



*Flying Samaritans*

# Mother Lode Chapter

## Clinic Report - July, 2016

### Primary Care Clinic

Three planes flew to the July clinic:

**Chris Nelson** departed Placerville at 6:30 a.m. with me on board and arrived at Mather Field to pick up **Carol Armstrong & Dee Farmer**. We then flew on to Mexicali, arriving at 10:30 a.m. It was a quick turn-around and we departed for clinic, arriving at 11:30 a.m. Chris received a phone call from **Joel Prosser** (who flew **Dianne VanOrder, Andrew**



**Chomchuensawat** and **Pam Fallo**) reporting that his plane suffered a fuel pump problem. Joel called a mechanic who diagnosed the problem as an electrical wire being loose. After he re-connected it, he collected \$100 (dollars, not pesos) from Joel. **Mark Rudolph** flew to Placerville and collected **Rose French** and **Maria Boyd**. He then flew on to Bakersfield to pick up **Anuradha Rao, M.D.** a pediatrician, and arrived at Mexicali at 4 p.m. when the temp was around 110°. His plane has air conditioning, but it wasn't working, so they arrived in San Quintin a bit dehydrated, but happy to be in 80° weather.

Chris has been coordinating with inmates at Folsom Prison, who collect eyeglasses, examine them and list the corrections, then apply a label to the glasses. A group of women led by Dee then organize the eyeglasses and pass them on to Chris who transports them to clinic. The many bags of glasses were gathered and carried to the hotel where a room was used to sort the glasses. They were then placed in boxes and taken to the clinic. All of this was done by Carol, Dee and Chris.

At the eye clinic, reorganization was carried out by **Joe Zachwieja**, Carol, Dee and Chris, which provided more room for storage of the boxes of labeled glasses and a table to fit the glasses to the patients. This will save considerable money in providing eye care to the locals.

Friday evening, a large group drove into town for street tacos which were enjoyed by all.

Friday night, Marianne McKennett, M.D. and Mary Moya Richards, M.D., faculty members at the Scripps Family Medicine Hospital, brought the following residents in Family Medicine to our clinic:

**Soroosh Amanat, M.D. – Teah Caine, M.D. – Amanda Dappen, M.D. – Janani Sankara, M.D. – Natalie Ferraiolo, M.D. – Kristin Tang, M.D. – Yelennia Palacios, M.D. – Monica Melgar, M.D. – Claire Ojima, M.D. – and Evan Taylor, M.D.** When they arrived at the clinic on Saturday morning, we had them use the dental clinic room to see the many patients.

Joe drove **Bridget Moran** and her daughter, **Olivia Spears**; they both helped organize medications. Dr. Rao was kept busy seeing children, although with so many medics present, the patients were scattered among everyone. Flor did not show up at clinic again this month.

On Saturday morning, Joel, Mark and I drove to an oyster farm area about 5 miles from Highway 1; the road parallels the barracks of the Mexican troops located in San Quintin. We purchased 36 oysters (ostras in Spanish) for 100 pesos. That afternoon, we had Raphael, the cook at the hotel, serve them to us as an oysters Rockefeller dish – not bad, but they probably should have been roasted in their shells and eaten with a dash of spice.

On Saturday evening, some of us traveled to Jardine's for a great meal and the Scripps group went to The Old Mill.

Sunday morning, Chris's group departed at 7 a.m. without breakfast, checked out of Mexicali in record time, flew to Calexico and arrived at Mather Field at 12:30 p.m. The other groups decided to have breakfast before departing. For everyone's information, the customs officer at Calexico told us we can bring any seafood from Mexico into California.

-Sr. Bilito

## Primary Care Clinic Photos



Carol Armstrong fitting a new patient with a pair of glasses



Dee Farmer assisting a patient with an eye exam



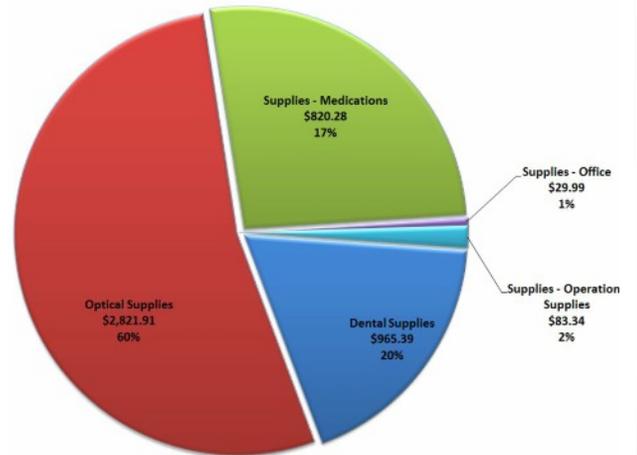
Another wonderful group of dedicated volunteers

# President's Report

Greetings To Our Dear Members,

Fiscal Year 2015 is now behind us. As you know, we have been struggling for the past few years with net losses. We have made great efforts to the 'turn the bus around'. For Fiscal Year 2015, I am proud to announce that we posted a net income of \$5,366.14! Compared to a net losses \$1,900 and \$4,400 in fiscal 2013 and 2014, respectively, this is a great indicator that we are on the right track towards ensuring that we will be around for years to come. However, we can't stop working now. We must continue on the fundraising trail, and to carefully manage the costs of the services we provide. I am proud to share with you the enclosed details of our 2015 Income and Expenses, as I believe it is important for our members to know how our funds are spent. Further, it is important to affirm that a VERY large percentage of our income goes directly to our cause, in stark contrast with other large charities.

