



Flying Samaritans

Mother Lode Chapter

Clinic Report - August, 2015

From Sr. Bilito...

Only seven of us made the trip to clinic this month even though it was very good flying weather. Joel Prosser flew Diane VanOrder, Bruce Hultgren & Bob Haining. Chris Nelson flew me & also picked up Susanne Huebel in Stockton. A very nice flight down, but hotter than Hades in Mexicali - 100° plus. Different troops came out from air conditioned buildings, but didn't ask us to unload the plane for inspection of our cargo. We then cruised over to San Quintin where there was a cooling breeze when we landed, to our great relief. Most of us went into town for street tacos Friday night.

Chris was eager to get going Saturday morning, but, unfortunately, the hotel breakfast cook was late coming to work, so by the time we got to clinic, a large crowd was already present. This made it difficult for Chris & Susanne to set up the "tents" that she donated to give relief from the sun. Chris & his workers set up their tables under the tents to distribute bags to the children and adults.

The large crowd was composed of people turning in their applications for scholarships which will be distributed next month. Bob Haining & I were busy treating 76 patients, including a young girl about 14 months old with phocomelia of her right forearm. This term was prominent in the 1960's when pregnant mothers were given Thalidomide to combat morning sickness. Unfortunately, many infants born to mothers who took this drug were born without upper extremities & had "flippers" on their shoulders, imitating seals; thus, the name phocomelia. Frances Kelsey, M.D., a Canadian physician who worked for the United States Food & Drug Administration, refused to allow Thalidomide into this country until further investigation was done, thereby saving many newborns from this deformity. Bob Haining will follow up to see if he can arrange help for this child with an artificial limb. He said it will be difficult because as she grows, she will need frequent changes in the prosthesis. The mother denied taking any drugs during pregnancy, so this falls under the category of birth defect of unknown cause.



Chris Nelson & Pam Polk have been pursuing vitamins for children and prenatal vitamins for pregnant women from the "Vitamin Angels" organization free of charge. Chris received the first shipment and we distributed them for the first time. We spend about \$30 per month on children's vitamins, so this will be a significant savings. Each bottle has 180 tablets, so we are recording on the children's sheets that they received a bottle. We have not had prenatal vitamins in years due to cost and instead have given pregnant women adult vitamins which have fewer components. There will be 180 capsules in a bottle, which the mother can continue to take after delivery if breast feeding. This was a very successful effort on behalf of the women & children of San Quintin.

Three months ago Guillermo, became quite ill and underwent surgery for a ruptured appendix. His recovery continues as his wound became infected & he required a secondary closure. Bob applied silver nitrate to the wound, which should help it heal. Guillermo hopes to return to work next month. He looks good & has lost 30 pounds - he hopes to remain trim.

We returned home today in record time, with nice tail winds all the way back.

Sr. Bilito

Vision Clinic Report

August represented my ninth year volunteering for the Flying Sams. Since Joe Z was on vacation with his daughter, I was needed to run the vision clinic. In these nine years I have never been so busy and productive thanks to the help of Judy and Wendy (locals) and Chris Nelson. We had almost 100 pairs of corrective lenses to distribute from the June and July clinics, and all but 3 of the July glasses and all but 9 of the June orders were picked up. Of these about four pairs did not work for the patients, so their eyes were remeasured and new glasses will be waiting for them in September. We did a total of 77 exams of which 47 new orders will be made. We worked non-stop from 8:15 until 5:00 with only a short break for lunch. As always, when the patients come in to pick up their glasses and read the bottom line of the eye chart with a big smile, I am completely happy that we have been of use. I have been laid off from my full time job for almost 5 years now, and being a part of a team that delivers happiness is a big part of my life.

Bruce H.

Del Presidente

What a great feeling it is to be associated with such a dedicated group of volunteers! Just as critical to our cause is having the support of our donors and sponsors. We simply could not exist without you.

