



Flying Samaritans

Mother Lode Chapter

Clinic Report - August 2018

Primary Care Clinic

Going to Baja in August was a bit different than other clinics. The landing strip at Los Pinos ranch is closed because of an expired permit (it is in the renewal process).

Doug Wirzberger flew from Stockton with passengers **Megan** (his daughter), **Charlie Arita** and **Matthew Warnock**; **Charlie Santoni** flew from Woodland with passengers, **Jessica Gonzales**, **Chris Nelson** and **Zohreh Marashi**; they landed in Ensenada and drove with **Joe Zachwieja** to clinic. Joe usually drives from his home in Oceanside to clinic each month. **Joel Prosser** flew from Sacramento with passengers **Bob Haining** and **Michele Raithel**. They landed at The Old Mill runway just outside San Quintin. All three planes flew through lots of smoke on their way south from Northern California. I rode with **Rick** and **Margie** from San Diego, as I flew to San Diego on United.



Dianne VanOrder with local patients

We arrived in San Quintin to lots of dust, very high humidity and heat. I think it was the hottest weather of any clinic I have previously attended. Saturday, clinic day, was the same hot, humid weather, the fans we had didn't help much except move warm air. Our registration clerk **Cecelia** did a great job at initial registration for patients seeing one of the medical doctors. Cecelia is a long timer volunteer who lives in San Quintin. She has helped Flying Samaritans over several years with multiple things. .

Our patient load in the medical clinic numbered 42. Our two doctors were busy with the usual maladies. I had help from a couple who live part-time in San Quintin, **Cheryl** and **Michael Flores**. Cher did vital signs and roomed patients, and Michael was a jack-of-all-trades, helping in the dental clinic and anywhere else he was needed. They were extremely helpful. Looking forward to having them back at clinic again! Things went very smoothly.

Dr. Haining saw his usual 'kids' (chronically ill and disabled) as well as most of the pediatric patients. Dr. Raithel was a first time volunteer and saw a variety of maladies. She removed an unsightly wart on the chin of a 9 year old girl; which after healing, will be esthetically much better than before. The child was very self-conscious about how she looked. It was probably a life changing thing for her. It was also a very rewarding experience for a first time doc. Michelle found her way around most everything in the clinic, and hopefully, will come back.

We finished the medical clinic early as the patients and the staff were overwhelmed by the heat and humidity. The dentists stayed a bit longer to finish the patients who had signed in.

Joel left San Quintin on Sunday morning with his passengers, and the other two pilots and their passengers travelled by van to Ensenada, then flew home. Everyone arrived by late Sunday afternoon. Another successful clinic that brings a ton of satisfaction to all of us.

Dianne VanOrder, RN

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
- Revamps Hair Salon, Lucy and Andrea
- 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
- Pam Crause, Kathy Schneider
- Hangtown Fiber Guild



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

Backpacks for Baja



The August Clinic celebrated reaching over 3,228 "Backpacks For Baja" distributed to those in need since the program began in 2014!!!

Chris, with the assistance of several local volunteers, distributed over 90 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". Women attending the clinic also received handmade handbags that include personal care items, sunglasses, and a special gift. Volunteers 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. Over 75 of these dresses were distributed. The **Rolling Hills Church** sewing team also contributed handmade children's dresses, dolls and other children's items, including shorts for young boys, 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.

We also gave out a large supply of handmade hats and scarf's 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 (Over 2,000 program to date!!!!!!) 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 also coordinates the packaging and transportation of all the other items distributed, including the monthly supply of women's and children's vitamins. 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

In August 69 optical exams were completed. Nearly all of the patients needing glasses were fitted on the spot this month and left the clinic with a smile and greatly improved vision!!! Two pairs of glasses was ordered for patients with an unusual prescription. This successful outcome was thanks to the improved work flow instituted by **Margie Wilson** as well as her diligence and training of the entire team!!! This is very significant in our effort to assist those in need of vision care on the day they are evaluated. Margie was assisted by **Charley Santoni, Doug and Megan Wirzberger, Chris, Angie** as well as other local volunteers in the fitting/evaluation area.



