



Dr. Jerold Beeve works on one of his Fijian patients.

TV Show Profiles Local Charities Efforts to Restore Eyesight to Fijians

The Beeve Foundation, which has been helping restore the eyesight of thousands of Fijians for years, was recognized recently by the award-winning "Encore Café" television program with a 30-minute documentary film featuring the foundation's 14-year medical accomplishments.

The film has been shown since the beginning of July and will continue to be featured through August on Pasadena's KPAS Channel 55 (Channel 25 in western LCF).

Dr. Jerold Beeve, founder of the Montrose-based foundation, said Bill Cook and his crew at KPAS did a "magnificent job filming the work of our medical team and showing the tremendous 'behind the scenes' support necessary to make our foundation so successful."

To date, the foundation has screened 16,344 Fijians, dispensed 13,081 pairs of glasses with refraction and examination and performed

1,248 surgeries, some of them life-saving. The foundation has also been recognized for its work in the past by the late former President Ronald Reagan, former California Gov. Pete Wilson and L.A. County Supervisor Michael Antonovich.

"There are still thousands of people in the Fijian Islands who are suffering from various stages of blindness and their only hope is our yearly return," said Beeve. "Now with our recent move to a new location on the islands, we face an even greater challenge."

The foundation's current goal is to treat over 14,000 patients in the next seven years, which would double its past efforts. With complete utilization of volunteer help (many volunteers come from Australia and New Zealand, as well as the United States) and donated medical supplies, the foundation's average cost per patient is only \$60.

"This remarkable low price means your tax-deductible donation of \$60 can correct someone's vision or restore the marvelous gift of sight to many of those who are blind," Beeve said.

Those interested in donating to the foundation can call (818) 790-8101 or send a check to the Beeve Foundation to P.O. Box 491, La Cañada Flintridge, CA 91012-0491.

The documentary on KPAS can be seen on "Encore Café," on Channel 25 (west LCF) on Sundays at 5:30 p.m. and on Channel 55 in eastern LCF on Sundays at 2 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 8 a.m., Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays at 8 a.m. and Saturdays at 2 p.m. For LCF residents who do not have a cable box but receive cable, tune to Channel 1.

The documentary and KPAS are affiliated with the Pasadena Senior Center.