



*Flying Samaritans*

# Mother Lode Chapter

## Clinic Report - October 2018

### Primary Care Clinic

WE HAVE OUR AIRSTRIP AT LOS PINOS BACK IN OPERATION AT LEAST FOR THE NEXT 180 DAYS!!

We took off to blue skies from Tracy, CA with **Sunny Sethi** as pilot for **Dianne VanOrder**, **Michelle McLanahan** and his son, **Montek** (a 9th grader in Tracy). **Doug Wirzberger** as pilot, transported **Chris Nelson**, **Robin Berrin** and

**Leanne Camisa** from Placerville. (We didn't find out about the airstrip until late Thursday afternoon so we had some volunteers who were not able to attend). We had some winds and clouds flying south, but no problems.

We had several people drive to clinic (not an unusual occurrence: **Gordon Worley** and **Renada Halliday** from No. California; **Joe Zachwieja** and **Andrea Powell** from Oceanside, CA; **Raffy** and **Eliza Rodriguez**, **Ronald Arango**, **Mhark Calanoc**, **Katherina Furlow** and **Laden Mohammadabadi** from So. California; and **Rick** and **Margie Wilson** from El Cajon, CA. We also had **Cher** and **Michael Flores** and **Nina Wright** who live in San Quintin.

The medical clinic with two providers was busy, we saw 60 patients. Both Dr. Camisa and Nurse Practitioner Gordon Worley saw a variety to problems from minor to major dispensing medicines and other treatments. We called the case manager for the little 4 year old girl, Maria, who we first saw in June of this year. She has a cleft



lip/palate and arrangements were made for her to see a Gold Coast Flying Samaritan plastic surgeon at next weekend's clinic at Buen Pastor Hospital. She came in for an exam and further instructions for her appointment/surgery next weekend. We will let you know what happens as treatment continues! I can tell you that it was one of the highlights of the day just knowing that she is going to get treatment that will change her life.

We also saw an 85 year old man who has been on crutches for the last 30 years. He is only about 4 feet tall, and moves very, very slowly on crutches. He has cerebral palsy. He asked for a wheelchair and we had one so he left the clinic seated, not having to struggle with crutches. It was awesome!!! If you want to know why we do what we do, Maria and Mr. Bautista are the reasons.

I would like to say a bit about our San Quintin volunteers, Cher and Michael Flores and Nina Wright. They have come on clinic Saturday several times and make a great difference with their help. They are fluent in Spanish and that in itself is wonderful. Cher helps with intake, Michael is a "jack of all trades" and Nina has worked in the past as a medical assistant. Nina did all of our vital signs at the October clinic and stayed at her post the entire day. The clinic simply could not have been run without her help, thank you does not seem to be enough for them, but THANK YOU.

**Clinic Coordinator Dianne VanOrder**

My pilot, Sunny Sethi brought his son Montek with him to this clinic, and he has also brought his daughter Sahej in the past. Montek worked in the

dental clinic all day doing a bit of everything. He is a "pilot-in-training" and will soon have his student pilot's license. He is a 9th grader at Tracy High School. They both will continue to come to help Flying Sams in San Quintin.

Sunday morning we ate a bit of breakfast and left to clear blue skies and sunshine.

We had some headwinds on the way north, but landed safely mid-afternoon on Sunday. Another very successful clinic.

**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
- 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
- Marcella Claassen
- Lisa Smith
- Bruce Uch/Angkor Pharmacy



**This 85-year old patient has been using crutches for more than 30 years. He is now enjoying better mobility in the first wheelchair he's ever owned.**

# Backpacks for Baja



The October Clinic celebrated reaching over 3,3588 "Backpacks For Baja" distributed to those in need since the program began in 2014!!!

**Chris**, with the assistance of 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**". Women attending the clinic also received 20 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 October 118 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 **Angie, Chris, Lucie, Dalia, Sunny Inderdeep** as well as other local volunteers in the fitting/evaluation area.



Historically, we have been able to fit over 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. **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.

