

Primary Care Clinic



Chris Nelson & Dianne VanOrder flew down in Chris's plane on Wednesday due to the threat of bad weather the next day. **Brian Krey**, DDS flew his son, **Ben**, and his brother, **Aaron**, along with **Theresa Noe**, DDS. **Randy Sharp** flew **Austin Graydon** and me. **Doug Wirzberger** flew his daughter, **Megan**, along with **Mariana Locke** and **Debbie Marino**. **Todd Makiyama**, DDS flew his wife, **Theresa** (who is also a dentist) and **Gwen Douglass**. **Joe Zachwieja** drove down with **Shirley McCulloch**, **Ruthan Smith** and **Andrea Powell**. **Margie** and **Rick Wilson** also drove down. The weather was nice flying down, with slight tailwinds.

Many people went for street tacos Friday evening, a few stayed to eat at the hotel and five of us ate at Jardines. It was rather cool, so jackets were worn.

Saturday, the clinic had many people waiting to have dental care done. All four of the dentists were instantly busy as were Chris and other workers handing out backpacks and clothes. The medical clinic was rather slow starting, but later became busier. Dianne arranged the transfer of a special wheelchair for one of our patients whose loving parents have consistently provided excellent care, administering Dilantin to control seizures. We saw a variety of medical problems, ably handled by Mariana and Shirley, including a young boy who slammed a car door on his finger. Another patient brought an ultrasound which revealed a 7-month-old fetus with hydrocephalus; she asked if we would pay for her to have a Caesarean section. Another patient asked if we could help her with metastatic breast

cancer treatment; she is currently being treated in Ensenada.

Around noon, after Randy had spent hours trying to fix the dental suction machine, it was decided that the dentists could only do extractions, so an announcement was made to people waiting that if they needed dental care, they would have to drive to El Rosario where the Tucson dentists were working. People were also told that it would be February before our dentists would be back. Todd talked to the Tucson group and asked if they would transport the suction machine to Tucson for repairs.

Megan, Doug, Arturo and Arturo's wife prepared a barbeque Saturday evening with roasted oysters, chicken cooked with opened beer cans inserted in their cavities, potatoes, rice and beans along with tortillas. Many of us ate so much that we didn't eat a lot at breakfast this morning.

We departed Sunday morning after breakfast with very nice weather for flying home.

Sr. Bilito

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 backpacks.
- Soroptimist International: Placerville, Cameron Park and Folsom
- Rotary Club International: Folsom; Folsom Lake; Placerville; Arden-Arcade; Pocket-Greenhaven; Loomis; Roseville Sunrise; East Sacramento
- Rotary Interact Clubs; Casa Robles High School; Oak Ridge High School, Orangevale
- 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 and neighbors
- Rolling Hills Church
- Brenda and Sterling Daley
- Cheri Throckmorton
- 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
- Theresa Dao-Makiyama
- Todd Makiyama
- Alexandra Hansen
- Patricia A. Nelson



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

Backpacks for Baja

November Clinic celebrated reaching nearly 2,780 "Backpacks For Baja" distributed to those in need since the program began in 2014!!!



Dozens of local children line up to receive the donations

Chris, with the assistance of several local volunteers, distributed over 80 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. In addition each backpack includes a book donated by **Celeste Roseberry-McKibbin** of "Love Talk Read". Women attending the clinic also received handmade handbags that include personal care items, sunglasses, and a special gift.

Other volunteers also distributed many donated items and sundries 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. The **Rolling Hills Church** sewing team also contributed handmade children's

dresses and other children's items which were greatly appreciate!!!

Barbara Harris and **Linda Daniel** of the "**Inner Wheel Ladies**" with the help of **Ann Hively** donated a supply of special books they designed and produced in Spanish for young children. These were a huge hit again this month and appreciated by the children as well as their parents!!! There was also a distribution of hundreds of men, women and children's clothing items which were greatly appreciated by the thankful recipients.

