

Flying Samaritans  
**Mother Lode Chapter**  
Clinic Report - November 2019

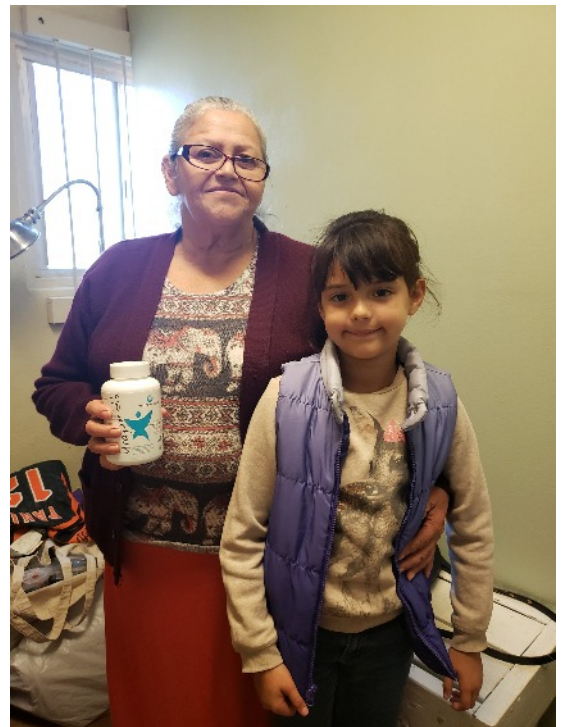
### Primary Care Clinic



It was a good clinic, medicine saw 47 patients and Mariana and Jasper were fantastic (just as expected). Jose (the truck driver from San Quintin was there again and he sort of did all kinds of odd jobs). He handed out the clothing that Raffy brought down, did interpreting when Wendy left, worked in the dental side.

Julian did vital signs for me, as well as Chris (from Utah). He is the nurse anesthetist. He brought his two little girls also, (he has 5 little girls altogether ages 9 to 2 months). Good guy wants to do some flying with LIGA). He was going to drive 13 hours on Sunday to be at work on Monday morning.

**-Dianne VanOrder**



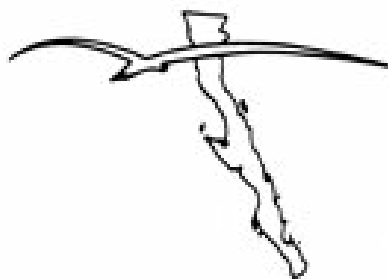
**Thanks to our Sponsors!** A SPECIAL THANKS to some of our many important program sponsors without whom The Flying Samaritans could not make the significant humanitarian impact delivered to those in need. Both monetary and non are essential to the operation of our clinic.

- 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; Orangevale, East Sacramento
- Rotary Interact Clubs; Casa Robles High School; Oak Ridge High School, Folsom High School, Bella Vista 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
- Revamps Hair Salon, Lucy and Andrea
- 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
- 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
- Brian Claassen
- Dr John Demshar
- Lonnie Davis/Hope Haven West
- Anthony Pineiro and Wife
- Anu Rau M.D.
- Renfro's Bridal Shop
- Falco Family Foundation
- Pam Crause, Kathy Schneider
- Hangtown Fiber Guild
- Marcella Claassen
- Cheryl Francis, Grace & Mercy, Lodi
- Lisa Smith
- Nina Wright
- Nicholas and Carmen Soberanis
- Dennis and Carol Anne Venturelli
- Dennis Metzler

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



*Flying Samaritans*®

SAMARITANOS VOLADORES

## Backpacks for Baja

The October Clinic celebrated reaching over 4300 "Backpacks For Baja" distributed to those in need since the program began in 2014!!! **Linda**



**Dozens of families lined up to receive donated backpacks, clothing, school supplies and other donated items**

**Nelson** has made 2,475 **Cheri Throckmorton** and the **Rolling Hills Church** team have made 1,250. Placer County Corrections Inmates have made 723 and other helpers made 640!!!! **Cecilia**, with the assistance of **Imelda**, and several other local volunteers, distributed over 80 backpacks to children attending the clinic. Each backpack included a special 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 60 handmade handbags that include personal care items, sunglasses, and a special gift.

Volunteers 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. Over 75 of these dresses were distributed. The Rolling Hills Church sewing team also contributed handmade children's dresses, dolls and other children's items, including shorts for young boys, 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. This was thanks to Raffy and his team that brought a record amount of clean quality clothes!!!!!!!

We also gave out a large supply of handmade hats and scarves 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 (Over 2,475 program to date!!!!!!) 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. She also coordinates the packaging and transportation of all the other items distributed, including the monthly supply of women's and children's vitamins. 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!!!!



# Optical Clinic

In November over 60 optical exams were completed before noon. 100% of the patients needing glasses were fitted on the spot this month and left the clinic with a smile and greatly improved vision!!! This successful outcome was thanks to the improved work flow instituted by **Margie Wilson** as well as her diligence and training of the entire team!!! This is very significant in our effort to assist those in need of vision care on the day they are evaluated. patients were assisted by **Angie, Lucy**, as well as other local volunteers in the fitting/evaluation area.



