winchester Star)

see the many boxes ready to be shipped and the people putting them together.

"You guys are changing lives," he said. "Project HOPE is changing lives."

J. Knox Singleton, CEO of Inova Health System, also presented \$120,000 to the cause. The money was raised during an employee campaign.

"I couldn't envision a better partnership than Project HOPE if you're trying to make a difference in this world," he said.

Since Typhoon Haiyan made landfall on Nov. 8, Project HOPE has prepared \$7.3 million worth of medicines and medical supplies and has deployed 61 health professional volunteers to the country.

As of Jan. 7, the organization has treated 3,352 people in the Philippines.

"Hope for Tomorrow" will be available to download on iTunes on Tuesday. Portions of sales will go to providing medicine and supplies to the Philippines.

The music video, which will feature scenes of Rosado's time at the Project HOPE distribution center, will be available next week.

After the press conference, Rosado spoke briefly about his stint on "American Idol," which he called a life-changing experience and the "best time" of his life.

"To me, I'm no big deal," he said. "To be able to stand with Project HOPE and release a song people want to hear blows my mind."

During his stay in the area, Rosado ate at the Locke Store in Millwood, which he said was "great." He flew back to his home state of Florida on Friday.

Rosado has appeared on "Live! with Kelly," "Today" and "Good Morning America." His first single "Don't Be Afraid" was released last April.

Rosado's first full album with AIC Records will be released in the spring. He said it will be faith-based and uplifting.



"American Idol" finalist Jeremy Rosado (left) helps Paul Smith, Project HOPE shipping coordinator, to pack boxes with medicines and medical supplies at the Project HOPE distribution center in Winchester on Friday. Rosado will release a new single, "Hope for Tomorrow," on Tuesday, with proceeds from the sales going to Project HOPE's typhoon disaster relief efforts in the Philippines. (Photo by Ginger Perry/The Winchester Star)

Anyone interested in the new single can visit jeremyrosado.com.

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