With the weather beginning to cool we also gave out a large supply of handmade hats and scarf's as well as socks. These items were all made by the "**Hooks and Needles**" team of men at Folsom Prison. This team also contributes handmade stuffed toys and other impactful items each month. The items were greatly appreciated by all and the recipients asked that their thanks be passed along!!!

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!!!

Cheri Throckmorton along with help from members of The Rolling Hills Church contributed handmade backpacks and other meaningful and much needed items. 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!!!



Optical Clinic



Andrea Powell and Luz help distribute (and model) donated glasses and sunglasses

We had a pre exam and initial patient intake forms completed by **Ruthan Smith**, a new volunteer; Andrea Powell as well as **Megan Wirzberger**, a student from Stockton. Megan also was our resident photographer and handed out hundreds of toothbrushes and tubes of toothpaste to thankful individuals in need of these basic oral care items.

The total number of patients seen was well over 210 with 81 exams using the Auto Refractor. In addition we gave out 37 pairs of readers and 3 pairs of glasses ordered from months prior. We also distributed approximately 170 pairs of sunglasses not including those that were in the Backpacks given to women and children. **Luz**, a local volunteer assisted with the distribution. 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, Batman and Ninja Turtles 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 service was efficient and the success rate of fitting was the best 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 Nelson

Nearly 95% of the patients needing glasses were fitted on the spot!!!

Historically, we have been able to fit about 94 percent of the patients with glasses on the day of the clinic and we then order the remainder online for delivery by one of the pilots the following month. Thanks to the knowledge and patience of **Margie Wilson** and the assistance she received from **Andrea Powell** and **Austin Greydon** in the fitting/evaluation area 77 of the 81 patients needing prescription glasses were fitted on the spot!!! This is a very significant in our effort to assist those in need of vision care on the spot. The patients that we could not fit the day of the clinic will have their glasses ordered for pick up in December.

This was a team effort with **Joe Zachwieja** overseeing the work flow, interpreting and assisting with training, Austin Greydon, a new volunteer, taking responsibility for some of the initial Auto Refractor exam and **Judy**, our local volunteer managing the intake of new patients and assisting with exams as well as providing knowledgeable assistance to all.



Megan Wirzberger taking a break from the optical clinic to hand out donated toothbrushes

A Fresh Perspective...

This month, our "Fresh Perspective" piece comes from **Austin Greydon and Randy Sharp**



The November clinic was my first time volunteering with the Flying Sams, and I woke up the morning before my flight to San Quintin feeling both nervous and excited. I've worked as an ER technician for 3 years, but I knew the weekend ahead of me would be filled with new people and experiences. Adding to my nervousness was the fact that I am a non-Spanish speaker, and working with a population that I couldn't communicate with was a daunting prospect. But Spanish wasn't the only foreign language I was to be exposed to, as the language of aviation is a flurry of codes and abbreviations that was miles over my head. Despite being far out of my element, I was excited to soak up the knowledge while using my skills to contribute to this great cause.

When our team arrived at the Alma Luminosa clinic Saturday morning there was already a sizeable group of locals waiting patiently for care. The optometry clinic was extremely busy (seeing over 80 patients that day) so I spent most of my time helping with visual acuity tests using a snellen chart and an autorefractor, and frantically learning various Spanish phrases and communication techniques as I went. The waiting area at the clinic was pretty crowded for most of the day, but also felt quite calm and all the patients and staff seemed genuinely happy to be there.

There are a lot of great things to say about my clinic trip with the Sams. The company was excellent. The people of San Quintin were friendly and inviting. The town was humble but beautiful. The food and drinks were plentiful and delicious. I can't wait to journey abroad with the Sams again!

-Austin Greydon

This was my first flight and mission with the Flying Samaritans. Their mission has always intrigued me after reading about the organization in a newsletter found on the internet via YouTube. I've flown many years transporting critical patients associated with injuries or hospital medical transfers (i.e. NICU, pediatrics, burn victims etc.) however these flights have always been performed under compensation. The Flying Sams is truly an amazing organization that does this on a volunteer basis. The living conditions, environment, compensation, and time spent away from their families is a sacrifice not to be taken lightly. What impressed me the most was the passion of helping the citizens of Mexico with no rewards, other than the smiles and thanks from so many lives they have touched. The team that I worked with was amazing. The friendliness and assistance from all team members was rewarding and very much appreciated.