**Margie Wilson is a bundle of great energy. The young patients really love the extra little gifts that she brings for them each month.**

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 150 with the 118 exams referenced above completed using the Auto Refractor and/or Spot Vision. In addition we gave out 45 pairs of readers and 3 pairs of glasses ordered from months prior. We also distributed approximately 170 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 first "Fresh Perspective" comes from **Leanne Camisa**



**Robin Berrin and Leanne Camisa**

It was with excitement and trepidation that I planned my first trip with the Flying Samaritans to Los Pinos. Due to problems with the landing strip permit I was on the short list of essential personal and assigned to a pilot who was not fearful of landing on dirt! I was glad he had nerves of steel but not sure how mine would hold up. When I awoke Friday morning to the email that the permit had come through I breathed a sign of relief but still had to make it through the flight with my GA pilot. So lucky was I to have **Doug Wirzberger** as my pilot (soon to be commercial pilot) and **Chris Nelson** also GA pilot sitting in the copilot seat. Through the clouds and small amount of turbulence I felt calm and secure, we even did a drive by of

Yosemite on the way back!

Los Pinos is in a truly special part of Baja where even rudimentary Spanish goes a long way, somehow less inundated with vacationers it feels more like old Mexico. The hotel is right on the beach perfect for long walks and sunsets, the rooms are spacious and adequate and the margaritas will flow all night if you let them!

I shared general medicine duties with **Gordon Worley NP** an experienced volunteer at Los Pinos and a great asset to have along particularly as he had managed to load up to date so it worked in the clinic! Not sure I would've remembered pediatric griseofulvin dosing for treatment of tinea capitis without it. We saw about 60 patients, bronchitis and gastritis were the recurring theme but also had diabetes, seizure disorder and hypertension follow ups. Last couple of the day was a fertility consult. We were able to fit an elderly gentleman with Cerebral Palsy with a wheelchair as age and frailty were interfering with his ability to use crutches. The translators were excellent and there was lots of help for me and my rudimentary Spanish. Thank you **Andrea** who stood by my side tirelessly translating and eventually we got the pronunciation for alergias correct!

The clinic runs like a well oiled machine with **Diane VanOrder RN** as the Jefe, keeping us all in line and always going the extra mile for the patient. The work in the dental clinic and optometry is truly amazing as there is very little access to dental care and optometry for the undeserved in Mexico. I can't wait to go again and work with these amazing people.

**-Leanne Camisa**

## A Fresh Perspective...

This month, our second "Fresh Perspective" comes from **Montek Sethi**



**Montek Sethi (far right) assisting in the dental clinic**

Hello, my name is Montek Sethi and I am a 13 year old high school freshman. My father is a pilot who volunteers with Flying Samaritans, participating in various clinics. He volunteers about 4-5 times a year, and I finally had an opportunity to go once again. My first time to Baja California with Flying Samaritans was to Guerrero Negro in the spring of 2017. Last time I mostly helped a local dental resident with suctioning etc. This trip I was interested again with helping in the dental clinic due to how interesting I had found it previously. This time, I had the amazing opportunity to perform a dental extraction under the guidance of Dr. Berrin. I used the autoclave to sanitize tools and instruments. I enjoyed helping people, assisting

doctors, as well as meeting and talking with people in the group. I learned a lot about dental instruments, tools, machines, and various procedures. On the flight there and back, I got to be the co-pilot managing radio's and communications with the controllers a few times. I would love to come more often and help with this wonderful cause of giving back to the community and helping people in need.

**-Montek Sethi**

## Del Presidente



The text message was a complete surprise. I had to rub my eyes a bit in disbelief, then take a second glance. It was so subtle, but it carried the news I had been anxiously awaiting for so many months. Ok, a third glance was required. "We got the permit!" It was sent from Arturo Rodriguez of Los Piños Ranch. I rubbed my eyes again. What shock and irony. The airstrip at Los Piños had been off limits for our use since the May clinic due to an expired permit. Despite the ranch's best efforts, the wheels of the Mexican government were turning soooooo slowly, making it a big challenge for us provide complete clinics in San Quintin. Just a few days before, we had to cancel people and planes that had hopes of attending the October clinic with us but with the stipulation that we could use the Los Piños airstrip. It is never a good feeling to have to cancel

volunteers, as we know that people's time is valuable. We had a great group of Rotarians lined up to go from a club that has been incredibly financially supportive of our work in San Quintin. We were excited to have them along so that they could experience first hand how their support is put to use at our clinic. So we are back in business! We hope that any volunteers that we had to cancel during the strip closure will register again to join us for a clinic in the near future. Our team does incredible things in San Quintin, and it's a great feeling to witness someone who observes our work for the first time. All aboard!!!

