



Flying Samaritans

Mother Lode Chapter

Clinic Report - August, 2017

Primary Care Clinic



On Friday, August 11, **Chris Nelson** departed Placerville at 6:30 a.m. & flew three hours to Mexicali. On arrival there at 9:30 a.m., it was 95° & 30 minutes later, it was 100° with 52% humidity. Arriving in San Quintin one hour later. The temp had dropped to 80°. Chris delivered an 80 lb. dental camera along with his usual assortment of dolls & other goods for the children. **Joel Prosser's** plane carrying **Pam Polk** & **Frank Marquez** arrived about two hours later; they reported even higher temps when they landed in Mexicali. It was such a pleasure to sit outside the hotel & watch the ocean with a cool breeze blowing. **Joe Zachwiea** arrived shortly thereafter with **Nora Feddal**; they drove down as did **Rick** and **Margie Wilson**. Joe drove me into town where I purchased some Acyclovir (an antiviral cream) in a 50-gram tube for \$2. A little larger tube at Costco in Folsom costs almost \$60. We discovered that the hotel raised the nightly rates to \$42.

Saturday was a very busy day with scholarships being handed out along with backpacks & other goodies. The medical clinic saw over 40 patients with an unusual case involving a 2-year-old with Down's syndrome. The mother had taken him to a local doctor who advised her to try horse therapy which involves the child riding on the horse bareback; it was explained to the mom that this is supposed to enhance the child's self worth. Unfortunately, while riding, the child bit the horse, which resulted in a serious infection just under the child's tongue. An anti-fungal & an antiviral medication were prescribed for five days with no improvement. I added an antibacterial to the regimen and will check with Patty on Tuesday to see if there is improvement. We also saw a young man who suffered loss of shoulder & upper extremity development due to damage to the brachial plexus when, during his delivery, there was pulling on the upper extremities. Pictures were taken by Nora & will be put on our website with his face blocked out. We saw the usual cases of young girls with "spots" on their faces, which always horrifies the moms; no one seems to be concerned when the same condition occurs on boys. A woman with an injured right knee received an injection containing Xylocaine & DepoMedrol, which gave her immediate relief. Pam Polk ran the clinic in the absence of Diane, with great effort exerted in locating what was needed; we did run short of 21 gauge needles and 2 x 2 gauze pads.

Lunch consisted of delicious pizzas, a refreshing change from fish tacos. We went to Jardines for dinner, then retired early.

Departure Sunday was at 6:30 a.m. and we arrived at Mexicali before 8 o'clock. Unfortunately, we had to wait for the fuel truck driver to arrive until 8:40 a.m. We had tailwinds all the way home.

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
- 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
- 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
- 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



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

Vitamin Angels

A Special Thanks To The Vitamin Angels

Vitamin Angels is an organization that helps at risk populations in need-specifically pregnant women, new mothers and children under five to gain access to lifesaving and life changing vitamins and minerals. We receive an annual grant of pre and post natal vitamins as well as vitamins for children. Our medical team feels that the vitamins are making a significant difference in the lives of those in significant need in the area of rural Baja that we serve.

Every month we give out a supply of vitamins as needed and receive many thanks from the appreciative recipients. Without the donated vitamins these individuals would not have access to these important health supplements.

Thank you Vitamin Angels on behalf of those you impact!!!!



Backpacks for Baja

The August Clinic participants celebrated reaching over 2450 "Backpacks For Baja" distributed to those in need since the program began in 2014!!!

Chris, with the assistance of several local volunteers, distributed over 70 backpacks to children attending the clinic. Each backpack includes sunglasses, important sundries such as toothbrushes 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.



Dozens of local children line up to receive the donations

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

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!!!

The Men at Folsom Prison that are members of the "**Hooks And Needles**" Crochet team have once again made a contribution to the Backpacks for children with many unique stuffed/crocheted toys that will be cherished for years if not generations to come by the recipients. 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!!!

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.



Many thanks to our generous donors for their support!

Optical Clinic



Improving long term eye health through early education and proper protection

coach as well as being the focal point for fitting patients with the appropriate prescription and style of glasses. Both **Minerva**, a local volunteer as well as **Rick Wilson** worked hard all day in the fitting and pre screening areas. These functions require a significant amount of time, effort and care to ensure that each patient leaves with the appropriate vision solution. Great Job!!! Rick Wilson also had a special gift for each child that was seen. His smiles were as big as the youngsters!!!!

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. Rick Wilson, did a great job of overseeing this function and recruited two local students to assist!!!

Judy, our local volunteer helped keep everything moving and organized as usual while **Joe Zachwieja** 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.

