

NEWS RELEASE

Contacts:

Heather Fried

704.347.3844

heather.fried@echofoundation.org

The Echo Foundation Presents Global Photojournalism Project

- *Bill Eppridge Photographic Exhibit Depicting the Legacy of Robert F. Kennedy Open Through October 19*
- *International Photojournalism Student Competition Winning Photo on Display*

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (September 1, 2012) – Affirming the power of free speech and expression, The Echo Foundation presents a two-part photojournalism project that addresses justice, democracy and humanity. While honoring the work of a respected force in photojournalism, the foundation is engaging the next generation of emerging photographers.

As part of the foundation’s election year series – “We the People. The Voices and Vision of Democracy.” – and in partnership with *The Charlotte Observer*, Echo presents the extraordinary work of world-renowned photographer Bill Eppridge in an original exhibit entitled “One America, One American: Robert F. Kennedy Through the Lens of Bill Eppridge.” The exhibit includes nearly 40 intimate RFK photographs and reflections by Eppridge, who traveled the campaign trail with the senator in 1966-1968.

On display in *The Charlotte Observer* lobby, “One America, One American” is free and open to the public **September 4 – October 19**.

The student component of the project, an international photojournalism competition, inspired students from 40 countries across the globe to submit more than 500 entries. The winning photograph – taken by British graduate student Tobin Jones – is on display in the exhibit adjacent to Eppridge’s iconic pieces.

About “New Visions. New Media.” Student Competition

The 2012 Echo International Photojournalism Student Competition invited student photojournalists worldwide to submit original photography responding to the question, “What does democracy or tyranny; justice or injustice look like?” *New York Times* Senior Photographer

Tyler Hicks judged the competition and awarded the top prize to the University of Westminster graduate student Tobin Jones, who submitted a photo from the Kibera slum in Nairobi, Kenya. The grand prize included a trip for the student winner to Charlotte, a portfolio review, and one day photographing alongside Bill Eppridge.

The student photojournalist describes his photo, titled “[Religious Healing](#),” as a priest in a Kenyan slum trying to exorcise a demon tormenting one of his parishioners. Jones says, “In Kibera, religion as a money making opportunity has taken on a whole new dimension, often exploiting people in the slum of their hard earned money.”

Hicks explains, “Telling the story succinctly in a single image, this photograph speaks not only to injustice in Kibera, but also to a larger audience about the endemic poverty crisis in Africa.”

Jones’ photo is mounted in *The Charlotte Observer* lobby as a resounding example of free expression and youth-driven change. His photo also joins those of all the contest semi-finalists in a [digital display](#) on The Echo Foundation and *The Charlotte Observer* websites.

About The Echo Foundation

The Echo Foundation was founded in 1997 to carry on the message Nobel Peace Prize winner Elie Wiesel brought to Charlotte that year – a call to action for human dignity, justice and moral courage. Through comprehensive education programs, Echo equips individuals with moral and intellectual tools necessary to create positive change in their local and global communities. The Echo mission, “... to promote justice and inspire hope through education, creative acts of service, and the development of leadership for a more humane world” is realized through five core initiatives: *Voices Against Indifference*, *Footsteps Global Initiative*, *Books Beyond Borders*, *Forum for Hope*, and *Living Together in the 21st Century*. The Echo Foundation has hosted 24 humanitarians and world leaders and served over 730,000 students in the US, Eastern Europe and East Africa. For more information, please visit www.echofoundation.org, www.echofoundationphoto.org or www.inthefootstepsofeliewiesel.org.

###