

Flying Mother Lode Chapter

Clinic Report - August 2019

Primary Care Clinic

Northern California had bright blue skies with a few puffy clouds; **Chris Nelson** left Placerville (early early) and flew **Robin Berrin**, **Pam Fallo** and **Michele McLanahan**; **Charley Santoni** left Woodland and flew **Michael Caplan**, his grand-daughter **Mady Barth**, and stopped in Bakersfield for **Dr. Anu Rao**; **Peter Le Lievre** left San Ramon and flew **Al Pomarantz**, then picked up **Joel Prosser** and me in Stockton, and we all were headed for another clinic in San Quintin, Baja. There was a bit of a head wind all the way. **Bridget Moran** and her daughter **Olivia** (a medical student) rode with **Joe Zachwieja** from Oceanside.



San Quintin was blue skies and 75 degrees, after an over 100 degrees on the tarmac in Mexicali. Of course, we had a great breeze off the Pacific.

We saw 55 in the medical clinic. Dr. Rao (a pediatrician) saw all our pediatric patients (she also travels to San Felipe with Central Coast Flying Sams twice a year) also. Pam and Bridget saw our adult patients. Many return patients and kids with an assortment of problems, from colds, skin infections, etc. Lots of vitamins handed out to Mom's for their kids.

Charley had flown 6 bags of medications and miscellaneous supplies that had been sitting in

storage and I had things to put away. **Cher**, the gal who lives in San Quintin part of the year (she is a permanent resident of Mexico) came, did vital signs and saw that patients got to the right rooms for treatment. She was fantastic and I couldn't have done it without her. **Cecelia** was at the front desk checking in patients. It all went smoothly. We were finished about 3:30pm.

Sunday morning came early (to miss the hot temperatures in Mexicali and Calexico) took off through a cloud layer into bright blue cloudless skies at 1500 feet. My pilot commented "it is a perfect flying day". All of our pilots are skilled, dedicated, professional men who love flying (an understatement).

We arrived home around noon, safe and sound.

-Dianne VanOrder, RN

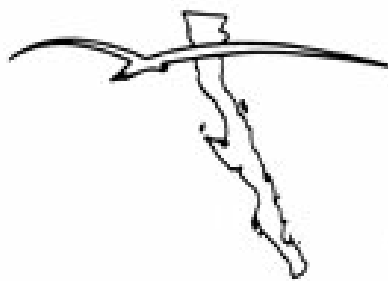
Thanks to our Sponsors! A SPECIAL THANKS to some of our many important program sponsors without whom The Flying Samaritans could not make the significant humanitarian impact delivered to those in need. Both monetary and non are essential to the operation of our clinic.

- 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, Bella Vista 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
- Nina Wright
- Nicholas and Carmen Soberanis
- Dennis and Carol Anne Venturelli
- Dennis Metzler

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



Flying Samaritans®

SAMARITANOS VOLADORES

Backpacks for Baja

The August Clinic celebrated reaching over 4107 "Backpacks For Baja" distributed to those in need since the program began in 2014!!!! **Linda**



Nelson has made 2,450; **Cheri Throckmorton** and the **Rolling Hills Church** team have made 1,190; **Placer County Corrections Inmates** have made 723 and other helpers made 640!!!!

Cecilia, with the assistance of **Imelda, Chris** and several other local volunteers, distributed over 85 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 50 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 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 2,450 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 August over 85 optical exams were completed before noon. 98% 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. patients were assisted by **Charley Santoni, Angie, Lucy, Chris**, 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. **Joe Zachwieja** managed the exam process including utilizing an Auto Refractor as well as having assistance from other local volunteers on the 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 150 with the 85 exams referenced above completed using the Auto Refractor and/or Spot Vision. In addition we gave out 35 pairs of readers and 3 pairs of glasses ordered from months prior. We also distributed approximately 130 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



Dental Clinic

The dental team consisted of **Robin Berrin**, Dentist (the writer) and my long time assistant **Michelle McLanahan** who flew on **Chris Nelson's** plane; **Al Pomeranz**, Dentist who flew on **Peter Le Lievre's** plane; **Michael Caplan**, Arden Arcade Rotary Club President who was an apt learner and hard worker keeping the instruments clean and running the autoclave, who flew with **Charley Santoni**. Michael was also able to arrange donations of several hundred backpacks, plus handheld calculators, colored pencil sets, blankets, yoga mats, baseball hats, and jump ropes where some came on this trip and others will wait for room on other trips—subject to room and weight restrictions. We were ably assisted and had

translation help from long time local volunteers **Minerva** and **Dalia**. We may have traveled on 3 different airplanes, and had "home grown" support but we were a team!



