



Flying Samaritans

Mother Lode Chapter

Clinic Report - May, 2016

Primary Care Clinic

David Hermann flew **Joel Prosser, Dianne VanOrder, RN, Debbie Marino, RN & Paul Denzler, DDS**, in his TBM 700. **Bob Amarel** flew **Phil Webb, Bob Thompson & Pam Fallo, FNP**, in his Cessna 210. **Chris Nelson** flew **Carol Armstrong & me** in his Bonanza A36. **David Shoemaker** flew **Josh Jaramillo**, a Stanford 4th-year medical student, **Jacob Gregerson, M.D.** (pediatrician) & Jacob's wife, **Celestine**, in his Bonanza V35. **Joe Zachwieja** drove **Shirley McCulloch, NP, & Justin Sherrill**. It was a nice flight down, but with headwinds. Most of us went into town Friday night for street tacos

Saturday morning, we had a late start because a motorcycle club requested that the kitchen serve them first in the morning. As a result, most of our group did not finish breakfast until 8 a.m., causing a late start at clinic. A very active crowd filed into the dental area, medical clinic, eye clinic & distribution area for backpacks on Saturday morning. The dental clinic people started pulling teeth, but also had time to do some fillings; this makes everyone involved happy because one or more teeth can be saved. Neither Flor nor Laura Martinez (who needs a foot amputation) showed up. The medical clinic was saddened to hear that Celestine was accepted to the University of Utah School of Medicine, taking her husband with her, which means our clinic loses an excellent clinician. Also, Josh was accepted into Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston as a surgical resident, so we lose another fine medic. This hospital is one of the three hospitals associated with Harvard. Attached are two photos of these three.

Dianne & Debbie finally removed items that Joel & David Hermann transported to Buen Pastor Hospital, creating more, much needed space.

We were visited by two of the Rodriguez brothers – Benjamin & Antonio – along with Benjamin's son, Eduardo, who recently graduated after 5 years of college with a degree in Agricultural Engineering. Eduardo holds a position of Comptroller in the company, dispensing funds for construction. We were asked what they could do to help us & we told them rebuilding the garage into a functioning room for storage of eyeglasses with about 40 bins & reworking an area within to build a better work bench for our orthotic technicians (Brad Farrow & Bob Haining) would be terrific. Eduardo will join us next month with an engineer to make plans for improving the garage, including pouring a concrete floor, etc. They asked for & received Patty's phone number so that she can relay info to us regarding questions they may have regarding the project. Burn incense. We went to Jardine's Saturday night for another fine meal.

We made an early departure on Sunday morning, arriving home by 2:30 p.m. after fighting headwinds all the way.

–Sr. Bilito, Medical Coordinator



Flying Samaritans®

SAMARITANOS VOLADORES

Patient Photos



Never a shortage of kids!



One of the many benefactors of the generous clothing donations



One of the patients got a unique treat for coming in; he got to sit in one of the aircraft for his birthday!

Dental Clinic

Our May dental clinic in Los Pinos went off without a hitch. We were a small group in the clinic that included **Justin** assisting chairside with the first-timer dentist **Paul**, **Handsome Phil** on sterilization, and **Minerva** seating patients and turning around the chairs. Justin actually made the DRIVE down from LA, and his knowledge of the clinic was the key to the entire operation. HP picked up the controls of the autoclave and later picked up the tab on some margaritas at dinner.



Paul Denzler (DDS), Minerva (translator), and Justin Sherrill (Jedi Master)

Both were much appreciated. Along with getting our patients in and out, Minerva was absolutely divine at providing extra translation skills and keeping us moving along. Paul kept the team busy as best he could while figuring out his new environment.

The day started a bit slow, with some slow food service at breakfast keeping us from getting the early start we desired. In any case, we filled our bellies and shortly after 9 AM got our first patient seated. After our first few patients, we started to settle into a groove and kept a steady pace for most of the day. Our day was evenly divided between fillings and extractions, with an even dozen of each performed.

