

Flying Mother Lode Chapter

Clinic Report - June, 2017

Primary Care Clinic

Chris Nelson flew **Dianne VanOrder, Maria Boyd & Rose French**, the latter two being teachers who are both fluent in Spanish; they both previously attended clinic. They flew to clinic on Thursday so that Dianne could remove an excess of outdated supplies and take other materials to Buen Pastor Hospital. **Joel Prosser** flew **Pam Polk, Bob Haining & me** on Friday. **Sunny Sethi** flew **Pam Fallo, Margie Wilson & Nora Feddal**; he had to file IFR to get in and out of Whiteman when he picked Nora up. All lights encountered head winds with some turbulence. **Joe Zachwieja** drove **Ann Ivory & Andrea Powell**. En route, these three ate street tacos in San Quintin, and several of us joined them when we passed them on our way to town. Several others stayed at the hotel for dinner.



Saturday was very busy at both the medical & eye clinics with people eagerly enjoying the freebies passed out by Chris & his workers. Pam Fallo, Bob Haining & I saw the usual variety of patients. Bob saw a young girl of about 8 years who was self-mutilating by biting and chewing on her arms, a real nightmare for the mother. Bob gave the mother some meds for the girl to try to control her actions and some meds to induce sleep. We expect to see her next month for more meds with no end in sight. Bob saw a preemie who visited us last month because of an inability to tolerate formula. She was placed on goat's milk, which controlled the diarrhea, and she did gain some weight. Unfortunately, the goat farmer was forced to give all of the milk to the cheese manufacturer he works for, so the baby was returned to normal formula and the diarrhea recurred. Dianne will try to find an expensive formula for the baby, which Bob recommended for infants with special needs. Pam Fallo was especially active treating a variety of problems. I injected my first knee in a 70-year-old lady, hoping to give her some relief for her arthritis.

Pam Polk had a very able assistant this month in Dalia Navarete who helped with intake. She is a college student who lives in San Quintin and is planning to return next month.

Unfortunately, we have lost contact with Flor and have not seen her in over eight months. Our care was mostly providing vitamins and a daily prophylactic antibiotic which was recommended by a pediatric cardiologist for her abnormal cardiovascular system. A prediction by one of her doctors was that entering puberty was going to be the kiss of death – she is now almost 11 years old.

It is difficult to describe the activities and give credit to all who contribute to the care of the people of San Quintin. Suffice it to say that each volunteer personally recognizes his or her efforts to help the patients, which is what brings them back to the next clinic.

Chris will write a separate report on the eye clinic, which was incredibly busy. He left early Sunday morning and returned home safely. We in Joel's plane returned Sunday, experiencing strong head winds; it took 4 hours from Calexico to Stockton. Heidi Prosser, Joel's wife, was in Stockton on business and Joel decided to leave his plane there because of the threat of thunderstorms in the Placerville area. He and Heidi graciously drove me home. Sunny was able to drop his passengers off and returned Tracy in trying conditions. All of this was unbelievable weather for June.

The current system of allowing people to visit our website and if interested, sign up to attend a clinic regardless of where they live places stress on Joel to provide them with air transportation. Suggestions are in order and the Board welcomes your thoughts.

-Sr. Bilito

Thank You 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 packs.
- Soroptimist International: Placerville, Cameron Park and Folsom
- Rotary Club International: Folsom; Folsom Lake; Placerville; Arden-Arcade; Pocket-Greenhaven; Loomis; Roseville Sunrise Orangevale
- Rotary Interact Clubs; Casa Robles High School; Oak Ridge High School
- Lions Club International; Folsom Lake; Placerville; Embarcadero;
- 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
- 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
- Rolling Hills Church
- Brenda and Sterling Daley
- Trish McCum, American Sewing Guild
- German Club of Stockton
- Debi Amaral/VSP
- Yolanda Berg



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

Flying Sam's Surgery Clinic Buen Pastor Hospital

This story began shortly after our return from the June 9-11 clinic in San Quintin.

I received a call from Sunny Sethi, one of the pilots for the Gold Coast Chapter, who had also just returned from the June 9 clinic, asking if I knew a pilot who would be willing to fly to the surgery clinic the next weekend, June 16-18. I assured him that either I would recruit a pilot or I would fly myself.

