

Flying Mother Lode Chapter

Clinic Report - March, 2017

Primary Care Clinic



After three consecutive months of being unable to hold a clinic due to weather, we expected a very busy clinic. Advertising on the radio that we would have three dentists, increasing demands on our eye clinic & previous experiences of more people strolling into the medical clinic while waiting their turn with the dentists made for the expectation that the medics would be extremely busy. However, that did not happen. The dentists were very busy, the eye clinic had a very brisk demand for its services, but the medics had a very leisurely day, seeing only a total of 40 patients. A new medic to our clinic was an ER doctor – **Jessica Willett** M.D. – who works in a very busy Stockton Hospital; she was surprised at how easy her patient load was in San Quintin. She was helped by **Pam Fallo**, NP, and myself. We all had a great time discussing our organization and Jessica's previous trips to other countries. She expects to help

us in the future.

The dental clinic was very busy, but with **Justin Sherrill** & **Phil Lancaster** helping operate the autoclave, efficiency was at the max. **Bryan Krey**, DDS, who is an oral surgeon, returned to his earlier days of filling cavities, but this only after performing his share of extractions. This allowed the other dentists to do a few extractions. His report will follow.

The eye clinic demands seem to increase in numbers each clinic, but help from many people enabled many glasses to be fitted. A report will follow from **Joe Zachwieja**.

Doug Wirzberger flew **Sebastian Konig**, **Justin Sherrill** & **Jessica Willett**, M.D. **Phil Lancaster** flew **Joel Prosser**, **Bruce Hultgren** & **Paul Denzler**, DDS. **Bryan Krey**, DDS, flew his brother **Aaron**, **Theresa Noe** & **Lyell Warren** (originally from New Zealand). **Chris Nelson** flew **Dianne VanOrder**, R.N., **Pam Fallo**, NP, & me.

Dining consisted of street tacos, etc. Eight of us ate at Don Eddie's where we spent Friday & Saturday nights due to unavailable rooms at our usual hotel. Five of the people slept at Hotel Santa Maria Friday night & then used sleeping bags at the old house of Mrs. Rodriguez on Saturday.

Friday evening, several of us met with representatives from strawberry growers who sell their product to Driscolls, hoping to secure some financial help from them. However, results are unclear. Saturday night Doug, Sebastian, Justin & Jessica attended an event with some of the Rodriguez family to celebrate a birthday.

Flying was the best weather we've seen in a long time with tail winds down & back, arriving in under three hours to Mexicali from Placerville; the same coming back.

-Sr. Bilito

Backpacks for Baja



Lining up for the backpacks

A SPECIAL THANKS to some of the program sponsors:

- Celeste Roseberry-Mckibbin with "Love, Talk, Read" generously donated children's books for each of the packs. These were a big hit as always!!!
- Soroptimists of Placerville, Cameron Park and Folsom
- Tanya Moran
- Marlyn Pino-Jones
- Bank Of America Retiree Group
- Folsom Prison "Hooks And Needles"
- Placer County Corrections, Women's Division
- Sharron Flynn
- Brenda and Sterling Daley
- Trish McCum
- Folsom Lake Lions Club
- German Club of Stockton
- Casa Robles Interact Club
- Debi Amaral/VSP
- Rotary International

Great Teamwork takes place every month in helping make this impactful initiative happen!!!!

A special thanks from the Women and Children in Baja for all of your humanitarian contributions!!!

-Chris Nelson

March Celebrated reaching over 2100 "Backpacks For Baja" distributed to those in need since the program began in 2014!!!

Chris, with the assistance of several local volunteers, distributed to each of the over 100 children attending the clinic a book, stuffed toy and a crocheted hat and scarf combination. The children also received sunglasses as well as important sundries such as tooth brushes and toothpaste. The crocheted items were made by the Folsom Prison Inmate Team "Hooks and Needles" who work with the Folsom Lake Lions.

There was also a distribution of many clothing items which went to the women in attendance.

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.



Optical Clinic



Ann Ivory, Andrea Powell, and Lyell Warren sorting through donated glass

We also distributed over two hundred pairs of sunglasses to adults and children who would not have the vital sun protection otherwise.

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.

-Chris Nelson



The total number of patients seen was approximately 93 with 75 exams using the Auto Refractor, 8 pairs of glasses were ordered as a result of the exams the remainder were filled using our inventory. In addition we gave out 27 pairs of readers and 10 pairs of glasses ordered from months prior.

Overall the optical clinic ran well and there was an excellent team handling the fitting of glasses including **Andrea Powell, Ann Ivory and Lyell Warren**. They were all new. I trained and coached the three of them then they took over and did an outstanding job. I feel that the success rate of fitting was excellent and that was due to the efforts/diligence of the three volunteers who handled that function. **Joe Zachwieja** acted as a resource and handled most of the exams. **Bruce Hultgren**, a seasoned volunteer, also handled exams, questions and assisted with fitting. A GREAT Team!!!



Andrea Powell with a happy patient

A Fresh Perspective...

This month, our first of three "Fresh Perspective" pieces comes from **Theresa Noe**.

I've always known that I wanted to do volunteer work and after retiring last July, I was ready and excited to start. Recently, I mentioned to Dr. **Bryan Krey** that I was actively learning Spanish so I could help others that had little or no access to dental care. He told me about the Flying Samaritans and his upcoming trip, so I immediately signed up.



Theresa Noe and local translator Minerva

Here were some highlights for me:

The flight down (and back) was smooth. Bryan is a great pilot. After we arrived and set up the clinic for Saturday, we headed into town for dinner. Turns out al pastor tacos and ice cream are a great combination.

Saturday's clinic was hectic but invigorating. We were able to take care of all the dental patients and take a quick midday break to enjoy awesome fish tacos. No ice cream this time.