To all the folks that make the Backpacks for Baja program a success, we extend a big THANK YOU! We know that you spend countless hours constructing and stuffing the backpacks. I hope that the smiles on the faces in the pictures enclosed express how happy and grateful the Backpack recipients are.

With the support of the Lions Club, we are able to provide countless pairs of sunglasses to the farm workers who really need the sun protection. And, after a long application process, we are thrilled to have won the support of Vitamin Angels (www.vitaminangels.org). They have provided us with a wonderful supply of children's and pre/post natal vitamins. This really takes a burden off of our monthly budget!

September is lining up to be a clinic, with a full team of dentists lined up to go! In case you'd like to join in the fun, please register soon!

A big thank you for your support!

Doug Wirzberger

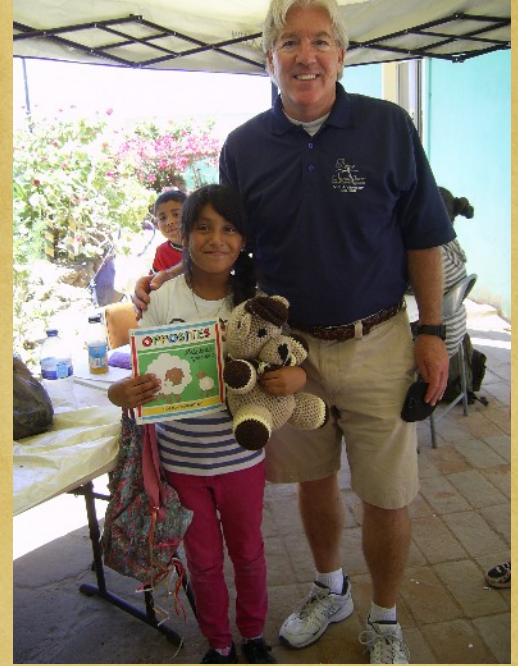
Backpack for Baja Passes The 1,000 Milestone!!

The August Clinic was attended by more children than in recent history. Assisted by locals Wendy, Cecilia and Imelda as well as Rosie a local who is a college student in Ensenada. We gave out over 105 Children's Backpacks which included school supplies, sunglasses from the Lions Club International, a book donated by the "Love, Talk, Read" organization, dental and medical supplies as well as fun play things to brighten their lives. We also gave out over 75 women's handbags which also included sunglasses and medical/dental supplies as well as hygiene related items such a lotion and shampoo. The women also received hair brushes and other cosmetic related items to enhance their lives. The volunteers also assisted in the Dental area as well as with the collection of Scholarship applications and more.

The Backpacks and Handbags are primarily made by Linda Nelson with assistance from the Lions Club, Soroptomists and some helpers in Sonora CA. The teamwork resulted in the 1,000th backpack/handbag being given out year to date this weekend!!! Great job and a lot of hard work and many donated/purchased items to make this happen for those in need in Baja!!!

A new benefit offered at this weekend's clinic was the addition of Vitamins donated by The "Vitamin Angels" organization. Children's vitamins as well as Pre and Post Natal Women's vitamins were distributed, in conjunction with our normal vitamin distribution program, with careful oversight from our Doctors and Nurses. More to come as this program gets fully underway starting next clinic!!!

We also had a generous donation of portable canopies by Susanne Huebel, one of our Nurses. This was a welcome addition particularly given the heat and the fact that otherwise the large number of attendees at the clinic would normally wait to be seen with little shelter from the sun. - Chris Nelson



Chris Nelson brings smiles to many with the Backpacks for Baja program.



A VERY Special Thanks to Our Sponsors!



The books donated by the "Love, Talk, Read" organization have been a great hit with our younger patients.



The Lions Club's "Folsom Project for the Visually Impaired" has been a wonderful source of sunglasses, which are critical to protecting the vision of our patients from the sun.

Eager recipients line up to receive their backpacks.



We are excited to be able to distribute pre and post natal vitamins provided at no cost by Vitamin Angels!