After all, Sunny had flown when I needed a pilot. I could do no less for him.

Mother Lode Chapter pilot Phil Lancaster agreed to fly the following Friday. Since I had flown to clinic the previous weekend, I was happy I wouldn't be going this time.

Everything seemed to be going well until I received a call from Tony, the other scheduled Gold Coast pilot, stating one of his pax had a passport due to expire in about 45 days. He informed me Mexico wanted at least six months remaining on the passport before it expired. Tony called the authorities and seemed to have solved that issue, only to discover his own medical had expired in May.

Because we pilots cannot fly without meeting proper medical requirements, he would be unable to fly his pax to the surgery clinic. I then called Dr. Satya Arya, one of the surgeons, to ask him if the pax who were to fly with Tony were indispensable to the operation of the clinic. He assured me everything could and would be done as planned regardless.

About the same time Phil called to say his wife was having surgery on Thursday and he would not be flying after all. Ouch!

At that point my decision had been made for me.

The day before departure I had a large boil drained from under my left arm pit. I refused any medication that could affect my ability to fly, and filed my flight plans both to and from Mexico and the US.

My plan was to depart Sacramento Executive Airport at 7 am local time; then on to Bakersfield for Sara Stark, RN; followed by a stop at Carlsbad-Palomar in Southern California for Satya Pal Arya and Shrilekha Champaneri, MDs.

I was in the air at 7 am. It was a beautiful morning as I climbed up from the airport. Suddenly, I was unable to hear Nor Cal Departure through my headset. I then returned to the airport and to Airborne Electronics located on the airport. They quickly isolated the problem and restored my ability to communicate with Air Traffic Control, though I couldn't talk to or hear my pax. Perhaps that may have been considered a blessing!

The stops at Bakersfield and Carlsbad-Palomar were both made in good VFR weather conditions, as was the stop in Ensenada. There we cleared Customs and Immigration, refueled and flew on to Los Pinos, our regular clinic site.

The surgery team left Los Pinos immediately for Buen Pastor Hospital. This dedicated trio worked the remainder of the day Friday and into the evening hours.

On Saturday morning the surgeries began shortly after 8:30.

I was invited into the operating room after donning surgical garb. I stood behind Dr. Arya, watching over his shoulder as he removed tonsils from a 19-year-old female patient. The operation was inspiring to watch as the skilled surgeon performed his work.

I brought tacos, sodas and water for lunch and left to visit a family Heidi and I had "adopted" years before. The family is as poor as the proverbial church mice. Their 14 year-old daughter, who had been in a wheel chair for years, died two years ago. It was a heart-rending time for all.

The surgeries continued until 11 pm. The medical team was determined to take care of all who were scheduled.

I have been a part of the Flying Samaritans since 1995. During those years it has been my privilege to come to know men and women of dedication and selflessness, people who live their lives in service to others.

This past weekend I believe I observed the pinnacle of this dedication. These medics have traveled to other countries of the world performing surgeries at no cost to the patients. On Friday and Saturday they continued this amazing work.

I'm thankful as well as humbled to have been a part of this wonderful team. May God continue to use and bless them.

-Joel Prosser, pilot for Mother Lode Chapter

Backpacks for Baja



Another happy customer!

June Clinic celebrated reaching over 2305 "Backpacks For Baja" distributed to those in need since the program began in 2014!!!

Chris, with the assistance of several local volunteers, distributed 65 backpacks to children attending the clinic. Each backpack includes sunglasses, important sundries such as tooth brushes and toothpaste as well as school supplies and a first aid kit. Women attending the clinic also receive handmade handbags that include personal care items, sunglasses, and a special gift.

Other volunteers also distributed many donated items. Included were 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.

There was also a distribution of hundreds of Men, women and children's clothing items which were greatly appreciated by the thankful recipients.

Dianne VanOrder facilitated the distribution of hundreds of hats that were donated by **Mariana Locke**. These primarily went to men who were very thankful for the protection from the sun as well as the cool styles!!!

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. Thanks for your caring and thoughtful efforts!!!

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!!!

-Chris Nelson



Backpacks for Baja



Optical Clinic



One of 150 optical patients

A Record Month In Optical!!!!