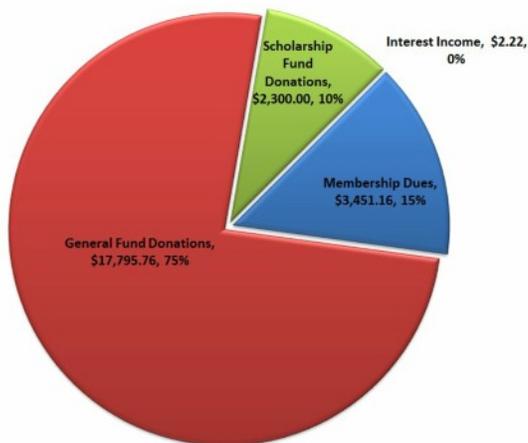
FY2015 Flying Sams Mother Lode Chapter: Supply Expense Breakdown



As you may have read in the newsletters from recent months and in future newsletters, one of our most significant cost management effort is in our Optical program. We are shifting our strategy: instead of made-to-order lenses for patients that need them, we will first try to dispense recycled lenses from a pool of thousands of lenses that we now keep on hand in San Quintin. The inventory of recycled glasses has been made possible with the kind support of the Lions Club and in particular the Folsom Lake Lions and Don Ring of "The Folsom Project For The Visually Impaired". Collectively they have provided tremendous ongoing support for our Vision Program focused on those in significant need with no other alternative in rural Baja, Mexico. They provide much needed Prescription eyeglasses, Sunglasses for adults and children as well as volunteer support both on site in Mexico as well as here in the U.S. Their contribution and commitment to improving vision has and will continue to make a difference in the quality of life for hundreds of men, women and children every year.

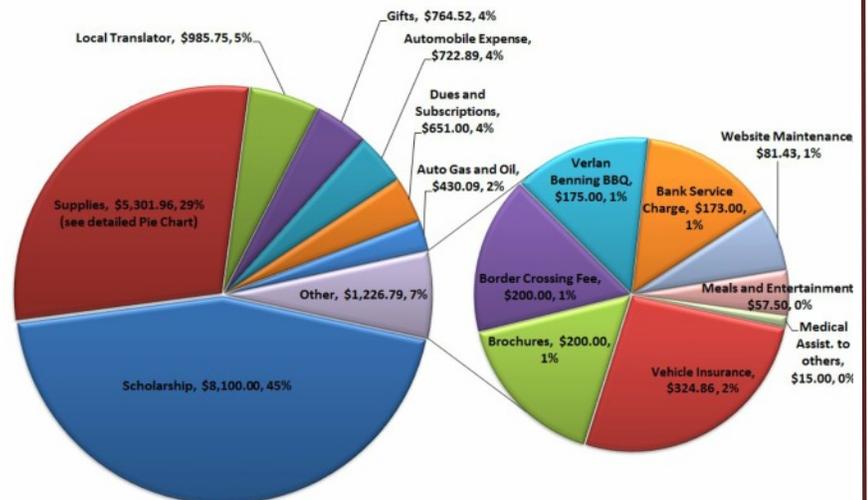
Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have regarding the Income and Expense information. You can reach me by email at [membership@flyingssamaritansmotherlode.org](mailto:membership@flyingssamaritansmotherlode.org).

FY2015 Flying Sams Mother Lode Chapter: Income (Income Total = \$23,549.14)



Thanks as always for your AWESOME support!  
**-Doug Wirzberger**

FY2015 Flying Sams Mother Lode Chapter: Expenses (Expense Total = \$18,183)



# Backpacks for Baja

Chris and with the assistance of **Dee Farmer** as well as **Wendy Caro** and **Cecilia Castro** who are local volunteers gave out over 70 children's backpacks as well as a significant amount of Women's and Children's clothing. Cecilia and Wendy also assisted in the Optical area and did double duty assisting with Medical intake as well as scholarship application. This brings the total Backpacks distributed to over 1,975 since the program began in 2015!!! Each includes sunglasses, hygiene and health related items such as tooth paste/toothbrushes, shampoo etc as well as books, school supplies and fun items for the children and cosmetic items for the women.