Saturday night was a great time to socialize and get to know the other volunteers while having a delicious dinner (not tacos) and listening to live music. Our host, Tony from Don Eddie Hotel, took very good care of our group.

We had a leisurely breakfast on Sunday and I said goodbye to my new friends before heading home with wonderful memories.

I really can't express how much I got out of this trip. Everyone that volunteers is big hearted and kind. The people we served were so gracious and patient with us. They made me feel comfortable using my newly learned Spanish phrases, even though I probably sounded like a toddler to them. I have to admit I got a little teary at dinner on Saturday -- it might have been the two Tony's margaritas, but... I felt so grateful to be a part of this organization and to help a community in need.

I'm so looking forward to returning to Los Pinos in the future.

-Theresa Noe, DDS



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A Fresh Perspective...

This month, our second of three "Fresh Perspective" pieces comes from **Lyell Warren**



Glasses, glasses, glasses who knew what fun it would be!

Turns out that sorting glasses takes lots of eyes. Yep, four of us spilling a "selection" onto a table and wading through them to find....well that turned out to be the question... just what were we looking for?

So for the first guy we struck gold, or so we thought. The prescription was real close. He could read the chart...BUT, was uncomfortable looking at anything else.

So this was NOT going to be so easy after all.

With six variables to match and only 6,000 pairs of glasses to choose from (I know that sounds a lot, but do the math - all the permutations, yikes....just a drop in the old bucket) it was a constant mad scramble. However I was not alone. Just as well, as no one would have got any glasses! Anne, Andrea & Bruce saved the day. Early on we had an elderly lady who was blind in her right eye and had poor vision in her left. WHAM we scored her glasses and she could see again. That was very cool for everyone in the room. As the day wore on our finding a matching prescription got looser and looser. That surprisingly seemed to help. Having a choice both of frame style and prescription was a big deal. Andrea and Anne become masters of the sweet talk and even the young ladies would leave with glasses they liked and maybe could even see through!?

Oh, if there was enough room to have the glasses pre-sorted to cylinder and/ or axis by their sphere would be great.

See we even learned the lingo!



-Lyell Warren



A Fresh Perspective...

This month, our final "Fresh Perspective" piece comes from **Aaron Krey**



My name is Aaron Krey and I have been with Flying Sams for over 5 years. I was first introduced by my brother, Bryan Krey, who is an Oral Surgeon as well as a pilot. I am a Registered Nurse and am always looking for ways to give back to my community as well as volunteer. I have always had the desire to work with humanitarian organizations, but could never commit to a week or two at a time.

When I first heard about Flying Sams from my brother, I thought this was the perfect opportunity to serve people in need of health services as well as flying, as a passenger only!

It's only for a weekend, but it's perfect for anyone's busy schedule and still be able to serve in a humanitarian capacity. I always get excited when I've signed up for a trip with the Mother Lode family. It is a joy and pleasure to work with the men and women from the different health fields as well as the non-health volunteers. My purpose in going to Mexico is to help the families that come to the clinic, but in reality I learn more from the interactions I have with the Mexican people as well as the people I serve with. And the street taco's aren't bad either.

-Aaron Krey



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SAMARITANOS VOLADORES

Dental Report

The entire dental team felt like we had a very successful clinic. The team was first timer Dr. **Theresa Noe**, Dr. **Paul Denzler**, Dr. **Bryan Krey**, **Justin Sherrill**, **Phil Webb**, **Minerva** and afternoon stolen property from medical clinic, **Aaron Krey**.

I believe our last dental clinic was November 2016 given the difficult flying weather we have had the last few months. We were expecting a big crowd with lots of need. We certainly weren't wrong but it was all very manageable. A few patients elected to not stay until their turn but they were all requesting small fillings or cleanings. We would have been able to accommodate them if they had stayed. I suspect they'll



be early arrivals next clinic. We were so darn busy, I'm not so sure how accurate the count is. Lets just say the ones we remembered to write down added to 22 patients treated for extractions (single or multiple) and 19 patients treated for cavities with fillings (single or multiple). We did one exam on a special needs patient that many of us are familiar with but he was in good shape. No apparent decay or infection. He does have an impressive case of Dilantin hyperplasia (gum overgrowth secondary to seizure medications).

Our trooper award has to go to Dr. Denzler. I had never met him before so when I met him at the clinic I knew something was off. Something was not agreeing with his stomach and he was feeling pretty rough. He powered thru the day and we

really needed him. He would grab little breaks here or there but never gave up. Thank you Paul. I hope you were feeling a bit better for the journey home.

Our first timer had a great experience and did loads of dentistry including some very challenging extractions. She has been working very hard on her Spanish so there was a little practice on that too although the dentistry took priority. She even laughed that she thought she would take all sorts of pictures and realized at the end of the day that she didn't take one. It was a blur but a good blur. A thank you to her husband Jeff who made up some dental vocabulary booklets which she kindly left in the clinic. Thank you Theresa. I think she'll be back.

Support staff was awesome as always. Jedi master Justin got everything running and kept it running all day plus did lots of chairside assisting. He also took extra time with Theresa and I to get us more familiar with how to correctly open, operate and close the clinic. Thank you Justin and good luck with the new gig selling the big iron. Minerva is just a lovely person. Excellent translator and willing to do anything to keep it going. Truly invaluable. Gracias a Minerva. And of course handsome Phil was steadfast out in the courtyard cooking instruments. He was always ahead of us with great humor and attitude. It was good to see you and work with you. Thanks Phil. Just as were starting to fade, Aaron snuck out of medical and gave us a charge. He quickly became familiar with the entire process and began treating patients, setting up and breaking down, translating etc etc. Medical side better watch out. I think he liked it.

-Bryan Krey