Historically, we have been able to fit over 97 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. This was a team effort. **Judy**, a long time local volunteer managed the intake of new patients and assisted with exams as well as providing knowledgeable assistance to all. **Inez**, as well as **Candy Castro**, a local student and the daughter of one of our long time volunteers, gave oversight to the distribution of children's and adult sunglasses and assisted wherever needed.

We had a pre exam completed by other local volunteers including **Melanie**, and **Sherlyn** the daughters of long time volunteers, **Imelda** and **Minerva** as well as **Denya**, Judy's daughter. We continued to train/utilize everyone that was capable to ensure timely service for those in need.

The total number of patients seen was well over 150 with the 60 plus exams referenced above completed using the Auto Refractor and/or Spot Vision. In addition we gave out 40 pairs of readers and 2 pairs of glasses ordered from months prior. We also distributed approximately 100 pairs of sunglasses. This included Men's, Women's and Children's sunglasses. 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!!! We saw 60 patients, gave out 40 sunglasses and 25 readers. **Henry Yeh**, the new owner of **Solo Optical** brought readers and we dispensed them! Thanks Henry!!!!

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 **Chris Morris** 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. **Dr. John Demshar** also made the generous donation of a Slit Lamp. The new equipment greatly improved our ability to accurately and quickly evaluate patients and help them with the appropriate optical solution.

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



## Dental Clinic

The November dental clinic was a very productive weekend. A special thanks to **Rich Razo** and **Randy** from the Tucson group who efficiently installed two new cart units in the clinic. This new upgrade will allow our clinic to function better to help the dentists work with improved equipment. Welcome back **Theresa Dao-Makiyama** as she worked hard patient after patient saving the teeth that could be restored. She actually pushed me to help save a tooth that we would



typically have extracted. **Dr. Esteban Campos** worked quietly treating patient efficiently and placed orthodontic brackets on our helper Minerva's daughter so they would not have an added cost for her braces. This was our first orthodontic case treated at the clinic that I am aware of. High Five Dr. Campos! Andy, our dental assistant provided help to our patients in need of cleanings. Each month more patients are returning to our clinics requesting teeth cleanings. I am glad that we are able to provide this

whenever we can. A special thank you to **Chris** and **Shelly Kupfer** who drove out from Utah to lend a hand in our clinic. They kept our clinic day running smoothly as they provided support in sterilization. With their efforts, we were able to work nonstop to see as many patients as possible. I found out at dinner that Shelly and I attended the same high school in So. Cal. Small small world!!! GO TARTANS! Our chair side assistants always play a critical role in the efficiency of our day. **Ethan Makiyama** was chairside with his mom and **Dr. Esteban**. Having previously worked in the clinic, Ethan knew how to help chair side. **Selena Yang**, our soon to be dental student was helping everywhere. Having worked at our clinic before, Selena knows what needed to be done. Having interviewed at USC and UCSF dental schools and waiting for more, I cannot wait to hear which school she will be attending next year. Good Luck Selena. **Julius Chang** got the new volunteers oriented to the clinic and kept an eye on things helping out where needed. A special thank you to **Raffy Rodriguez**. His enthusiasm and passion for improving our dental clinic are making things happen. He is planning another fundraising event for Flying Sams as well as reaching out to a local day care center. It is our goal to be able to provide sealants and fluoride to approximately 160 children. If we can do this every 6-12 months and provide dental education in a fun learning environment we can help maintain good teeth for these kids. With Raffy's help we will expand the care that we can provide to this community. As we end this productive year, I want to thank the leadership of **Todd Makiyama**. He got our clinic to where it is today. We will continue to build on his efforts in the years to come. Happy holidays to all our Flying Sams members and their families.

-Charlie Arita



# Expanding Orthotic Services

With our ever expanding array of services and growing needs of clients, every bit of space is needed!

The project will take a number of months 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, both local and from the U.S. as needed.

The space is approximately 30' X 15' and is in need of a new roof as well as flooring and a complete interior build out. Rick Wilson and Doug put together separate detailed plans that were presented to Pinos Ranch representatives requesting assistance. A meeting was held in September with Arturo and Rafael Rodriguez, members of the Rodriguez Family/Pinos Ranch and they agreed in concept to replace the roof and begin work on the cement floor. They will be presenting a proposal to the Pinos Ranch Board Of Directors. This work is planned to begin in December or January, weather permitting.

Rick has completed cost estimates with the help of Victor Castro a local contractor that we work with who is also the husband of Cecilia, a long time volunteer.

All resources are being evaluated as the need for assistance with this project is significant.

A special thanks to everyone who has assisted with this project to date. In particular Rick Wilson the project leader and the East Sacramento Rotary who are assisting with funding the project.

Thanks!!!! It will not happen without great teamwork!!!!