Historically, we have been able to fit about 95 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.

This was a team effort. **Joe Zachwieja** managed the exam process utilizing an Auto Refractor as well as a Spot Vision unit. **Judy**, a long time local volunteer managed the intake of new patients and assisted with exams as well as providing knowledgeable assistance to all. Judy's son Jesus and a friend, **Victoria** as well as **Candy Castro**, a local student and the daughter of one of our long time volunteers, gave oversight to the

distribution of children's and adult sunglasses.

We had a pre exam completed by other local volunteers including **Melanie**, and **Sherlyn** the daughters of long time volunteers, **Imelda** and **Minerva**. We continued to train/utilize everyone that was capable to ensure timely service for those in need.

The total number of patients seen was well over 125 with the 69 exams referenced above completed using the Auto Refractor and/or Spot Vision. In addition we gave out 28 pairs of readers and 2 pairs of glasses ordered from months prior. We also distributed approximately 100 pairs of sunglasses. This included Men's, Women's and Children's sunglasses. 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

A Fresh Perspective...

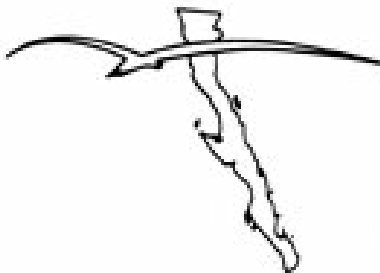
This month, our "Fresh Perspective" comes from
Jesica Gonzalez



Jesica Gonzalez examining a dental patient

Volunteering has been an important aspect of my life. My experiences range from volunteering at soup kitchens to providing dental services like what we did in San Quitin. Regardless of type of volunteer experience, I've always felt significantly grateful to use my knowledge and skills to help others in need. Living in the US, we are privileged to have greater access to medical and dental care. Although the community at San Quitin lacks this, it makes me happy to see how many volunteers take time out of their busy schedules to get a medical and dental clinic up and going. At one point, we lost track of how many patients we saw, so we were very busy! That shows how much this community needs dental care.

I enjoyed my experience volunteering with the Flying Samaritans and the continuity of care available to patients, if they visit the clinic on a monthly basis. I hope to join this organization on future trips and try to emphasize prevention. For this community, preventative education is key and can at times hold more value than dental services. Any general volunteer can provide oral hygiene education, even when dentists aren't available to provide dental services. We had an amazing team this month and I can't wait to join you all again in another clinic in the future. Gracias, hasta pronto San Quitin!



Flying Samaritans®

SAMARITANOS VOLADORES

Del Presidente



Our dedicated volunteers serving the local community

GOING THE EXTRA MILE (OR KILOMETER)

As I'm sure others have described in this month's newsletter, our August volunteers really went the extra mile to provide the clinic services. Still hampered by the expired permit at Los Pinos airstrip, we were forced to be a little creative in thinking about how to get our volunteers to San Quintin. Thanks to the tolerance of our dental crew and Joe Z's willingness to pick us up at Ensenada in a rented van, we were able to operate the medical, optical and dental clinic. The three hour drive from Ensenada is scenic, and a van full of energized volunteers (some newbies) helped to make the trip even more fun.

But the hurdle really helped me to realize how lucky we are to have our clinic located at Los Pinos. As a pilot, I really appreciate the long, paved runway. And we all know how nice it is to enjoy the short car ride to the beautiful Hotel Mision Santa Maria after the long flight. But more than the conveniences, we are lucky to have the wonderful support of the Rodriguez family. The family has assisted us in countless ways over the years. And most recently, they enabled us to expand our optical services by providing more space in the clinic building. In the near future, they have also committed to helping us upgrade the garage/shed to make it into even more suitable and usable space for our clinic. Their support makes it so much easier to achieve our monthly goals of serving the most amount of people in San Quintin!

So as I keep my fingers crossed that the airstrip can be used again soon, I also remain thankful for all of the factors that make our clinic in San Quintin such a special place to spend a weekend!

