



Flying Samaritans

Mother Lode Chapter

Clinic Report - September, 2017

Primary Care Clinic



We flew to Baja bright and early Friday morning in two planes. **Joel** from Sac Executive and **Chris** from Placerville with a stop in Stockton. The sky was very overcast with smoke and humidity, that didn't change much the whole trip.

We made it through immigration in Mexicali in about 25 minutes, a truly first time that has happened, ever. Arrived in San Quintin to blue sky and a cool 75 degree breeze off the Pacific.

We were joined in San Quintin by a contingent from **Solo Eyewear**, they drove from the San Diego area. There were 8 of them and they helped out in the optical clinic and in medicine. **Henry Nguyen** and **Annabelle Dura** who did vital signs for me was excellent, caught on quickly and needed very little supervision. **Joe** also drove from Oceanside with four passengers, including a nurse practitioner specializing in midwifery/ob/gyn. We did not have a medical doctor with us, but we had three very experienced nurse practitioners.

We saw the most pregnant women we have ever seen at any clinic I have attended. We saw about 20, including a 14 year old and a 16 year old. They came from the housing provided for families at the Los Pinos farming/packing facility very close to our clinic site. We have not seen many of these individuals before, and we intend to see more of them in the future, including those with other than pregnancy issues.

Baby Oliver was back and has gained weight and his smile continues to be the bright spot in our day. He is tolerating the non-milk formula well. We had a man come in who had gotten poked in the eye with a palm frond while at work the previous day, was seen in the hospital in San Quintin and referred to the hospital in Ensenada for an ophthalmic exam. He didn't go, and came to us instead on Saturday. With a traumatic Injury to the eye it is imperative that it be treated in a timely manner, and since we had no physician, nor available help for him, advised him to go to Ensenada to see the ophthalmologist.

We had dinner at Jardine's Restaurant Saturday evening, and left early Sunday morning for home. The flight over Baja and Southern California coming home gave us much clearer weather, it had rained Saturday night, and we made it back to Stockton in record time, two and a half hours. Can't say enough about a good tailwind!

-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 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



Joel Prosser hands out a donated wheelchair courtesy of our sponsors

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

Working Together to Bring Clear Vision to People in Need



About the problem we are working to solve:

2.5 billion people worldwide suffer from uncorrected vision impairment. 544 million people suffer from near vision impairment and only need non-prescription reading glasses to correct their vision. These people live in developing countries with limited or no access to glasses. Lack of access to available, affordable glasses is the main barrier preventing people in need from seeing clearly and living productive lives.

-More about the condition:

Near vision impairment, also known as presbyopia, is an age related condition that happens to everyone at some point in their lives. It occurs when people still have many years of productivity ahead. Studies have shown that this condition happens earlier in some developing countries and therefore, has a greater impact.

Reading glasses correct near vision impairment enabling a person to see close-up and do many tasks that require the ability to focus on near objects, including but not limited to cooking, reading, writing, taking care of children, and working (sewing, farming, fishing, artisan work, etc.).

Our chain of help:

SOLO Eyewear:

A company dedicated to create and market eco-friendly sunglasses made out of recycled and repurposed materials. SOLO also funds eye care for people in need through a One for One program. For each pair of glasses purchased from SOLO, the company funds eye care to a person in need. Through this program, SOLO Eyewear sponsors glasses to RestoringVision.

RestoringVision:

A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to distributing reading glasses and sunglasses to charitable organizations and groups helping people in need around the world. Since 2003, RestoringVision has partnered with more than 1,400 charitable organizations to dispense over 6.5 million glasses to people in need in 124 countries. Thanks to the support of sponsors like SOLO Eyewear, RestoringVision is able to provide glasses to organizations like Flying Samaritans.

Flying Samaritans:

A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to providing medical assistance and education to people living in the rural areas of Baja California, Mexico. Flying Samaritans offers medical, dental and vision services to the people they serve. Within their vision program, they dispense reading glasses and sunglasses to those in need.

The importance of collaboration:

Each organization plays an essential role in the chain of help. SOLO Eyewear, as part of the private sector, provides the financial fuel that allows RestoringVision, a non-profit partner, to provide glasses to charitable organizations like Flying Samaritans. These charitable organizations, which are already working in developing countries, take the glasses overseas and put them onto the faces of people who need them.

The work and contributions of each organization are vital to make the chain of help work and to bring clear vision to people in need.

Backpacks for Baja



September Clinic celebrated reaching nearly 2,600 "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 tooth brushes and toothpaste as well as school supplies and a first aid kit. Women attending the clinic also received 60 handmade handbags that include personal care items, sunglasses, and a special gift.