## Del Presidente

In what seems to be just the blink of an eye, most of 2019 is behind us! It has been a great year for the Flying Samaritans. We have had many new members join us for their first clinic and return for more. That's the best compliment a new member can give to our organization. With the tireless help of **Raffy**, we have been able to host more dental clinics this year than ever before! And some recent great news...we are the recipients of a 'new to us' Dodge Dakota pickup truck! We set the bar high after 2019, but we'll still strive to top that bar in 2020.

It's always a great feeling for me when I attend a clinic with someone who is attending as a first timer. There are so many upsides to what we do in San Quintin, and it's a pleasure to witness a newbie as they experience the excitement of arriving at clinic to see the crowd of people gathered to receive our care. Then, as the clinic rolls into action, they experience the buzz of so many things happening around them. I always encourage them, no matter how busy they might be at their assigned task, to walk around to the various parts of the clinic during the peak of the day and witness the dozens of tiny miracles occurring at any given time. One of the best suited to bring smiles to our clients is **Gwen Douglass**. She has an incredible knack of bringing smiles to everyone's face, then capturing the glee on camera. I always enjoy looking at the pictures she posts on Facebook after she returns from clinic, and sometimes 'steal' them for inclusion in the newsletter. In addition to the great work we do during clinic, I also like to hear the newbies talk about the balance of their clinic experience: the first flight in a general aviation aircraft, the feeling of the soft beach sand, the STREET TACOS(!!!), the peaceful feeling of the hotel grounds during an early morning walk. I honestly feel that convincing someone to come for the first time is the most difficult part. But once they feel the vibe of San Quintin, the eagerness to return is all theirs!



The same feeling applies to the wonderful dental team that Raffy has recruited to come to San Quintin. Admittedly, the drive from So Cal is not fun, so I really admire Raffy and his gang for their dedication to our cause. Raffy and his team make the trek from So Cal in a rented van, and although Raffy tries his best to keep the journey exciting with touristy stops along the way, the effort that these volunteers are showing is truly awesome! With his help and the continuing support of our NorCal-based dental clinic volunteers, we are providing dental clinics nearly every month in San Quintin! Additionally, we have invested in the dental clinic with the purchase of two new dental delivery units and we will soon be adding a third. These units were installed by **Rich Razo** and his assistant from the **Tucson chapter**. Team work and coordination between our chapters makes almost anything possible!

**Continued** →



# Del Presidente

Speaking of inter-chapter assistance...at a presentation I gave during a recent International Board of Directors (IBOD) meeting, I mentioned that we are in need of a new-to-us vehicle. As you likely know, our beloved Jonathan is getting a bit long in the tooth. His roof and body has succumbed to the salty sea air and rust is winning the battle. **Vic Jones** of the **So Cal chapter** perked up at the mention of our need – and offered to transfer to us a Dodge Dakota pickup truck that had been donated to his chapter but wasn't receiving much use. With the help of **Cecilia** and **Victor Castro** (our AWESOME helpers in San Quintin) who made the trek to Guerro Negro to fetch the truck, the Mother Lode chapter is now proudly welcomes "Mouse" to the family. Mouse is a BEEEEEEAUTIFUL Dodge truck that comfortably seats 5, has about 100k miles and still filled with lots of remaining service years. Even better, the air conditioning is awesome!!! After sitting for a couple of years, Mouse just needs a couple of maintenance items to be completed. Our plan is to stop spending money to repair Jonathan, and when he is near final retirement, we will let him live his remaining years with a family that can still find use for him in San Quintin. A big THANK YOU to Vic Jones and the So Cal chapter for this awesome token of teamwork!

On a personal note, many of you know that I decided to change careers within the past year. I opted to leave a lucrative engineering career in exchange for the pursuit of my dream to become an airline pilot. In February of this year, I started training as a First Officer for SkyWest Airlines, flying the Canadair Regional Jet. After training, I was awarded Fresno as a base and have been thoroughly enjoying the flying. The downside of the change has been that I haven't been able to attend as many clinics as I used to. In the airline industry, seniority is king. And I am just now getting enough seniority to be able to bid off for the clinic weekends. I hope that as the months tick on, that I'll be able to attend more and more clinics!

As always, we thank each and every one of you for your AWESOME support!

**Doug Wirzberger**  
**Presidente, Mother Lode Chapter**



**Our newest clinic vehicle, "Mouse"!**



## **We Want You!**

We Want You! In Search of members who would like to serve on the Mother Lode Board of Directors. Open positions include two (2) Directors At Large. The minimal time commitment includes participation in monthly Board meetings which are usually conducted via teleconference. When an in-person meeting is required, the meeting location is at Sacramento Executive Airport. If you are interested, please send an email to [membership@flyingsamaritansmotherlode.org](mailto:membership@flyingsamaritansmotherlode.org). Thanks for helping us to continue our service in San Quintin!

**Doug Wirzberger**  
**Presidente, Mother Lode Chapter**

