



Flying Samaritans

Mother Lode Chapter

Clinic Report - February 2018

Primary Care Clinic

Friday morning February 9th was crisp and cold and began our Flying Samaritan trip to Baja: **Chris Nelson** flew **Dianne VanOrder**, **Maria Boyd** and **John Messner** from Placerville; **Sunny Sethi** flew dentists **Charlie Arita**, **Giang Chu** and **Isabel Wong** from Gilroy; **Doug Wirzberger** flew **Megan Wirzberger**, **Katrina Davis** and **Tanya De La Torre** from Sacramento; **Al Koerber** flew **Pam Polk**, **Pam Margo** and **Mariana Locke** from Sacramento; and, **Peter Le Lievre** flew **Bob Haining**, **Gwen Douglass** from San Jose, and stopped in Van Nuys for **Justin Sherrill** and **Jessica Cook**. We were joined in San Quintin by **Rich** and **Margie Wilson** and their friends **Richard** and **Bob** from San Diego, and, **Joe Zachwieja** who drove from Oceanside.



It was a busy and very productive clinic, medicine clinic saw 86 patients; Dr. Haining repaired prosthetic appliances for two medical amputee patients, Oliver, our preemie will be a year old February 22, he is healthy and happy and still smiling his beautiful smile, we also saw lots of cold and flu symptom patients. Optical clinic from their new clinic site saw 110 for eye exams and new glasses; and Margie Wilson and her crew and Joe Zachwieja arrived by car on Thursday to move the optical clinic to the refurbished site in the building shared with the dental clinic. We have spent a couple of months prepping that space with paint, new electrical wiring and benches so that we could expand our optical services. We have a slit lamp donated by Dr. John Demshar; a new SPOT vision auto refractor and, about 5,000 pair of glasses from Lions International. In addition, we have children's sunglasses and adult sunglasses. Our optical clinic is growing by leaps and bounds.

Dentists were still busy at 6 pm, with Dr. Arita finishing a root canal. We had to close access to the dentists at about 3:30 pm because they had so many patients already waiting for services. Our two first time dental assistants Tanya and Katrina were busy all day moving patients through the clinic.

The weather was clear and bright on Sunday morning and we took off into blue skies for home, another successful trip to San Quintin and services to its people.

-Dianne VanOrder

Thanks to our Sponsors!

A SPECIAL THANKS to some of our many important program sponsors without whom The Flying Samaritans could not make the significant humanitarian impact delivered to those in need. Both monetary and non are essential to the operation of our clinic.

- Celeste Roseberry-Mckibbin with "Love, Talk, Read" generously donates children's books for each of the backpacks.
- Soroptimist International: Placerville, Cameron Park and Folsom
- Rotary Club International: Folsom; Folsom Lake; Placerville; Arden-Arcade; Pocket-Greenhaven; Loomis; Roseville-Sunrise; Orangevale, East Sacramento
- Rotary Interact Clubs; Casa Robles High School; Oak Ridge High School
- Ann Hively
- Lions Club International; Folsom Lake; Placerville; Embarcadero; Sacramento Senator
- Cris Gerard
- Dee Farmer
- Dr Bob Haining
- Dr Nancy Archibald and her Dental Team
- Folsom Project For The Visually Impaired; Don Ring
- Sister team, Dianne Vanorder and Margaret Sanderson
- Restoring Vision
- SOLO Eyewear
- Vitamin Angels
- SHARE Institute; Dr. Soheir Stolba
- Jack Olson; Folsom Lake Bank
- Tanya Moran
- Marlyn Pino-Jones
- Bank Of America Retiree Group
- Folsom Prison "Hooks And Needles"
- Placer County Corrections, Women's Division
- Sharron Flynn and neighbors
- Rolling Hills Church
- Brenda and Sterling Daley
- Cheri Throckmorton
- Trish McCum, American Sewing Guild
- German Club of Stockton
- Debi Amaral/VSP
- Maria Boyd
- Barsotti Family/Fran Ward
- Barbara Goyette
- Karin Aguilar
- Fiber Fanatics Knitting Group
- Lofti Lou Knitting Groups
- Joyce Hansen
- Elena Munoz-Plaza
- Lena Miguelgorry
- Eloisa Ciancaglini, RN
- David Herrmann
- Theresa Dao-Makiyama
- Todd Makiyama
- Alexandra Hansen
- Patricia A. Nelson
- Brian Claassen
- Dr John Demshar
- Lonnie Davis/Hope Haven West
- Anthony Pineiro and Wife
- Anu Rau M.D.
- Renfro's Bridal Shop
- Falco Family Foundation