The total number of patients seen was well over 150 with nearly 100 exams using the Auto Refractor. Only one pair of glasses was ordered as a result of the exams. The remainder were fitted on the spot using our inventory. In addition we gave out 37 pairs of readers and 7 pairs of glasses ordered from months prior. We also distributed approximately 200 pairs of sunglasses including those that were in the Backpacks given to children. 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 for the boys.

The optical clinic ran very efficiently, thanks to **Margie Wilson** who acted as the Optical Team's coach as well as being the focal point for fitting patients with the appropriate prescription and style of glasses. Both **Ann Ivory** as well as **Andrea Powell** worked hard all day in the fitting area. This function requires a significant amount of time, effort and care to ensure that each patient leaves with the appropriate vision solution. Great Job!!!

Margie put in place a new process to take a brief history on each patient prior to them being examined. This included a preliminary exam/screening. Maria Boyd and Rose French did a great job of handling this function!!!

Judy, our local volunteer helped keep everything moving and organized as usual, **Sonny Sethi** did a great job and was very busy running the Auto Refractor and **Joe Zachwiega** also assisted with exams and provided knowledgeable assistance to all.

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 **Debi Amaral** 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!!!

Many THANKS to everyone that made this clinic an impactful humanitarian effort!!!

Chris



A Fresh Perspective...

This month, our first of two "Fresh Perspective" pieces comes from **Nora Feddal**.



Thanks to **Sunny** for making a stop at Whiteman to pick me up and drop me. This was my 1st time at the clinic. I felt a little awkward every time someone asked me if I was a doctor, a nurse or a translator and each time the answer was: no I do not have any medical experience and I do not speak Spanish, but French; I'm here to help in any way I can. I'm glad that I was able to document the day at the clinic and show how amazing you guys are to fly and drive all the way to help people in need. I was really impressed by the dedication and the passion of all of you serving selflessly. I see the smiles on your faces when you say by to a patient, it must be such a great internal satisfaction. The experience was profoundly more memorable than I thought it would be. The smiles of the kids were priceless. It was so heartwarming to see you help and do some better thing for humanity through medical service to needy people. I am looking forward to join you again.

-Nora Feddal



A Fresh Perspective...

This month, our second of two "Fresh Perspective" pieces comes from **Rose French**



Maria Boyd and Rose French

This past weekend Maria and I had the pleasure of joining the Flying Samaritans for the San Quintin clinic. We are constantly amazed and blessed with wonderful and caring people we work with. Each person brings compassion, understanding and love towards their patients. In turn, the patients give us the greatest gift of all. We see smiles. We hear "gracias". We feel their love.

Those outside the organization may ask why we joined. We live frenetic lifestyle filled with comfort and security. The clinic serves good, hard working people who provide the US with good food. What a great way to spend our extra time and money than by helping those who serve others.

Thank you all for the opportunity of giving to others unselfishly.

-Rose French & Maria Boyd



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A Special Thanks

A SPECIAL THANKS to Rotary International!!!!

Our Rotary International partners are critical to the ongoing Medical, Dental and Optical care to those in need in Rural Baja. Without the financial and volunteer assistance from the Rotary Groups the level and extent of the ongoing care options offered would not be what it is today.



The following Rotary Groups are currently actively involved: Folsom; Folsom Lake; Placerville; Arden-Arcade; Pocket-Greenhaven; Loomis; Roseville Sunrise; Orangevale. This also includes significant support from the Rotary Interact clubs active in the High schools including Orangevale and Oakridge.

Some of the Groups sponsor a month of financial support and/or attend the clinic in Los Pinos and others provide ongoing support in the form of much needed vitamins, Medicine and other critically needed supplies. The Orangevale Group with Ann Hively's leadership has taken a very active role for several years, attending clinics, sponsoring an Interact Team as well as helping out financially. The Pocket-Greenhaven Groups financial support provided the medical and

vitamin supplies to those in need attending the clinic in June. The Folsom Lake Group, with Jack Olson taking the lead, has provided ongoing financial support as well as taking an active role in attending clinics over the past couple of years. These are just a few examples of the assistance provided by Rotary groups to those in need.

Each month several hundred Men, Women and Children attend the clinic looking for assistance with their physical/medical needs and are very appreciative of everything that all of the sponsors do to help make this happen.

Thanks for everything you do it is making a significant impact on individuals lives!!!

