



## Letter from the President...



In our [March newsletter](#), **Friends of Islands Initiatives, Inc. (FOIII)** called upon our valued supporters to boost our effort to provide Alexandra Hospital with a meaningful grant for much-needed equipment to ensure quality health care for our Nevisian community.

We are heartened by the overwhelming support we received – not only through donations, but also through our readers passing along our mission to their friends who care deeply about Nevis' well-being.

We are especially grateful to Suzanne Gordon, who FOIII features in our Donor Spotlight below, for spreading our word to her network, several of whom have decided to donate their time and financial support to help FOIII achieve our stated mission to “solve the special challenges facing small island communities.”

We enthusiastically welcome three new members to our Board, who were inspired by the work that is set before us and that we have accomplished since 2017. Meet our new Directors below, and [click here](#) to see all we've accomplished in six short years!

And last but certainly not least, we enthusiastically celebrate the critical purchase of a Blood Analyzer Machine for Alexandra Hospital, which has recently arrived on island! Read on for more information about this highly specialized machine and how it can enhance the health care Nevisians receive.

We are on a roll and are excited to see our efforts gather steam. To that end, please mark your calendars for February 12, 2024, when we will host a Donor Appreciation gathering on Nevis to thank our supporters and share our goals with you.

Thank you for your attention – both now and in the future.

Mark Pinney - President, FOIII

Will you join us in  
reaching our  
future milestones?

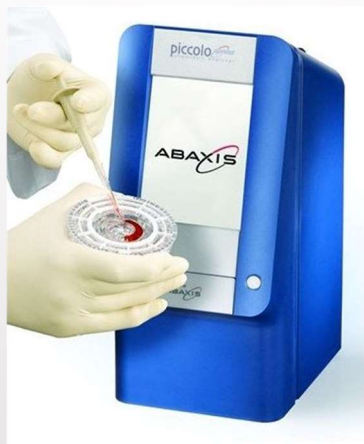
**Donate Today!**

[www.islandsinitiatives.org/making-donations/](http://www.islandsinitiatives.org/making-donations/)

## What Is A Blood Analyzer Machine?

A Hematology Analyzer is a critical and time-saving machine that can count the number of different types of red and white blood cells, blood platelets, hemoglobin, and hematocrit levels in a blood sample.

It provides a more accurate and detailed analysis of samples, which is useful when diagnosing specific conditions. Because it is automated, it saves valuable time in making diagnoses, and thus treatment plans.



## Donor Spotlight: Suzanne Gordon

If you do not know Suzanne Gordon personally, you have surely heard about her - as owner of Sugar Mill Real Estate, which provides rental and real estate service on the island of Nevis and is now managing broker at the Four Seasons Resort Estates. Suzanne's professional life seamlessly intersects with her many behind-the-scenes efforts to benefit Nevis and the welfare of its people.



Photo by Kacey Jeffers

Recently, she not only generously supported **Friends of Islands Initiatives, Inc.'s** May Challenge Grant, but she also encouraged others to become involved in our efforts to provide the Alexandra Hospital with a much-needed Blood Analyzer machine. Her most recent effort has been to spearhead the purchase of a portable cataract machine for the Nevis Eye Care Program organized by Dr. Ray Hubbe and his wife, Ginger Burn, through Vision for All Incorporated, a U.S.-based nonprofit. Without a new cataract machine, surgeries to address cataracts, glaucoma, and diabetic retinopathy would not be possible during their twice-yearly clinics at the Alexandra Hospital.

With a Master's in Historic Preservation from Goucher College, Suzanne has contributed to a number of consequential Nevis historical preservation efforts, including the creation of accurate signage and interpretive boards at New River and the original Nevis Heritage Trail. As Vice Chair of the Nevis World Heritage Committee, she advocated to have a Nevis site listed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. She has also been involved with the Nevis Historical and Conservation Society for many years as a board member.

Having been a staff writer for the *Philadelphia Inquirer* for more than 15 years, Suzanne has written for Caribbean and international publications and is the author of *Searching for Sugar Mills: An Architectural Guide to the Eastern Caribbean* with architect Anne Hersh. Her activism and generosity to our community earns her our much-valued Donor Spotlight in this edition of the FOIII newsletter.



## Our Newest Board Members



**Megan Elkins** is a former financial services professional who currently works in online learning for K-12 educators. She has been a member of several boards and corporate task forces in both New York City and Philadelphia, primarily supporting women's initiatives, mentoring, and diversity & inclusion. She has an undergraduate degree from Smith College and an MBA from Georgetown University. Megan and her husband, Terry, an artist, split their time between his studio on Eastern Long Island, NY, and their home in Nevis. She looks forward to contributing her business and education experience to further the Board's mission and goals.



**Roslyn Kade** bought a house with her husband, Doug Gest, in 2019 in the Hermitage Heights area and now lives in Nevis six months out of the year. Doug had previously owned two other houses on island - the first, he designed and built, and the second was a renovation. Both love the island and islanders and are anxious to do whatever we can to assist them in fulfilling their medical goals through such an organization as Friends of Islands Initiatives, Inc. Prior to retirement, Roslyn was a practicing gynecologist in Ohio.



**Miriam Knorr** is a long-time coordinator for a number of Nevis nonprofits, as well as a former manager with her husband of Old Manor on Nevis. She has been a resident of both St. Croix and Nevis.

With her excellent networking skills, Miriam has successfully organized communitywide events, including the Lionfish Hunts, Heritage Day at Mountravers, and the Earth Day Beach Clean-ups in cooperation with government and other nonprofit organizations.

If you are interested in getting involved with Friends of Islands Initiatives, please email us at [info@islandsinitiatives.org](mailto:info@islandsinitiatives.org)!

If you know someone who would be interested in the good work we do, please forward this newsletter to them or encourage them to support our cause!