An additional THANKS from the children, women, and men in rural Baja for all of your thoughtful humanitarian contributions!!!

Backpacks for Baja

February's Clinic celebrated reaching over 3,170 "Backpacks For Baja" distributed to those in need since the program began in 2014!!!



Chris, with the assistance of **Megan Wirzberger** and several local volunteers, distributed over 60 special backpacks to children attending the clinic. Each backpack included a special gift, sunglasses, important sundries such as tooth brushes and toothpaste as well as school supplies and a first aid kit. In addition each backpack includes a book donated by **Celeste Roseberry-McKibbin** of "Love Talk Read". 70 women attending the clinic also received handmade handbags that include personal care items, sunglasses, and a special gift.

A special thanks to **Ynez**, her Mom **Laura** and **Cinthia**, who are all local volunteers. They not only volunteer with Optical needs but made over 40 backpacks, assist with distribution of give a ways and in the optical area!!!

Gwen Douglass and other volunteers also distributed many donated items and sundries such as toothpaste, soap, shampoo and lotions. In addition there were special handmade dresses that were made and/or acquired in support of the "**Dress A Girl Around The World**" initiative. This initiative is designed to provide at least one nice dress to as many young girls as possible to build Dignity, Health, Joy and Love. Each dress was personally fitted to a happy recipient by Gwen. The **Rolling Hills Church** sewing team also contributed handmade children's dresses, dolls and other children's items which were greatly appreciated!!!

There was also a distribution of hundreds of men, women and children's clothing items which were greatly appreciated by the thankful recipients.

With the weather beginning to cool we also gave out a large supply of handmade hats and scarfs as well as socks. These items were all made by the "**Hooks and Needles**" team of men at Folsom Prison. This team also contributes handmade stuffed toys and other impactful items each month. The items were greatly appreciated by all and the recipients asked that their thanks be passed along!!!

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. Thanks for your caring and thoughtful efforts!!!

Cheri Throckmorton along with help from members of The Rolling Hills Church, once again, contributed handmade backpacks and other meaningful and much needed items. THANKS!!! Great teamwork takes place every month in helping make this impactful initiative happen!!!!

A special thanks from the women and children in Baja for everyone's humanitarian contributions!!!



Optical Clinic



Our first debut of the newly renovated optical clinic

A new record of over 110 exams given to patients in one day!!!

Over 99% of the patients needing glasses were fitted on the spot this month thanks to a new work flow instituted by **Margie Wilson** as well as the diligence and training of the entire team!!!

Historically, we have been able to fit about 94 percent of the patients with glasses on the day of the clinic and we then order the remainder online for delivery by one of the pilots the following month. Thanks to the knowledge and patience of **Margie Wilson, Maria Boyd, John Messner, Peter Le Lievre** and **Al Kroeber** in the fitting/evaluation area nearly all patients needing prescription glasses were fitted on the spot!!! This is very significant in our effort to assist those in need of vision care on the day they are evaluated. The patient that we could not fit the day of the clinic will have their glasses ordered for pick up in March.

This was a team effort with **Joe Zachwieja**, interpreting and assisting with training and utilizing the new Spot Vision equipment in the initial evaluation. **Ynez** and **Cinthia** both local volunteers, taking responsibility for some of the Auto Refractor exams and **Judy**, another

long time local volunteer managing the intake of new patients and assisting with exams as well as providing knowledgeable assistance to all. Judy's son **Jesus** and a friend, **Victoria** gave oversight to the distribution of children's and adult sunglasses.

