

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Local Ophthalmologist Charitably Restores Vision in Foreign Country**

V1)

Dr. Foote and his surgical team just returned from their eighth medical mission to Nevis, the small Caribbean island which was the birthplace of Alexander Hamilton in 1757. The team performed 40 surgeries and saw over 200 patients. Over the years, Dr. Foote and his team have performed well over 300 surgeries and have seen thousands of patients with glaucoma, diabetes and cataracts.

V2)

Dr. Foote is accompanied by his associate Dr. David Weis (optometrist), Dr. Stephen Thompson (anesthesiologist), Michael Lupo (surgical assistant) and Peter Kucza (surgical assistant). The team not only helps the patients who need cataract removal, but also those with sight threatening conditions such as glaucoma and diabetes.

The people of Nevis and the Caribbean are severely affected by cataracts, glaucoma and diabetes. The Nevitians do not have anyone on the island to care for their eyes. The Barbados Eye Study is one of the largest epidemiological studies which studied people in the Caribbean. From this important research, we know that glaucoma affects approximately 7% of the adult population and 1 of every 6 adults who are 70 years or older have glaucoma.

V3)

The greatest reward was taking care of an 82 year-old man who was blinded from a cataract in one eye and from glaucoma in the other. The man was confident in Dr. Foote's skills and reputation. Before surgery, he could barely see the big "E" on the eye chart, and now he would be considered legal to drive without glasses! Another gentleman suffered a work-related injury to his eye that led to a corneal ulcer. He had not been able to receive any medications until the surgical team arrived 4 days later. Fortunately, his infection was eradicated and he did not lose any vision.

V4)

"It's truly a privilege to help these people achieve better vision," said Dr. Foote. "We would not be able to help so many people if we didn't receive such incredible support from everyone on the island."

V5)

The shoreline of Nevis was severely damaged as hurricane Omar passed through in mid-October. Several popular and essential beachfront restaurants and resorts were destroyed. Despite the hurricane damage, the tightly-knit community began rebuilding immediately and many pitched in to help one another. Thankfully, Alexandra Hospital was unaffected and the eye clinic operated without any hindrance.

V6)

Dr. Foote closed by saying, "As always, we are looking forward to another mission to help in any way we can."