Other volunteers also distributed many donated items and sundries

Dozens of local children line up to receive the donations

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.

There was also a distribution of hundreds of Men, women and children's clothing items 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!!!

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



Another Impactful Month In Optical!!!!

The total number of patients seen was well over 150 with 42 exams using the Auto Refractor. Only 5 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 36 pairs of readers and 6 pairs of glasses ordered from months prior. We also distributed approximately 150 pairs of sunglasses not including those that were in the Backpacks given to women and 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 as well as **The Lions Club**...Thanks!!!

The optical clinic ran very efficiently, thanks to **Ann Ivory** and **Joe Zachwieja** who acted as the Optical Team's coaches as well as being the focal point for fitting patients with the appropriate prescription and style of glasses. Many of the **Solo Eyewear** team including **Jenny Amaraneni, Chris Fisher, Amar Harrag, Zach Horvath** and **Tommy Huynh** 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!!! **Amar** and **Zach** also had a special gift of tennis balls and other toys for many of the children that were seen. Their smiles were as big as the youngsters!!!!

Judy, our local volunteer, helped keep everything moving and organized as usual and 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.

Donated glasses directly help the local population

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 Jenny and her team from Solo Eyewear as well as everyone else that made this clinic an impactful humanitarian effort!!!

A Fresh Perspective...

This month, our first of two "Fresh Perspective" pieces comes from **Lauren Ivory**.

My name is Lauren Ivory, and I am a high school senior at Dana Hills High School. My aunt Ann had first gone to Mexico with the Flying Samaritans before this summer, and after hearing about her adventures I really wanted to go. However, I didn't have a passport, and combined with a busy summer, my trip to Mexico was postponed to September. This trip was a lot of new things for me, since I had never before left the US. It was interesting, and sometimes saddening, to drive by the small towns and cities, see how different it is in Mexico. Throughout the trip, as I learned what foods not to eat (the hard way), not to use the water, to be careful with my phone, it has



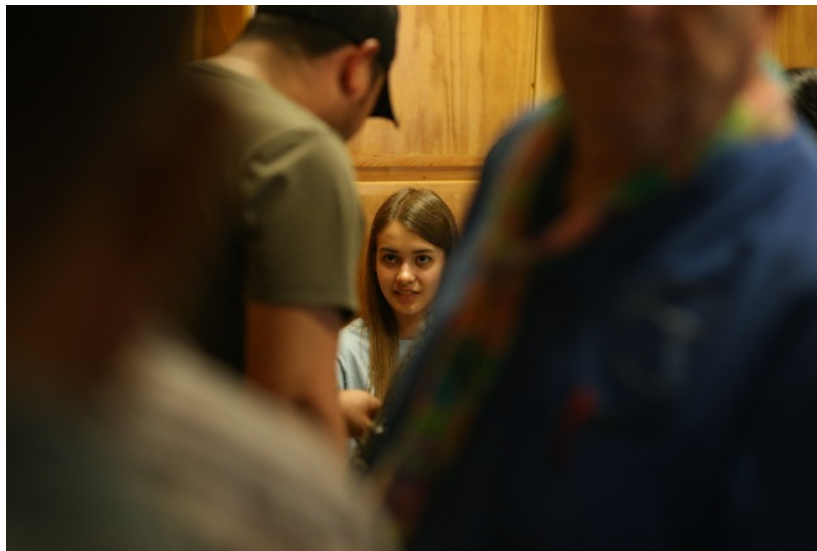
made me appreciate the safety, cleanliness, and basic education I receive as a citizen of the United States. I had understood that we were lucky to live in the US, but I had never understood what that actually meant.

The clinic itself, however, was a great experience. I had spent four years studying Spanish in school, and didn't have any foreseeable use for it. I am glad I was able to use my knowledge for good. Working in the eye clinic, I helped people select sunglasses, including children, and later helped match glasses to the readings from the Auto Refractor. I even learned how to use the Auto Refractor, and learned a lot about how our eyes work. We passed out many glasses, simple readers and prescription, helping people from the

Lauren Ivory assisting in the optical clinic

very young to the very old. I remember one girl who couldn't see the top, biggest letter on the eye chart on the

wall, and we found her a pair of glasses so she could see the letters almost all the way to the bottom. It was wonderful and eye-opening to be able to help and impact these people directly, as opposed to donating some money or buying some items to donate somewhere. This was a great experience for me personally, and I'd love to come and help again, but overall it is encouraging and heart-warming to see how much this group of dedicated individuals and professionals can do for the those in need.



A Fresh Perspective...