**Opening up their new books on the spot**

**Linda Nelson** makes many of the Backpacks/handbags 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. **Celeste Roseberry-Mckibbin** with Love, Talk, Read generously donated children's books for each of the packs. These were a big hit as always!!! **Folsom Lake Lions** contributed in many ways including assisting with sewing as well as coordinating the donation of many much needed items. The **Placerville and Cameron Park Soroptimists Groups** continue to provide outstanding support including material and items for the Backpacks/Handbags. Members of the **Bank Of America Retiree group** donated supplies as well as made cash donations for the purchase of medications and vitamins. A team of residents of **Folsom Prison "Hooks And Needles"** crouched over 80 dolls and other items for the children and the **Placer County Corrections Team** (also residents) made packs, blankets and pillows. Many others contributed to the success as well. Great Teamwork takes place every month in helping make this impactful initiative happen!!!!

**Carol Armstrong** is also leading a team of individuals that are Retired Bank Of America Employees to prepare recycled prescription glasses for distribution to the needy in Los Pinos. This is being done between clinics in the United States. This initiative will make more glasses available for distribution and allow for the recipients to receive glasses at the time the need is determined as compared to having to order and wait a month for pick up.

A special thanks to **Sharron Flynn** with the Bank of America Retiree group who gathered up a significant supply of both prescription and non Prescription items particularly much needed Diabetic related.



**An army of kids lined up and excited to receive a backpack filled with goodies!**



**Beanies and backpacks; a great combo!**

## Optical Clinic



Thanks to Dee's and Carol's great efforts at sorting recycled glasses from the Lions Club during the past weeks, we were able to start dispensing them one month early at a big saving to our group. We didn't count how many were dispensed but there were more than ten resulting in the need to order only eight. This saving will continue for many years to come.

All eight which need to be ordered, though, are unusually high corrections so the price per pair will be higher than normal this month but as we increase our inventory, we will be able to fill most prescriptions.

Hats off to Chris and the guys from the Lions Club for putting all this together.

**-Joe Zachwieja**

**Maria Boyd, Dee Farmer, Joe Zachwieja and their patient with a fresh pair of fitted glasses**

I had the most rewarding experience of all of my three trips this weekend. I felt so productive because I had a hand in re-vamping the Optics area. Everyone came together to remove extra furniture and sort and store eyeglasses. The result is a very organized looking Optic area where it is actually possible to find glasses that match a patient's Rx and give them to them on the spot. I believe that Joe estimated that we fitted at least ten patients this weekend. All while setting up and organizing. Imagine what we can do once we are fully organized and efficient!

Kudos note: Joe trained Dee and I in measuring patients and finding the right glasses and he also trained us to order glasses if need be. All this while working with his own patients – which means that he did double duty. I hope that in time his work paid off. I will certainly be back and Dee has expressed a desire to return. (In fact, I wish I could go back tomorrow to practice what I learned. Hopefully, I will have retained something.)

**-Carol Armstrong**



**Carol Armstrong and Judy assisting a patient with an eye exam**

Hopefully, I will have retained something.)

## A Fresh Perspective...

This month, our "Fresh Perspective" comes from **Dee Farmer**.

The day had finally come! At 7:00 a.m. I met Pilot Chris Nelson, Dr. Bill McDavid, and Carol Armstrong at the Mather Jet Center. We were on our way to the Flying Samaritans clinic in Los Pinos. We stopped in Mexicali to have our passports checked, and in a short time took off for our destination. We arrived at the hotel at approximately 1 p.m. – we had good tailwinds and made great time. I was very pleased with the hotel – it is a beautiful place and I could see the beach and ocean from my window.

My main focus this trip was working with Carol Armstrong and others to set up the "Optical Center" at the clinic, in order to organize and set up the facility for storing and using the donated eyeglasses that are processed by the

Folsom Prison. This program was established in 1989 by a local Lions Club, and continues to be supported by the Lions Clubs.



A patient has her eyes examined on the autorefractor operated by Dee Farmer

The first thing we did when we arrived on Friday was to set up in a conference room for sorting the eyeglasses. Carol had prepared labeled bags which were arranged on tables. We then took all of the eyeglasses that had been brought down, and sorted the eyeglasses according to the prescription for the right eye. As more volunteers arrived, they were recruited to help with the sorting. So we were able to finish within several hours. Then Saturday morning we took the bags to the clinic. We had a number of 3 drawer plastic storage bins that we stacked along one wall. These were labeled with prescription numbers and then the eyeglasses were transferred from the paper bags to the labeled bins.

As clients arrived, they were given an eye test on the autorefractor, which produces a printed prescription. The prescription was then used to find a matching pair of glasses in the bins. If none was found, new glasses were then ordered. We had a couple of interpreters working with us.

I am also a member of the Folsom Lake Lions, and one of my regular projects is to collect used eyeglasses from all of the optometry offices in Folsom. I turn them in to the Folsom project coordinator (Don Ring), who then has the eyeglasses processed through the Folsom prison. So it was very interesting and rewarding to see how the eyeglasses are used, and how much it means to those who come to the clinic and receive free eyeglasses. The time went by so quickly that I am looking forward to returning to the clinic in the future. Thanks to everybody who helped me make a contribution. All of the volunteers are great to work with. Thanks especially to Chris, who is an outstanding pilot, and also Carol, who helped me immensely.

**-Dee Farmer**