-Randy Sharp

Dental Report

Our Achilles Heel...

Four dentists were in attendance for our November clinic. **Bryan Krey, Theresa Noe, Theresa Makiyama**, and myself. We also had Bryan's son **Ben** some along and assist alongside our resident translator, **Minerva**.



Bryan Krey and Gwen Douglass treating a dental patient

All intentions were to have a loaded and busy clinic. However, upon setting the clinic up on Saturday a.m., the relatively recently acquired suction unit decided it would not cooperate, the shaft of the dry vacuum seizing up. **Randy Sharp**, alongside many of the Sam's helpers, succeeded in getting the unit taken apart by midday and unseized the shaft of the vacuum unit, however, it would not reliably work and I had to make the executive decision to relatively cease clinic operations for the day. Suction is incredibly important for just about all phases of dental work.

While I was assisting Randy with trying to repair the vacuum, the three remaining dentists – Bryan, Theresa Noe, and Theresa Makiyama still succeeded in over 30 extractions for the day.

It was truly unfortunate that the vacuum decided to break down on a day where so many dentists had volunteered their time. Due to the significant costs of vacuum units along with it's dire need for future clinics –

I had decided to pull the unit – get it back stateside and have it repaired.

This breakdown forced us to think of other critical equipment in our clinic and we will be addressing those in the months to come.

We have already made arrangements to attempt repair prior to the next scheduled dental clinic in February 2018.

Kudo's go out to my three November attending dentists, Dr. Bryan Krey, Dr. Theresa Noe, and Dr. Theresa Makiyama. Also huge shouts to Randy Sharp for his attempt to repair dental equipment on the spot.

-Todd Makiyama



Todd Makiyama, Bryan Krey, Ben Krey, Theresa Makiyama, and Theresa Noe

Pilot's Corner

This month, a new pilot joined us. **Randy Sharp** has recently retired from Cal-Star, and flew his first clinic with us. In addition to being an IA and A&P (and a REALLY great guy), Randy is ex-Air Force and a highly accomplished pilot in more aircraft than I can count. His personal magic carpet is a Trinidad, which cruises at nearly the same speed as my old 1967 T210. On the return flight, we did a little formation flying after crossing over Edwards Air Force base. Thanks to new volunteer **Austin Graydon** (who rode with Randy) for the AWESOME picture of my plane sporting its new paint.

Randy brought a new concept along with him. He confirmed that, during our flights to and from clinic, the Flying Samaritans can use a special call sign to identify to ATC that we are doing humanitarian flights. The call sign is "Compassion" and was established by the Air Care Alliance.

Several of our pilots used the "Compassion" call sign this weekend and it sure seemed to us that we received several short cuts in our routing. The basics of using Compassion are simple: If you file IFR, use the callsign "CMF" then the last three characters of your tail number. For example, with my tail number N6859R, "CMF59R" is what I used. In the Remarks section of your flight plan, enter "COMPASSION N6859R VOLUNTEER FLIERS". Then, in all of your ATC calls, use "Compassion 59R" instead of "Centurion 6859R". Very cool! If you go VFR but use Flight Following, simply use the Compassion call sign when you first contact ATC.

For more information, check out their website <http://www.aircarealliance.org/call-sign-compassion>

In other news:

* We are ALWAYS looking for more pilots to join us! Please spread the word with every chance you get. And if you are friends with a Flying Sams pilot that hasn't flown a clinic in a while, get on the phone with your buddy and plan a reunion flight for an upcoming clinic! San Quintin is still a GREAT place!

Cheers and Happy Flying,
-**Doug Wirzberger**



N6859R sporting a fresh paint job en route to clinic