We did have one little boy who, despite the best efforts of all of us and his parents, wouldn't let us work on his teeth. Nice to see that the USA doesn't have a monopoly on difficult kids! Otherwise though, our patients were a delight to work on. Many waited patiently for the entire day to be seen. As is often the case, our ability to supply could not match the demand, and we ran out of time at the end of the day so that many patients did not receive the care they desired. We did our best, though, and hope they return next month when we have an additional dentist to man the clinic.

Our team worked hard, and while medical went on a sightseeing tour of the greenhouses and Rodriguez family's operations in the afternoon, we toiled away in the clinic placing fills and shucking teeth. (How could I resist to mention this? Darn medical). They redeemed themselves later by passing out some delicious tomatoes and cucumbers that had been given away to take home. All the dental equipment and instrumentation worked well all day and we were all happy about the strides that have been made in improving the clinic over the last few years that now help us to provide good quality care.

In the evening, we all gathered up at Jardines. Tucson Chapter had made reservations for the Flying Sams, so we were glad to get there earlier and steal their seats. Thanks, Tucson! Hey, the reservation said 'Flying Sams', isn't that who we are too? Our dental crew also invited a couple locals, Minerva and her sister-in-law to join us for dinner, which was a fun time and their first time to eat out there. The bar at the hotel did not disappoint later, and after a short night we awoke to clear skies and a smooth flight home. Thanks to everyone. It was a real success and a fun time.

-Paul Denzler, DDS



Dental Clinic Action



Paul Denzler and Minerva barely have time to sit



Paul Denzler and Justin Sherrill - non-stop action all day!

Backpacks for Baja



The crowds gathered to collect donated textiles and other necessities



One of the kids shows off his new sweater (very fashionable!)

Optical Clinic



Carol Armstrong and David Herrmann sort through hundreds of donated lenses courtesy of Lion's Club

May was a great relaxing clinic for me. Even before I arrived, **Judy** had already dispensed most of the 44 glasses ordered from last month and made sure that they were accurate by patients reading the wall chart. Judy reported beaming smiles from all recipients of new glasses.

Judy already had listed the people needing eye exams and started taking auto refractor readings of people from the top of the list and filled the forms of the people needing glasses before I arrived.

When I arrived (late) all I needed to do was to read the pupil distance and frame width for the glasses to be ordered of those that had already been examined by the optical helpers and assist them with the remaining patients. In all 44 new patients were examined and I need to order 22 glasses for next month. Separation of 1500 donated glasses which arrived into bins has begun (more to come) by Chris and his team and while they were binning, I did send a few patients to be fitted with glasses. 3 patients were fitted with glasses. I will deliver more bins as will fit in my car each month and continue to build inventory of recycled glasses at our clinic.

- Joe Zachwieja



Smile for the camera!

Backpacks for Baja

Chris Nelson and with the assistance of **Imelda Hernandez** and **Cecilia Castro** who are local volunteers gave out over 60 children's

backpacks as well as a significant amount of Women's and Children's clothing. Cecilia also assisted in the Optical area and Imelda did double duty assisting with intake for both Dental as well as Medical. This brings the total Backpacks distributed to 1,815 since the program began in 2015!!! Each includes sunglasses, hygiene and health related items such as tooth paste/toothbrushes, shampoo etc as well as books, school supplies and fun items for the children and cosmetic items for the women.

Carol Armstrong assisted in a number of key areas including heading up the Optical initiative to sort and package prescription glasses in preparation for the Optical Clinic conversion to the utilization of glasses donated by the Lions Club. 1,250 glasses were transported to the clinic this month and Carol along with **Dave Herrmann** and others sorted and categorized over 500 pairs. Carol is also leading a team of individuals that are Retired Bank Of America Employees to continue the sorting process between clinics in the United States.

