



Verdugo Hills
HOSPITAL

News
For Immediate Release

Contact:

Celine Petrossian
818.952.2213

**Verdugo Hills Hospital Supports The Beeve Foundation
in an Effort to Save the Vision of a Young Fijian Woman**

(GLENDALE, CA – July 5, 2007) – Eighteen-year-old Vaseva Luita from Fiji received a life-changing gift on June 22 when she successfully had a hemangioma removed from her right cheek at Verdugo Hills Hospital. A hemangioma is an abnormal build up of blood vessels in the skin, causing an outward eruption, and in Luita’s case – threatening her vision.

The surgery, which was the first of three, was performed by eye physician and surgeon William Fein, M.D. Assistance during the surgery was provided by eye physician and surgeon Jerold E. Beeve, M.D., F.A.C.S.

Each year, Verdugo Hills Hospital has provided its services to The Beeve Foundation for World Eye and Health, Inc. “I’d like to thank Verdugo Hills Hospital for providing the care they’ve done for us, it was a super gift we received,” said Dr. Beeve. “The hospital always stands right behind us.”

Hospital President and CEO Leonard LaBella said this was a very charitable and worthwhile cause. “We are very pleased to support one of our medical staff members by offering a surgical site for this procedure that will change a young woman’s life,” LaBella said.

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With the goal of improving the lives and eyesight of the Fijian people, the Beeve Foundation, inspired by Dr. Beeve, has accomplished a major sight-saving mission in Savusavu, Fiji, in February 2007. A dedicated team of 20 medical volunteers from Australia, New Zealand, and the United States have helped during the Foundation's 17th annual medical mission to Fiji. They have now helped over three percent of Fiji's Islanders.

The Beeve Foundation for World Eye and Health, Inc. is a non-profit public corporation dedicated to providing basic eye and health care to the remote island population of Fiji and neighboring Pacific Island groups. The Foundation is committed to expanding the education of native Island practitioners through information exchange and experiential training.

Dr. Beeve, whose practice is located in Glendale, California, was astounded by the high incidence of eye problems afflicting the hundreds of people in the small outer islands of Fiji while on a trip to Turtle Island, Fiji, in 1989. Dedicated to relieving the suffering resulting from these medical conditions, Dr. Beeve returned to Fiji to provide free eye care, from vision testing to sophisticated surgical procedures. Limited by his time and resources, Dr. Beeve committed himself to raising interest and support from friends and businesses. To learn more about The Beeve Foundation, please visit www.fijiforsight.org.

Verdugo Hills Hospital is a 158-bed nonprofit primary care facility nestled in the foothills between Glendale and La Cañada Flintridge. The hospital features all private rooms, 24-hour emergency services, comprehensive inpatient and outpatient diagnostic and treatment facilities, and a family birthing center. It is the only independent, free-standing hospital in the greater Foothills community and was voted "Foothill's Best Hospital" for 2007 by readers of the *Glendale News-Press*. Several physicians on staff also received recognition as the best in the community, including: Dr. Scott W. Beeve, Foothills Best Ophthalmologist; Dr. Allan W. Perry, Jr., Foothills Best Plastic Surgeon; Dr. Richard L. Rupp, Foothills Best Podiatrist; Dr. William F. Schubert, Foothills Best Family Physician; Dr. Jane S. Wada, Foothills Best Dermatologist; and Dr. Ronald D. Woodard, Foothills Best Obstetrician/Gynecologist. For more information, please visit www.vhhospital.org.

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