On Friday thanks to Chris's early departure from Placerville, a smooth flight, and the quickest immigration stop and refueling in Mexicali, Michelle and I along with fellow passenger **Pam Fallo** arrived early Friday, which allowed us time to set up the dental clinic for Saturday. Michelle, Pam and I also had time to drive into town, explore, stop at a Pharmacy, eat some street tacos, and even walk on the beach exploring and picking up Sand Dollars. As more volunteers arrived there was an evening get together and introductions of new members in the hotel quad--of course with Margaritas. Some of the volunteers chose to eat in the hotel while others traveled to outside restaurants.

Saturday after breakfast at the hotel, we arrived at the Dental Clinic ready to work. Since I'm a periodontist who

has not done regular restorative treatment in many decades we divided up the patients between extractions/surgical extractions with me and Dr. Pomeranz would do mostly restorative dentistry although there was some crossover. This was the first mission for Dr. Pomeranz so he needed to familiarize himself with the clinic and various types and brands of supplies and restorative materials and as a non-restorative dentist I was of marginal help. We found that the 3M composite gun was broken (Diane Van Order has subsequently purchased a new one) and other small issues (all have been dealt with or reported) that needed to be addressed. Patient flow seemed to be a little less than in my previous missions but nevertheless there was much need for our help as complaints included pain from severely decayed teeth requiring extractions; and decayed teeth where restorative treatment was still possible. The day was productive and very rewarding as we saw a total of 32 patients. Treatment included 9 surgical extractions; 12 non-surgical extractions; 10 fillings; 1 cleaning; 4 consults for non-treatment related issues; and even an occlusal adjustment. I even placed a restorative filling!

Everyone again gathered early Saturday evening and then went to dinner at various locations including the hotel. For Michelle, Al, and myself we ate an early dinner at the hotel as we had an early Sunday morning departure. We departed Los Pinos through the low coastal clouds into glorious sunlight. After our immigration procedures in Mexicali and Calexico Chris flew a more easterly course, which allowed us prime views of the many lakes along the way and a peak into the Yosemite Valley. The lakes are full of water!

Respectfully submitted, **Robin H. Berrin, DDS**

PS. I wanted to do a "Shout Out" for the Optical Clinic. On my flight down I managed to loose my glasses. On Saturday morning I was their first customer and was very quickly refracted fitted with glasses that worked great for close and far vision for the rest of my visit and the following week until I could get replacements. I've already returned the glasses for the next happy customer! Thank you!



Scholarship Program 2019



What a great turn out! This year's scholarship program was a success. We distributed 55 middle school and high school scholarships on August 10, 2019. These 55 students were chosen by qualifying and meeting a strict criteria.

The scholarship program enables them to go to school and purchase required supplies and uniforms. Without this program, these students perhaps would join the work force in the fields, where they can begin work at age 16. This scholarship program encourages them further their education.

Let me share one of the many stories that touched me this about this scholarship program.

A student named Dulce was very thankful for what she received and gave me an itemized list of supplies of all the necessities purchased. She began to list school supplies, required uniforms and other items that were critical to her needs. She states that she was able to purchase shoelaces for her old shoes. This speaks volumes.

We want to thank you all for your contributions. Without your support, this would not be possible. Your generosity has allowed us to help hundreds of students over the years.

A special appreciation to Frank Marquez who translates all the applications and reads all the essays that we receive. Frank was born and raised in Mexico and attended schools there. He understands the need for this scholarship program. His countless hours and efforts do not go unrecognized.

Sincerely,
Joel Prosser



A Fresh Prospective



At the small airport in Woodland I couldn't wait to start the adventure that was ahead of me. On the way there the pilot, Charlie, let me fly the airplane and it was such an exciting start to the adventure ahead. Upon arriving all the other physicians and pilots were so welcoming and friendly I was thrilled to accompany such a wonderful group of people being a prospective doctor. The beach at the hotel was unlike anything I had ever seen with dunes and seashells for miles. The next day the team set up and began to work at the clinic. I was honored to work alongside Anu, a pediatrician, and use my Spanish to talk to the patients. The patients were so kind I was honored to be able to help them. It was astounding to see the impact that a handful of physicians had on the people and it felt amazing to provide them with medical care. I had never had hands on work before in hospitals and Anu walked me through the check ups and gave me tips and pointers as we worked. It was amazing how many kids we treated and afterwards the parents would come up to thank and hug me. I'm so pleased with all the work we did and would love to go back and help again or even fly to other places in need. I know that my medical journey is only beginning, but I'm so thankful that I got to be apart of this adventure and I'm enthusiastic for the next time I might be able to return!

Adiós, nos vemos la próxima vez,

-Mady Barth



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 June with a member of the Rodriquez Family/Pinos Ranch and he agreed to replace the roof and begin work on the cement floor. This work will begin in July, 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!!!!