We had a pre exam and initial patient intake forms completed by **Megan Wirzberger** as well as **Candy**, a local student and the daughter of one of our long time volunteers. We continue to train/utilize everyone that was capable to ensure timely service for those in need.

The total number of patients seen was well over 195 with over 110 exams using the Auto Refractor and/or Spot Vision. In addition we gave out 21 pairs of readers and 3 pairs of glasses ordered from months prior. We also distributed approximately 200 pairs of sunglasses not including those that were in the Backpacks given to women and children. The children's sunglasses were a big hit as many of the recipients had never had the opportunity to own a pair in the past and the styles were current and "cool" with themes that they could relate to such as Spiderman, Batman and Ninja Turtles for the boys. The children's sunglasses as well as some of the readers distributed were provided by **The Restoring Vision** organization as well as **The Lions Club**...Thanks!!!

The service was efficient and the success rate of fitting was excellent due to the efforts/diligence of the entire team!!!

A special thanks to **Don Ring** of the **Lions Club** and **Folsom Lake Lions** for providing the prescription glasses and sunglasses. Also the generous donation by **Solo Eyewear** and **Restoring Vision** of reading glasses and children's glasses was appreciated by the thankful recipients.

We also received a donation from **Chris Morris** with **VSP** of 100 pairs of high end sunglasses that were a huge hit particularly with the Women who appreciate the styles and quality that we would not normally be able to provide!!!

Another special THANKS to **Jim McKay** and the **Central Valley Chapter of the Flying Samaritans**. They helped us with the funding to purchase a much needed Lensometer and also loaned us a Spot Vision set of evaluation equipment. **Dr John Demshar** also made the generous donation of a Slit Lamp. The new equipment greatly improved our ability to accurately and quickly evaluate patients and help them with the appropriate optical solution.

MANY THANKS to everyone that made this clinic an impactful humanitarian effort!!!

-Chris Nelson

A Fresh Perspective...

This month, our "Fresh Perspective" piece comes from **Katrina Davis**



Katrina Davis (L) and Tanya De La Torre. Photo courtesy of Katrina Davis.

Hi there Flying Sams community, my name is Katrina Davis. Recently I was lucky enough to be able to attend a clinic with the Mother Lode Chapter in San Quintin! For the last ten years I have been working as Registered dental assistant but always dreamt of putting my skills to good use by helping others that do not have access or the financial means for dental care. This year I decided to do just that so I traveled to Ecuador in May to volunteer. It was a life-changing experience that encouraged me to start planning the next trip to volunteer. In Ecuador, I was fortunate enough to meet some incredible dental professionals, one of them being Dr.Charles Arita DDS. Charlie told me about what Flying Sams was doing in Baja and asked if I would be interested in coming down to

attend a clinic. Of course, my answer was," YES, where can I sign up?" Fast forward a few months, everything began to come together, emails were flying around about our agenda for the trip, and the level of excitement grew. This was my first trip with this organization, so of course, I was a bit anxious going into new territory, flying with a pilot I had never met to a place I knew very little about. Luckily two of my co-workers Dr. Isabel Wong DDS and Tanya De La Torre decided to make the trip as well so I was happy to know I'd have good company. Everything just felt right; I knew this trip would be an amazing adventure if I allowed myself to be open to the unexpected. Boy was I surprised when we stepped foot onto the runway at the Reid Hillview Airport and our pilot Doug Wirzberger pulls up in the most epic four-seater Cessna. When Doug and his daughter Megan hopped out of the plane with huge smiles waving at us, I knew that this was going to be a trip to remember. After a safety briefing we loaded up onto "DougAir," and we were off! Doug provided a fun and light atmosphere making being on a small plane very comfortable. He even had pillows and blankets for us to use that he had sewn himself, what a nice touch! I was able to capture some fantastic images during our flight and of course Tanya, and I had a field day taking silly selfies in our headsets. After about 4 hours and a quick Mexicali customs pit stop, we arrived at Los Pinos. We unloaded our gear to the clinic and later we head out for street tacos. They were delicious!

