



*Flying Samaritans*

# *Mother Lode Chapter*

Clinic Report - December, 2017

## Primary Care Clinic

**Chris Nelson** flew **Dianne VanOrder** & **me**. It was a very nice, smooth flight going down, but we saw a lot of smoke caused by the fires in Southern California. **Sunny Sethi** was asked to fly **Maria Boyd** & **John Messner**, but the battery in Sunny's plane failed. Maria & John had already drive to Sacramento Executive Airport & they emailed Chris to tell him they wouldn't be coming. Both have been strong supporters in attending clinic as well as donating, so it was very sad they couldn't make it. We were really short of help, so it was quite noticeable that they weren't there.



**Joe Zachwieja** drove **Shirley McColluch**, FNP, **Nora Feddal** & **Sarah Adams**, another FNP. **Rick** & **Margie Wilson** drove down also, which always makes Chris very happy because of Margie's experience in the optical department. We all ate dinner at the hotel Friday night. It was only 65° when we arrived at Mexicali and it remained cool in San Quintin, necessitating the use of the heaters in our hotel rooms.

Chris demonstrated the new portable auto-refractor, using it on one of the hotel maids who was found to need glasses; she visited the clinic on Saturday to obtain them.

Saturday was very busy in the morning with backpack distribution, eye exams and medical clinic visits. Sarah is a new FNP recruited by Shirley, and was a very welcome addition. We hope to see her back at the February clinic. Dianne applied Sulfamylon to a young girl who had blisters on the palm of her left hand from spilling boiling water. The patient who received a new wheelchair said it worked great in his home, but on outside rough ground, it was difficult to push. Dianne will work with **Bob Haining** to make adjustments. I injected

an older patient's knee because of painful arthritis, which gave temporary relief, but she needs a knee replacement which is not going to happen there.

We closed the clinic early after Chris distributed the Christmas bonuses, going to Jardines for dinner.

We departed the hotel at 6:30 a.m. Sunday and were back in Placerville by noon due to tail winds as high as 200 knots ground speed (230 mph). Flying past Ontario, we could see clouds of smoke from the Ventura fire appearing to be as high as 25,000 feet.

**-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
- Marilyn 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

December Clinic celebrated reaching nearly 3,000 "Backpacks For Baja" distributed to those in need since the program began in 2014!!!



## Generous Christmas donations help local families during the holiday season

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, dolls and other children's items which were greatly appreciated!!!

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, once again, contributed handmade backpacks and other meaningful and much needed items. THANKS!!!

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

**Chris**, with the assistance of several local volunteers, distributed over 80 special "Christmas themed" backpacks to children attending the clinic. Each backpack included a Christmas gift, sunglasses, important sundries such as tooth brushes 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.

A special thanks to **Ynez**, her Mom **Laura** and **Cinthia**, who are all local volunteers. They not only assisted with Optical but made over 40 backpacks and assisted with the Christmas give aways!!!

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"**



# Optical Clinic

Over 95% of the patients needing glasses were fitted on the spot this month!!!



**Inez Flores (r) giving an exam on the auto refractor**

with exams as well as providing knowledgeable assistance to all.

We had a pre exam and initial patient intake forms completed by Dalia, a new local volunteer as well as Candy, a local student and the daughter of one of our long time volunteers. We were short handed and trained/utilized everyone that was capable.

The total number of patients seen was well over 185 with 71 exams using the Auto Refractor and/or Spot Vision. In addition we gave out 27 pairs of readers and 5 pairs of glasses ordered from months prior. We also distributed approximately 140 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, 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 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!!!

Another special THANKS to Jim McKay and the Central Valley Chapter of the Flying Samaritans. They helped us with the funding to purchase a much needed Lensometer and also loaned us a Spot Vision set of evaluation equipment. The new equipment greatly improved our ability to accurately and quickly evaluate patients and help them with the appropriate optical solution.

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 in the fitting/evaluation area nearly all 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 day they are evaluated. 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 and utilizing the new Spot Vision equipment in the initial evaluation. Ynez a local volunteer, taking responsibility for some of the Auto Refractor exams and Judy, another long time local volunteer managing the intake of new patients and assisting

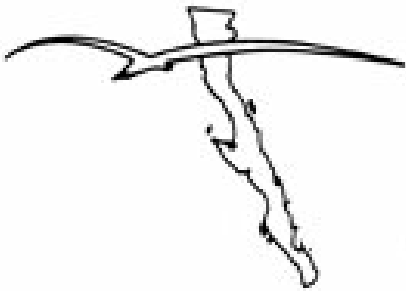
## Clinic Building Update/Expanding Optical

Thanks again to the **Rodriguez family**, we will be expanding our clinic floor space 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 and growing needs of clients, every bit of space is needed!

The space is currently targeted to be our new Optical Clinic which will allow us to better serve a greater number of optical patients as well as free up much needed space where Optical is currently located for the Medical team to expand.

The project will take a number of months to complete and is planned to be a collaborative effort including members of the Flying Samaritans, the East Sacramento Rotary (who have assisted significantly in the past with premises and other challenging issues) as well as other participants as needed.

In December with a significant amount of clean up completed and the removal of a wall, the new space was used by the optical team for part of the initial patient review and an exam utilizing a Spot Vision devise.



*Flying Samaritans*®

SAMARITANOS VOLADORES