This month, our second of two "Fresh Perspective" pieces comes from **Carolina Mendoza**

My name is Carolina Mendoza and I recently started my senior year at Dana Hills High School. To be fairly honest, when my cousin Lauren Ivory and my Aunt Ann first talked about going to Mexico to help out there, the first thought that came to my mind was that I wanted to go help out as well. After wanting to volunteer and making room in my schedule for this exciting event, I did not realize what I was getting myself into. Even so, the experience that I gained there was like no other, an experience that I would never get back where I live. Since I live in a pretty affluent area, Mexico was an interesting journey, a journey that I have taken before but not as shocking as before. The poverty that I have witnessed there, although I once thought I already saw the worst, made me understand really how truly lucky I was to be born in the United States and not there.



Now, for starters, the clinic part was very interesting. I originally thought that I would be going into the eye clinic with my Aunt Ann and my cousin Lauren, but since my fluency in Spanish was high and there was a limited amount of dentists, by limited I mean only one, I was asked to join the clinic with the dentists. When I was told that, I didn't really know what to expect. I had no prior knowledge in dentistry let alone know what I would have to deal with. I remember nervously following my aunt to the clinic across from the one we were in and really unsure of what to do. I also remember telling myself that I shouldn't worry too much because I had a little bit of medical knowledge via my CCA Medical Core class (where I became CPR certified) and if anything were to go wrong, I had a bunch of doctors to help me. With that reassurance, I entered the room with a smile on my face and a mind open to learn.

Helping out a dentist was quite something. I did things I never thought I would be comfortable with. With a pink mask and small-sized gloves, I felt very professional, but felt even more professional when the dentist would just call out an anesthetic name and I would know which one it was and what it was used for. At first all I did was just that, hand out the things needed for the anesthetics and help set up for each patient, but eventually that was not all I did. I translated between the patient and the dentist and even helped the dentist out with the suctioning. Truly an interesting experience that I never thought I would be doing, but I did it. I also witnessed a lot of teeth extractions which at first would make my toes cringe, but oddly enough, it was the fact that a tooth was being taken out that made me cringe and not the blood that came with it. After seeing the extraction of teeth repeatedly and even working inside a bleeding mouth, I slowly got used to seeing the sight. Eventually, I even knew what to grab before the dentist there would have to tell me that. I was even complimented for being a good dental assistant. After we finished all the teeth extractions, fillings were next, which was not as messy but also was an interesting experience, especially since it felt like all the tools and things needed for a tooth filling did not want to work with us, but other than that, it was fun.

After helping out for the entire day, I was exhausted. I was standing practically the entire day, opposite of what a high school usually does. Even though I was really tired and just wanted to go home, or well our lovely hotel room, and sleep, the experience I made was like no other. I learned drug names such as Lidocaine and Septocaine and what their purpose was, I learned how to use certain tools, and even felt how wonderful it was to help people in need. There was even this little boy, a very strong boy who tried not to cry or struggle during his teeth extraction, who hugged me right before leaving. After that, I was really touched and despite the fatigue I had been feeling earlier, I was energized and ready to help out even more. I am sincerely thankful for being able to participate in such a wonderful event and I hope that in the near future I would be able to come back and help out once more.

Dental Report

Our September Dental Clinic was run smoothly by all the volunteers who assisted. **Chris** came the previous day and early in the morning and assured the clinic was clean and operational before we started to see patients. The floors and work areas were also cleaned on Friday, so we could focus on the dental set-up and have a nice clean environment for providing dental care. Todd's instructions to Chris before leaving California must have spot on, since everything started well and ran well all day.



Joel's brother-in-law **Mike Kime** was in charge of sterilization this month. Our local resident, Minerva, was assisting chairside and translating, as was a first-time high school student volunteer out of southern California, **Carolina Mendoza**. They worked all day keeping the clinic operations flowing. As is typical, we started early and worked late to try and accommodate as many patients as possible. I was the only dentist, so we did need to triage patients to the following month, but tried to take on as many as we could. The morning and early afternoon consisted of extractions. We were able to move to doing some fillings by the middle of the afternoon,

however. All-in-all somewhere in the neighborhood of 27 extractions and 9 fillings were placed on '20 something' patients (the bookkeeper – yours truly - lost track on a few patient details at some point in the afternoon).

Our two planes departed early on Sunday for a smooth ride back home. A successful trip thanks to all the hard work and planning by all the volunteers and those who put in all the work behind the scenes.

-Paul Denzler, D.D.S.

Clinic Building Update

Thanks to the Rodriguez family, we will be expanding our clinic floorspace by taking over the space adjacent to the dental clinic where Valentin used to live. We are in the process of refurbishing the space, and will make an announcement once the renovations are complete. With our ever expanding array of services, every bit of space is needed!