We woke up early Saturday to head to the clinic to start seeing people and families lined up patiently waiting out in the early morning cold just to be seen. Every single patient needed some form of treatment, and we successfully saw each one of them! At one point a patient sat in the chair and so graciously looked up and said," Thank you God for these people." Moments like that are what make it all worth it! This is what fuels my fire! Volunteering has been one of life's greatest pleasures for me. There truly is a need for medical, vision and dental professionals in San Quintin along with so many other locations. Honestly, I cannot wait to go back again because I know there is so much more work to be done! Everyone involved was extremely inviting and that really made this clinic feel like home. I look forward to growing with this organization and to motivate others to get involved as well! I cannot thank the volunteers and Flying Sams enough for such a profound experience! See you next time!

With Love,
Kat

Dental Report

Happy Valentines to my dental team who worked so hard at our February clinic. A HUGE THANK YOU goes to **Rich Razo**. Rich repaired our dental vacuum and returned it to our clinic in time for a busy day. We will need to think of something special to do for Rich. A special thank you goes to **Chris Nelson** and **Diane VanOrder** who arrived at Los Pinos earlier in the day and cleaned the dental clinic before we landed. It was great to have my friends all together providing the much needed dental care for our patients. Welcome back **Dr. Isabel Wong** and welcome to our new



members **Kat Davis** and **Tanya De La Torre**. These generous women build smiles on the Facebook campus. Dr. **Giang Chu** has been a regular volunteer and has been my partner on many other missions. She brings her wonderful pediatric skills to treat the most challenging younger patients we see. How fortunate we were to have **Justin "Master Jedi" Sherrill** and **Jessica "PhD to be" Cook** to round out our team. Dr. Isabel and Tanya teamed up to manage some of our tough extractions of the day and made their patients leave with a smile. Kat was kept busy assisting myself and Dr. Giang as we hopped from chair to chair to keep up with the 43 returning patients from November and 20 new patients. The number of restorations out numbered the teeth that were extracted. This is always a great sign. Dr. Giang worked tirelessly throughout day treating the cute but difficult children as young as 4 years old. My record was set this clinic with the completion of three root canals. There is a fourth patient waiting for me for a root canal at my next clinic. With Jessica's help, we were able to save these teeth. Justin was our superhero as he did everything from sterilization, to equipment repair, to assisting and translation. **Cecilia** always has the patients recorded on our treatment list and kept the chairs full at all times.

Isabel Wong and Tanya De La Torre. Photo courtesy of Katrina Davis

Congratulations to **Minerva** as she had a baby boy two months ago. She worked all day with Cecilia while finding time to nurse the baby and direct patients at the same time. It was so good to see mother and son doing well. Our dental leader "**El Jefe**" **Todd Makiyama** and I are working on hosting clinics every other month. We continue to work to recruit dentists to join our team. Thank you to my friends for a tremendous productive February clinic. Hoping to team up with you later this year.

Respectfully,

Charlie



Charlie Arita, Isabel Wong, Katrina Davis, Tanya De La Torre, Jessica Cook, Justin Sherrill, and Giang Chu

Expanding Optical Services

"Hecho Por Amigos Para Amigos - Enero 2018"

Thanks again to the Rodriguez family, we are expanding our clinic floor space by taking over the space adjacent to the dental clinic where Valentin used to live. We are in the process of finishing the refurbishing of the space, and will make an announcement once the renovations are totally complete. We are getting very close!!! With our ever expanding array of services and growing needs of clients, every bit of space is needed!

The space is now our new Optical Clinic which will allow us to better serve a greater number of optical patients as well as free up much needed space where Optical was located. This frees up much needed space for the Medical team to expand and add an additional patient room.

