



*Flying Samaritans*

# Mother Lode Chapter

Clinic Report - November 2018

**Primary Care Clinic** **Chris Nelson** took off from Placerville to blue skies and arrived in Stockton to pick me up to very smokey skies, that continued all down the Valley for all the pilots;

**Sunny Seth**, along with his son **Montek**, flew to Livermore to pick up **Theresa Noe** and **Jeff Wolinsky**; **Randy Sharp** flew **Paul Densler** and **Mariana Locke**; and, **Charley Santoni** flew **Theresa Makiyama**, **Maria Gaspar**



and **Gwen Douglas** from the Bay Area. There were some Santa Ana winds over the southern desert, but mostly a smooth flight.

We were greeted by a good crowd of people when we got to clinic on Saturday morning, everyone was ready to go. This usually happens, the good crowd, when we have dentists.

We had only one medical provider, but Mariana is one of our most experienced practitioners and saw patient after patient. She had a very elderly lady who requested a wheelchair, and we will see that she gets one at our next clinic.

We saw a total of 47 patients, and again, I want to say Mariana, our nurse practitioner saw them. This is a lady who has been giving her time and talent for well over 50 years, not just with Flying Samaritans but with multiple other agencies in other third world countries. She is the best!

Sunday morning was bright and blue and we left early for Northern California.

When we arrived it appeared that Stockton was "smoked in" and that landing would have to be IFR (instrument) but Chris would be unable to takeoff for home, which for Chris is Placerville. He flew into Modesto, and then headed home without incident. My sister came to Modesto to pick me up.

It was a successful and very heart-warming clinic. Will do it again.

# 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.
- Sorooptimist 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, Folsom 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
- Cheryl Francis, Grace & Mercy, Lodi



**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 November Clinic celebrated reaching over 3,488 "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 November 118 optical exams were completed. 100% of the patients needing glasses were fitted on the spot this month and left the clinic with a smile and greatly improved vision!!! 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, Joanna** and **Sunny Inderdeep** as well as other local volunteers in the fitting/evaluation area.



Historically, we have been able to fit over 97 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. Margie managed the exam process including 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**, 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 and assisted wherever needed.

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

time volunteers, **Imelda** and **Minerva** as well as **Denya**, the daughter of Judy. We ensure timely service for those in need.

We had a pre exam completed by other local volunteers including **Melanie**, and **Sherlyn** the daughters of long

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 35 pairs of readers and 2 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!!!

A special thanks goes out to **Randy Sharp** who custom built a pair of glasses for a young boy with serious vision issue and we did not have a good fit in stock. 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



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.

Rick is working on the cost estimates with Victor Castro a local contractor that we work with who is also the husband of Cecilia, a long time volunteer. 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!!!!



# Dental Clinic

The dental clinic at Los Pinos served another large crowd of patients on a beautifully mild November day. The numbers mirrored previous clinics with almost 50 patients seen, the vast majority of which were extractions, and then turned to restorations in the late afternoon. Everyone worked hard, but had a good time along the way.

On the way into clinic on Friday, **Theresa** and **Jeff Wolinsky** and I along with some others, got a chance to stop in before heading to the hotel. The obligatory beer & margaritas, paired with chips and salsa, had to wait for a short time. We used the stop-in to set up exam trays, organize and stock the instrument drawers, and generally get things prepped for an early start on Saturday. It felt good to prep this way and it should be considered by any dental volunteers in the future. Clinic can get a bit chaotic at times and at least knowing where things are and how they are stocked is a great feeling leading up to a busy Saturday.



Our planned early start was constrained somewhat by a large Hotel Santa Maria breakfast. We still managed to roll in before 8 though and only needed a few minutes to settle in before having our first 4 patients seated in the chairs. The team in the clinic consisted of now one, but two Dr. Theresa's. **Theresa K.** and **Theresa W.** I tried my best to keep up with these two as the day flew by. Theresa W's husband **Jeff** ran sterilization with speed and precision. The assisting core consisted of Theresa K's good friend **Maria**, our regular local assistant Minerva, and local college student **Dalia**. **Sonny** and his son **Montek** helped chairside and on repairs. **Randy** not only safely flew me to clinic and back, but also teamed up with **Rick** to help with repairs. We all remarked that it was one of the best clinics we have been to in terms of lots of hands on deck

helping to make the day progress smoothly. Great job team!

## Eliza Barres Rodriques

of the clinic. Numbing on one chair and extracting teeth in the other. It was a site to behold! As the afternoon turned to fillings, I had one young man in my chair who I had just gotten numb. Theresa came back to see if I needed help with anything and my patient caught sight of her walking over. His eyes widened and he turned to Minerva to quickly rattle off a question. The word that us poor-Spanish-speaking folks heard was 'extraction'. Poor guy thought that when he saw Theresa walking over his filling had turned into an extraction. We quickly settled his nerves that we were not going to take out his tooth, but from that point forward Theresa K. got her nickname. The EXTRACTOR (said in a Spanish accent, of course)!

Rick set up another dinner for us that night over at Eucalypto, which has to be one of the best restaurants in the world! My food, and all the others I sampled, were fantastic.

I think our take home lesson from this clinic was 'organization and simplification'. I think we can all agree that the instrumentation for extractions has become well organized over the years, but that we can use some improvement to organize and simplify the restorative (fillings) side. We came up with some ideas and hope to try and bring those into reality in the future. All for the benefit of our great patients, that we see each month down in Baja.

**-Paul Denzler, DDS**



One fun memory of this clinic was the new nickname that we got for Theresa K. She was running the two dental chairs in the front

for Theresa K. She was running the two dental chairs in the front

## When miracles happen...

### Maria De Los Angeles Galvez Vivar

We first saw 4 year old Maria in our June clinic 2018. She had chicken pox, but her mother and a case worker from Social Services brought her to our clinic because of her cleft lip/palate. Because of the chicken pox we were unable to do much for her except have her return the following month. That also gave us time to see what we could do about reconstructive surgery. After much searching which included Operation Smile and other options in Mexico, our Gold Coast Chapter of Flying Samaritans' physician Dr. Sam Bern got involved. Sometimes you just have to look close to home to find answers!

On October 11th Dr. Bern began partial repair of Maria's cleft lip. We saw her in our clinic on November 10th cleaned the wound and removed some sutures that had not dissolved. She will need additional surgery for her cleft palate, but must heal completely from this first surgery.

There are many reasons why Flying Samaritans volunteers, as well as other medical volunteers, do what they do. For me, it is to perhaps change a life, and that doesn't happen very often, but this was certainly the case with Maria.

She had very limited possibilities growing up with such a deformity. Now she can go to school, she probably would not have, and live her life like every other normal child. This is a very special child and I look forward to her smile.

There are miracles. What a blessing.

**-Dianne VanOrder, RN**



## 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

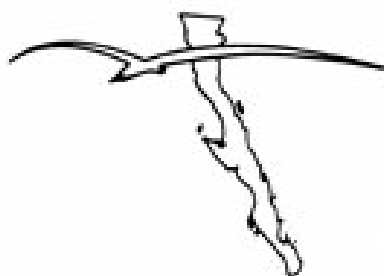
Aug. 9-11

Sept. 13-15

Oct. 11-13

Nov. 8-10

Dec. 13-15



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