



Flying Samaritans

Mother Lode Chapter

Clinic Report - January 2019

Primary Care Clinic

Chris Nelson left Placerville airport with Dianne VanOrder, Gordon Worley and Robin Berrins to gusty winds on takeoff; Doug Wirzberger left Stockton with Linda Ogata, Jack Olson and Martin Weybret; Randy Sharp also flew from Stockton with Dorothy Rehmke. We all had smooth flights to San Quintin.

It had been raining and continued to rain while at clinic on Saturday. Lots of mud and standing water. It didn't stop anyone from coming to clinic, Wwe arrived at 8 AM to a parking lot full of people.



When we have dentists as part of our volunteers we are never short of patients. Our dentists for this trip drove from Southern California.

Our medical provider was Gordon Worley, who is a Nurse Practitioners. He has volunteered with us several times over 20 years. He is very experienced, has worked as a flight nurse, has a lot of experience in emergency medicine and is now teaching physician assistants at UC Davis in Sacramento. We also had a pediatrician from San Quintin join us, Dr. Ramon Gonzalez, lives and works in San Quintin and was with us for several hours. Nina

Wright an ex-pat who lives in San Quintin also helped in the medical clinic. She has worked as a medical assistant for many years and she has been helping at our clinic for several months. She makes a wonderful addition to our intake/triage staff. We saw 35 patients in medicine and were very busy we didn't get back to the hotel until 545 PM. (that's a long day for us!) I was able to get some housekeeping done with putting away supplies that we had flown down. Our complaints were mostly colds and coughs and some urinary problems. We had a two year old girl who had the back of both legs burned with gasoline on Christmas Day. The burns were mostly first and second degree and were healing nicely. She had somehow got gasoline on her pajamas and they caught on fire. Her complaint was "itching" which of course means that they were healing. There was one area that needed antibiotic ointment which we applied and bandaged, and gave her cream to cover burned healing areas, for the extent of her injuries she was very lucky and the best patient ever.

Sunday morning was blue skies with a few clouds (it had been 'iffy" flying weather all weekend and we had not been sure we would be able to fly on Sunday) so blue skies were much appreciated. We all took off just after 730 AM with 10 Km tailwinds. The weather remained ideal and it was a smooth ride all the way to Northern California. We all landed around noon safely.

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, 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
- Nina Wright
- 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
- Lisa Smith

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

Backpacks for Baja

The January Clinic celebrated reaching over 3,588 "Backpacks For Baja" distributed to those in need since the program began in 2014!!!



Linda Nelson has made 2,290; Cheri Throckmorton and The Rolling Hills Church Team have made 1,039; Placer County Corrections Inmates have made 623 and other helpers made 529!!!!

Chris, with the assistance of Imelda and several other local volunteers, distributed over 65 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 Christmas 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 50 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 2,200 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 January over 100 optical exams were completed before noon and a total of 120 were completed for the day. Nearly 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, Lucy, Chris, Jack Olson, Sami Rehmke 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.

We had a pre exam completed by other local volunteers including Melanie, and Sherlyn the daughters of long time volunteers, Imelda and Minerva as well as Denya, the daughter of Judy. 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 160 with the 120 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 Nelson

Dental Clinic



The January clinic consisted of 3 dentists; Dr. Jane Salapong (GP), Dr. Esteban Camps (GP/Pedo), Dr. Robin Berrin, and Dr. Eliza Berris Rodriguez. They were joined by Ladan Mohammadabadi (Hygenist) along with several other volunteers, who assisted in sterilizing instruments, translating, and managing the overall flow for the clinic. Dr. Salapong completed 8 extractions, 10 cleanings, and 4 fillings. Dr. Campos had 13 extractions and 7 fillings. Dr. Rodriguez went through 12 extractions and 5 fillings. Dr. Berrin may have set a new record with 52 extractions. And Ladan went through an amazing 27 cleanings!