The project has taken a number of months so far and is planned to be a collaborative effort including members of the Flying Samaritans, the East Sacramento Rotary (who have assisted significantly in the past with premises and other challenging issues) as well as other participants as needed. **Victor Castro**, a local volunteer and "jack of all trades" has made a significant contribution using his cabinetry and carpenter skills.



Richard Lenyk working on the electrical in the renovated optical clinic



Margie Wilson showing off the newly opened optical clinic ready for business!

In February, with a significant amount of clean up and construction completed, including the removal of a wall as well as electrical upgrades, the new space was used for the first time by the optical team. There is still work and refinements to be completed but the clinic ran smoothly and with greater efficiency due to the added space that allowed for workflow enhancements.

A special thanks to everyone who has assisted with this project. In particular **Rick Wilson** the project leader and **Margie Wilson** who did everything from painting to assisting with the massive cleanup efforts as well as designing signage and creative wall decorations.

Rick Wilson, Richard Lenyk and **Bob Terrien** worked tirelessly all weekend on the electrical upgrades necessary to operate efficiently as well as other important repairs, installing lights and fans. Thanks!!!! It would not have happened without the efforts of these three.

Thanks again to everyone for the GREAT teamwork!!!!

Young Artists

Young Artists Beautify The Optical Area

In February **Margie Wilson** initiated a fun project designed for children to assist with the artwork for the new Optical facility.

This included a four foot by twenty foot piece of heavy poster paper, water colors and a great deal of creativity. Many of the children attending the clinic participated by dipping their hands in various colors of paint and placing them on the poster paper along with their name and date and other comments.

The children were coached by various young volunteers including **Cinthia**, **Megan Wirzberger** and others. The completed colorful piece of art work was then hung in the Optical area for all to see and appreciate. The children participating enjoyed themselves as did those helping to make this fun project happen!!!!

Great job Margie and your young team of budding artists!!!!



Cinthia (L), Ynez, and Victoria leading the local art project

Del Presidente



Doug and Megan Wirzberger

weekend. And for me, there is an extra level of excitement when my daughter can come along. **Megan**, almost 16 years old, is in her sophomore year of high school and has been with me to clinic 4 times over the past few years. Like me, she really has a sense for adventure that comes along with travel by our Cessna and likes to practice her Spanish while helping the needy in Baja. It's always a proud feeling for me to see her interact with the other volunteers and clients at our clinics. I hope she never loses interest in coming to clinic with me. But my fear is that it will be more and more difficult for her to be able to make the time as she moves into the college phase of her life. I will continue to tempt her with street tacos for years to come! Now if only she would show an interest in getting her pilot's license...nah, that's asking for too much!

Although I notice changes in growth around San Quintin, it is still a great place to visit. If you haven't joined us on a clinic for a while, I encourage you to pick a weekend that works in your schedule and come along with us to San Quintin. It's always a great feeling to see first hand how our collective efforts help our friends in Baja!

As always, we thank you for your awesome support. We simply couldn't make this magic happen without the help of our members.

Until next time,

Doug

Bad for California, but good for Flying Sams, this dry spell has allowed us to go to clinic each month through the winter without the need to cancel for bad weather. I'm not sure if we should keep our fingers crossed that the dry weather continues, but we certainly are glad when we don't have to cancel our clinics. As far as I know, we are the only Flying Sams chapter that delivers our services each and every month, except when the weather makes us do otherwise. That's a point that I am very proud of. As many of you know, I have been involved in a project that has kept me overseas for many months during out of the past 16 months. During the design phase of the project from October, 2016 until May, 2017, I spent three weeks out of every five near Munich. Then it was time for the installation phase, which brought me to South Korea from late-June until late-December, 2017. With my hefty business travels, I was only able to attend two clinics in 2017. Now that the bulk of the project is behind me, I hope to kick up my attendance again. Although I wish I could go every month, 5-7 clinics per year remains my lofty goal until I can retire.

I am always so excited during the final few days before I participate in a clinic