Thank you for your AWESOME support,

Doug Wirzberger

Dental Report

The August dental clinic was another busy day. The number of patients for restorations were double the amount for extractions. This is always great to see. I am hopeful that the efforts by Flying Sams have contributed to the lower number of extractions. Our goal is to educate and help preserve teeth whenever possible.

The dental staff was made up of three first timers. **Dr. Matt Warnock** from Morgan Hill, **Dr. Zoreh Marashi** and our 4th year dental student **Jesica Gonzalez**. Matt showed off his oral surgical skills with our complex extractions as well as



restoring as many teeth as we could get in his chair. Zoreh received her dental degree just two months ago from UCSF. A former hygienist, Zoreh was off and running with the first patient of the morning. Jesica is currently applying for a pediatric dental residency. With her calm demeanor and chairside skills with our younger patients, Jesica will make a wonderful pedodontist. The one patient I remember the most was the 14 year old girl with a severely decayed upper front tooth. Her mother thought we may have to pull the tooth. Jesica, Matt and myself tag teamed to save the tooth with a root canal and an esthetic filling. Her mother was so grateful. Thank you to Michael for keeping the flow of sterilizing our instruments throughout the day. **Minerva** as always is such a big help to our clinic and still finds time to breastfeed her son.

Jesica Gonzalez, Zoreh Marashi, Charlie Arita, and Matt Warmock, the dental dream team!

A special thank you to **Rick Wilson** for repairing the dental arm on one of our units. Previous attempts were made to make it more functional. But somehow Rick managed to pull a Houdini and stabilize the arm.

We are hoping that our new dental members will return again to San Quintin. Thank you for all for your efforts. I know we made a difference.

We are hoping to have two more dental clinics before the end of the year. Looking forward to my next trip.

Charlie Arita



Expanding Orthotic Services

"Hecho Por Amigos Para Amigos - Agosto 2018"

We are in the process of refurbishing the current garage space to accommodate a patient area where Orthodists can better assist those in need.

With our ever expanding array of services and growing needs of clients, every bit of space is needed!

The project will take a number of months 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, both local and from the U.S. as needed.



The space is approximately 30' X 15' and is in need of a new roof as well as flooring and a complete interior build out. Rick has put together a detailed cost estimate that was presented to Pinos Ranch representatives requesting assistance. A meeting was held in July with a representative of the **Rodriguez Family** and the estimate is still in the review process and we expect a response in September.

All resources are being evaluated as the need for assistance with this project is significant.

A special thanks to everyone who has assisted with this project to date. In particular **Rick Wilson** the project leader.

Thanks!!!! It will not happen without great teamwork!!!!

Scholarships Summer 2018

The Pat Collins Scholarship Program, named in memory of Pat Collins, a Mother Lode Chapter member and pilot, has been in effect for years. We have provided scores of scholarships over the years for students determined to succeed where many fail.

On August 11, we awarded 79 scholarships to qualifying students! A record number. Last year we had 48.

More than 100 applications were submitted this year. We were able to grant the 79 scholarships because of funds made possible by concerned individuals. Two of these individuals were educated in Mexico, and now strongly encourage us to continue our work. They know the challenges facing the students.

The question has been asked: How do we know the funds are used for the students' education?

I'll answer question with the information shown below.

We have four criteria that must be met to qualify.

First of all, a GPA at or near a 10, (an A).

(2) Teacher recommendations are required;

(3) An essay describing his or her goals and plans;

(4) Financial need (If the parents own the local grocery store, for example, they need not apply.)

By meeting these requirements, a student has demonstrated his/her determination to succeed in a Difficult environment. They will also succeed later in life in business, education or the medical field.



These students are eligible to work in the fields at age sixteen; instead they are pursuing their education in the classroom.

Education is not free in Mexico. For example, uniforms that are required cost \$94 US. Nearly a week's pay for a worker in the fields. And there are other expenses.

I'm privileged to work with Frank Marquez, who translates all the applications, spending many hours in the process; along with the printing of the scholarships.

I'm looking forward to the 2019 school year. Hopefully, we'll be able to help many more students then.

Please join me as we designate funds for the program. All contributions are tax deductible. Every dollar goes for scholarships and never for overhead.

Joel Prosser, Pilot and Transportation Coordinator