# Dental Report

For the April 2018 Dental Clinic we were well staffed despite a shortage of planes due to the runway closure at Los Pinos. **Liza Barres Rodrigues DDS** drove in from Southern California with her husband **Raffy Rodriguez** along with two young men **R. Marc** and **Mhark** plus **Katherina**. Liza handled the restorative treatment and some extractions with **Katherina** assisting and Marc and Mhark very ably cleaned instruments and ran the autoclave. Raffy supplied technical support and documented everything on Facebook. **Minerva Ramirez Diaz**, lives in the area and was of immense help translating, assisting and handling patient flow. We were fortunate to have **Ladan**

**Mohammadabadi RDH** who singlehandedly cleaned the teeth of 16 patients. While I don't have the specific number of teeth in each of her patients' mouths that could easily amount to well over 400 teeth! Go Ladan! Also working in the clinic was myself, **Robin Berrin DDS** with my dental assistant **Michelle McClanahan RDA** plus **Montek Sethi** whose father, **Sonny** flew one of the planes. Montek was a terrific help making sure that all trays were set up and ready for every patient. Marc, Mhark, Katrina and Montek watched/assisted some procedures and I see them as budding future dentists and wonderful examples of their generation.



**Eliza Barres Rodriques**

of the teeth were severely decayed with many requiring surgical extractions, which took more time. Dental hygiene kits were distributed to all patients.

Thanks to the wonderful volunteer dental team who spent their weekend time and money to make this clinic so productive. And thanks to the pilots and numerous volunteers who make Flying Samaritans happen.

**-Robin Berrin**



**Robin Berrin and Michelle McClanahan**



## Expanding Orthotic Services

### "Hecho Por Amigos Para Amigos - Octubre 2018"

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 Wilson is putting together another detailed cost estimate that will be presented to Pinos Ranch representatives requesting assistance. A meeting was held in October with a representative of the Rodriguez Family and they are receptive but asked for the more detailed cost estimates.



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.

## Dr. Demshar's Annual Fundraising Event Helps Mother Lode



**Dr. John Demshar (second from right)**

Dr. John Demshar has been a tremendous help to our optical clinic in San Quintin. In addition to his tireless energy in examination of our patients, he also continues to be a cornerstone in our efforts to use recycled lenses. Each year, Dr. Demshar opens his home in Stockton to host a great fundraising event. This year, the event was held on Saturday September 15th. It is a great event with a beautiful view of the delta and lots appetizers and tequila and wine samples to taste. There is a silent auction as well. The Mother Lode's Chris Nelson was surprised and proud to receive a donation from Dr. Demshar which was a portion of the proceeds from the fundraiser which also benefits the Central Valley chapter of the Flying Samaritans and Lions In Sight. A HUGE THANK YOU to Dr. Demshar for your support of our chapter!

## Upcoming Clinics 2019

The clinic dates for 2019 are now available! Mark your calendars now and be sure to sign up in advance to secure your spot!

Jan. 11-13

Feb. 8-10

March 8-10

Apr. 12-14

May 10-12

June 7-9

July 12-14

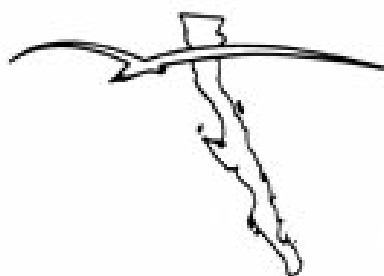
Aug. 9-11

Sept. 13-15

Oct. 11-13

Nov. 8-10

Dec. 13-15



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