Linda Nelson makes many of the Backpacks/handbags and manages the coordination of the items that go into them as well as putting them together and ensuring they are ready for transportation/distribution She sewed the 2000th backpack this month!!!! **Celeste Roseberry-Mckibbin** with Love, Talk, Read generously donated children's books for each of the packs. These were a big hit as always!!! **Folsom Lake Lions** contributed in many ways including assisting with sewing as well as coordinating the donation of many much needed items. The **Placerville and Cameron Park Soroptimists** Groups continue to provide outstanding support including material and items for the Backpacks/Handbags. Members of the **Bank Of America Retiree group** donated supplies as well as made cash donations for the purchase of medications and vitamins. A team of residents of **Folsom Prison "Hooks And Needles"** crouched over 70 dolls and other items for the children and the **Placer County Corrections Team** (also residents) made packs, blankets and pillows. Many others contributed to the success as well. Great Teamwork takes place every month in helping make this impactful initiative happen!!!!



Going through the piles of donated clothing



Families line up to receive their goodie-filled backpacks

Physical Therapy



Bob Thompson (PT) performing some comedy and showing the translators how to perform an exercise

I had a great experience from the flying to the clinical opportunity. **Phil** did a great job being a mentor pilot to **Bob Amarel** and I. We thoroughly enjoyed his feedback, insight and fellowship. He is quite a nice fellow who we would be happy to team up with any time. There was such a relaxed professional camaraderie between the medical folks. I felt comfortable and facilitated such that I had the best opportunity to contribute.

As a pilot and a medical professional I really enjoyed the mix. everyone seemed to get along with this common bond. As an orthopedic manual physical therapist I was impressed that there is a real need for that specialty contributing to the care of those folks. There is such a broad mix of clinical involvement one needs to be prepared for just about anything. In particular is the need for sound functional spine training that could best help patients better cope with their demanding physical labor. Most

folks have bad body mechanics that leads to mechanical back pain that could be minimized with proper training.

In addition to individual case instruction, the farm laborers could be additionally served if we can spend a couple hours teaching and training several of their supervisors/medical support folks on proper spine lifting/posturing. Good training is like a 'sport' and requires instruction, demonstration, practice and application. These folks technically need to have high level 'sport' skill in order to minimize risk for injury and optimize their work production and employment careers. Teaching some leadership who can then teach others would be a way 'spread the wealth'. The ranch owners should buy into this as ultimately it would markedly lessen lost time due to injury and improve productivity.

Thanks again for the experience. I hope I was of some value. Hope I can help further.

-Bob Thompson, PT



Farm Tour

Thanks to **Joel Prosser's** contact with the Rodriguez family, four of us lucky souls were treated to an extensive tour of the operation that donated the clinic facility and what a tour it was. The farm consists of 1400 acres of hot houses producing



The lucky tour group

all sorts of vegetables without the fruit ever coming in contact with the soil. Here's a photo of the four lucky souls, **Dave, Phil, Joel and Bob** inside one of the hot houses (first photo). The bottom right photo is of our gracious host Mr. Rodriguez, one of the owners of the operation.

On site is the desalination plant that processes ocean water that's 32,000 parts per million of salt down to 116 parts per million drinking water. This plant produces enough fresh water to operate the entire farm and processing/packing plant. This plant is cutting edge and uses some of the most sophisticated technology available.

The picture to the bottom left is of the cucumber sorting belt. The cucumbers (or tomatoes) pass a photo cell where EVERY piece of produce is photographed, then a computer keeps track of its dimensions and controls the proper gate to open when it gets to the correct size table. Quality control is paramount, and thanks to the implementation of the latest technology and the constant upgrading the final product that's sent to the consumer is assured of TOP QUALITY! I can tell you first hand they were of the highest quality and absolutely delicious!

-Bob Amarel



Sorting every vegetable using cameras



The tour guide, Sr. Rodriguez