Another Impactful Month In Optical!!!!

The total number of patients seen was well over 150 with 71 exams using the Auto Refractor. Only four pairs of glasses were ordered as a result of the exams. The remainder were fitted on the spot using our inventory. In addition we gave out 47 pairs of readers and 8 pairs of glasses ordered from months prior. We also distributed approximately 185 pairs of sunglasses not 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 children's sunglasses as well as some of the readers distributed were provided by **The Restoring Vision** organization...Thanks!!!

The optical clinic ran very efficiently, thanks to **Margie Wilson** who acted as the Optical Team's



Checking the fit on a donated pair of glasses

A Fresh Perspective...

Optical Team's Margie Wilson makes a life changing impact!!!

At the August clinic, a four year old special needs patient returned with her Mom to pick up her glasses which were special ordered for her by Margie Wilson in July. Along with other very significant health issues, she also has alternating esotropia (crossed eyes) which made it very difficult for her to focus especially close up. You can see by her smile she was able to focus and the glasses allowed her eyes to

straighten some after wearing them only a short time. Her Mom was told of the importance of her wearing the glasses as much as possible and to return in a few months so we can check her again. All of us working the optical area beamed with joy on being able to help this special little girl.

The gift of significantly improved sight was a life changing event for this special young person.



Margie Wilson helping a patient experience the joy of clear sight



Scholarship Report

This month, we gave out much-needed scholarships to local students

Flying Samaritans' Mother Lode Chapter Scholarship Report for 2017

Long lines of students were waiting with anticipation at the Los Pinos clinic in Mexico on Saturday morning, August 12, hoping to see their names displayed as recipients of the scholarships offered each year to students who qualify for them.

The Pat Collins Scholarship Program, named in memory of Pat Collins, a Mother Lode Chapter member and pilot, has been in effect for years. Over those years we have provided scores of scholarships for students who have demonstrated their determination to succeed in a challenging environment.



Joel Prosser (L) and Frank Marquez handed out dozens of scholarships on behalf of the Flying Samaritans Mother Lode

Our goal is to encourage students to stay in school despite a very high drop-out rate. Youngsters at age sixteen may work in the fields alongside adults and earn 180 pesos (less than \$11 US) daily. If they find work in a store, they would earn 200 pesos (less than \$12 US) daily.

Parents also are challenged to keep the students in school. Uniforms cost 1,600 pesos (\$94 US). That's nearly a week's pay! In addition, there are other expenses.

To apply for a scholarship, four criteria must be met: (1) a student must have a grade point average at or near a 10 (A); (2) provide teacher recommendations; (3) write an essay describing his/her goals; and (4) enable us to verify family income.

Each junior high student receives a \$150 US scholarship. High school students receive \$250 US. While this does not appear to be much, it's a positive step toward keeping those students in school who are aiming for a brighter future.

We had 27 junior high students who qualified for a scholarship, and 20 high school students. In addition to that number, a small group of retirees at Cielito Lindo I had spoken to about our work gave funds for one more junior high student. That brought the grand total to \$9,260 for the 48 scholarships. We had many more students who qualified but we are limited by the funds we receive. I hope we will help many more next year. The need is great.

Somehow each year we are surprised at the dedication and desire these kids have to better themselves and their families. Each year unfortunately we learn something new about these families and their way of life. Here some excerpts from this year's scholarship applicants.

Seventeen-year-old Juan writes how he and his sister were sent to live with their grandparents. However, at this point in time his grandfather is too old to work and they are relying solely on their grandmother. This is his last year in high school and he is looking forward to becoming a chemical

engineer someday. We were able to give him assistance on his final year so hopefully this gets him a step closer in achieving his goal.

A proud eighth grader Eva describes how they gather firewood to cook their meals when money is tight. She states that not even that is going to stop her nor her siblings from their education. They at times take turns sitting out a semester until they have the resources to continue.



In reading these excerpts you get to feel the kids' passion, their exuberance despite their situation, and even a hint of desperation just to get through something as basic as school. This financial support is more than just a monetary hand-out, it's a means towards achieving a dream. A simple "dream" for most of us; an almost impossibility for them.

This year the Mother Lode Chapter contributed \$1,500 for the scholarships. The remaining \$7,760 was donated by caring individuals, many of whom are not members of the Sams, but who responded to the need.

All designated scholarship contributions are tax deductible, and every dollar goes toward scholarships and never for overhead.

Our heartfelt thanks to all of you who contributed.

A special acknowledgement to Frank for his time and caring in translating every single application.

-Joel Prosser and Frank Marquez

