



*Flying Samaritans*

# Mother Lode Chapter

## Clinic Report - February 2019

### Primary Care Clinic

The sky was blue (for about 15 seconds), the clouds were frosty white and it was colder than we could imagine. We were ready for another flight to Baja and our Flying Sam clinic on February 8. **Chris Nelson** was flying **Dianne VanOrder**, **Leslie Randall** and **Mike Hemmingway**; **Sunny Sehti** from Tracy was picking up **Charlie** and **Mary Arita**, and **Giang Chu**, our dentists from San Jose; and **Tom Stevenson**, a new pilot was taking **Bob Haining** and **Tim Itoi** from Livermore and stopping in So. California for **Justin Sherrill**.



But it was not to be. The weather in both Northern California and Baja would not let our flights get off the ground. There was heavy snow in the foothills, Chris couldn't get out of his driveway and the Placerville Airport was iffy, and the other pilots did not want to risk the cold and icy conditions at altitude.

Our Optical Team from El Cajon was on their way by Thursday morning by road to San Quintin and were ready for an optical clinic. **Rick** and **Margie** (our Optical Technician) **Wilson** are our faithful and trusty team who drive each month to clinic. It is about a 5 hour drive, on sometimes a not too good roadway, but they do it every month. They are steadfast in their service

to the people of San Quintin. Our volunteers in San Quintin also made it to clinic. Though, disappointed, we will go in March. We may not be like the post office, "neither rain, nor snow, etc.", but we are like the energizer bunny we won't give up.

**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, 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
- 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 February Clinic celebrated reaching over 3,602 "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!!!!

**Cecilia**, with the assistance of **Imelda** and several other local volunteers, distributed over 20 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!!!!

## Optical Clinic

In February over 73 optical exams were completed before noon. 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 180 with the 73 exams referenced above completed using the Auto Refractor and/or Spot Vision. In addition we gave out 30 pairs of readers and 2 pairs of glasses ordered from months prior. We also distributed approximately 79 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.

# 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 January 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 March, 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 and the East Sacramento Rotary who are assisting with funding the project.

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