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SAMARITANOS VOLADORES

Fresh Prospective

This month, our first "Fresh Prospective" piece comes from Marty Weybret



Marty Weybret was joined by fellow Rotarians Jack Olson (middle) and Sami Rehmke (right)

Four members of the Lodi Tokay Rotary Club flew with Flying Samaritans Chris Nelson and Doug Wirzberger to the Alma Luminosa clinic held on January 12 in Los Pinos, San Quintín, Baja California. Here are their reactions.

Club President Sami Rehmke: I am humbled by my experience at the Los Pinos Clinic. I don't think I have ever been surrounded by so many people who seemed happy with who they were. I worked in the eye clinic and was

overwhelmed by what I saw and what we were able to do. From the young children who were

getting their first glasses, to the elderly who had worked in the fields most of their lives and were blinded by cataracts. Did I enjoy myself? Yes. Was I able to help people who needed it? Yes. Will I forever be changed by one weekend helping people who were just happy to get what they needed? Without a doubt.

Community Service chairwoman Linda Ogata: I knew that when I turned 60, I wanted to do something out of my comfort zone. So flying in a 4-seater plane to Baja California on a humanitarian mission fit the bill. I was so moved by the volunteers, patients, and especially the children who came to the clinic. A 1-year-old boy with a swollen infection on his face shook me. It was larger than my palm. The pediatrician said that it was "only a staph infection." Really?! We took in a 4-year-old girl, recovering from burns all over her legs caused by an accident with gasoline at a bonfire. It was a family celebration gone bad — very bad. Fortunately, the burns were healing nicely but the itching was driving her crazy. She couldn't help but scratch and her mom was concerned about new sores. At the clinic the new sores were treated and given something to lessen the itch. The medical staff averted a potential problem. She was the cutest little girl — too young to be suffering!

Newsletter editor Marty Weybret: I will remember the elderly woman who followed me for hours until I was able to give her information to get treatment for cataracts. Her name was María de Los Angeles, which means Mary of the Angels. I've worked hard to learn some Spanish, and Mexicans, here in California and those I've met traveling there, are invariably helpful, proud and full of the joy of life. Helping on a project like Los Pinos is loving my neighbors as they've loved me — it feels right.

Veteran Flying Samaritan member Jack Olson: There is only a 4 percent chance to be born an American and an even smaller chance to be a Californian. When you look at the problems of other places, I know I'm so lucky to have a good home, a healthy family and plenty to eat. I want to give back. Government can't fix this stuff.

-Marty Weybert

Fresh Prospective

This month, our second "Fresh Prospective" piece comes from Marc Arango



I'm Marc Arango and I am from Southern California. This was my first time volunteering for something. I didn't really know what I'd signed up for but I thought it would be fun to go, so I went. We woke up early Friday morning, and started our trek at 5:00 AM from Orange County to avoid the morning border crossing traffic in San Ysidro, Tijuana. We drove over 200 miles from Lake Forest, California all the way down to San Quintin, Baja California Sur. I slept through the most of the trip. We arrived later in the afternoon and checked-in the hotel and had a good night's sleep.

The next day we got ready for the day ahead of us. We ate delicious Mexican food for breakfast and drove to the clinic. I worked with the dental crew and I was assigned to clean the dental instruments and put them in the autoclave. I arranged the instruments in trays and handed them to the doctors after every patient. Throughout the day, I realized the value of the work I did and how working as a team became a symbol of efficiency.

Seeing how many people we've helped gave me a sense of gratitude, something money can't buy! We really impacted people's lives and it's really meaningful, going out there and helping people. This experience brought out the compassion in me in serving the underserved people of this rural farming community. I have committed to being a permanent volunteer and being part of the dental team led by my mentors, Raffy Rodriguez and Eliza Berris, for the Flying Samaritans!

-Marc Arango

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 put together a detailed plan that was presented to Pinos Ranch representatives requesting assistance. A meeting was held in December with a member of the Rodriguez Family/Pinos Ranch and he agreed to replace the roof and begin work on the cement floor. This work will begin in February, weather permitting.

Rick has completed cost estimates with the help of 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!!!!

