



*Flying Samaritans*

# Mother Lode Chapter

Clinic Report - September 2018

## Primary Care Clinic

September was another Flying Samaritan clinic without the availability of the airstrip at Los Pinos. **Charley Santoni** picked up **Bill McDavid** and **Chris Nelson** in Placerville, then flew to Stockton to pick me up to fly to San Quintin. He was our only pilot this month.

We took off into somewhat smoky skies but good weather throughout the US, but had bumpy spots over northern Baja because of heat from the mountains causing thermals. We landed at Mexicali in very hot/humid weather, about 114 degrees on the ground there. We finished with immigration and customs and headed south to San Quintin. We arrived to 75 degree weather with a bit of a wind off the ocean, WOW cool.

We landed at Campo Lorenzo in San Quintin which is a dirt/gravel airstrip. **Rick** and **Margie Wilson** drove from San Diego to run the optical clinic. **Cher** and **Michael Flores** and their friend **Nina** who live locally joined us at clinic on Saturday.



We saw 32 patients in the medical clinic. We had a pregnant woman who was 8 months, but had seen a physician in San Quintin who told her she needed an ultrasound. Because she was not feeling any fetal movement;

and, she had lost her first pregnancy at six weeks and was very anxious about this one. On ultrasound, she could see fetal movement and a fetal heartbeat, she was reassured and thankful for the test. These are the times when you know why you are doing what you do.

I was also able to talk to the Social Service worker who had brought in a 4 year old little girl in June of this year with a cleft lip and palate. In June she also had chicken pox and we had to put off referral until she had recovered. I have gotten Operation Smile involved, as well as a couple of other options and am hoping that we can somehow get her surgery to repair her facial problems. More to come for this child, give us your positive thoughts, as this surgery will change her life.

We took off early Sunday morning to return home, had the same heat/humidity problems in Northern Baja as the flight south. We also had almost total cloud cover when we got to Mexicali and Charley had to do an instrument approach into the airstrip. In all the time flying into and out of Mexicali this was the first time IFR (instrument) flying was necessary. We made it home around 2pm.

-**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
- Maria Boyd
- Barsotti Family/Fran Ward
- Barbara Goyette
- Karin Aguilar
- Fiber Fanatics Knitting Group
- Lofti Lou Knitting Groups
- Joyce Hansen
- Elena Munoz-Plaza
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- Eloisa Ciancaglioni, 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
- James Fox
- Cody Lee
- Leanne Camisa, MD
- Sacramento Heart
- 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 September Clinic celebrated reaching over 3,298 "Backpacks For Baja" distributed to those in need since the program began in 2014!!!

Chris, with the assistance of several local volunteers, distributed over 40 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 30 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 September 59 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!!! Three 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, Chris, Lucie, Dalia, Rosie** 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. Charley Santoni 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. Inez and Cynthia, 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 59 exams referenced above completed using the Auto Refractor and/or Spot Vision. In addition we gave out 28 pairs of readers and 3 pairs of glasses ordered from months prior. We also distributed approximately 150 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

## Expanding Orthotic Services

**"Hecho Por Amigos Para Amigos - September 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 September with a representative of the Rodriguez Family and the estimate is still in the review process and we expect a response in October.

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!!!!