

## Newsletter for September 2011



Summer is over and it's time to get back to the skies (and roads) for the fall clinics. The first ER clinic was last weekend and the first LSI clinic is this coming weekend.

*Carl the Flying Curmudgeon (and Newsletter Editor)*

## August El Rosario Work Clinic and Dedication

This year we combined our annual ER clean-up/fix-up trip with a ceremony to dedicate the El Rosario Flying Samaritans clinic building to Doña Anita (Mama) Espinoza, the Mexican matriarch of the entire Flying Samaritans Organization. Her daughter and our eternal friend, Roli, just told her that we were going to an event in town and she needed to get dressed up a bit. At high noon on Saturday, Roli drove her up the road and stopped in front of the clinic as the Chief of Police directed traffic on Mexico Highway 1 around their vehicle.

As one of her sons, that is one of her 19 children, helped her out of the car, we unveiled the new permanent sign on the building with her name on it.

With obvious surprise and delight she exclaimed, "Oh my word, bless my Flying Angels." That is her favored name for her Flying Samaritan friends that she has known, praised, and supported for the past 50 years since that first encounter with Aileen Mellott in 1961.



Mama was a mere 54 years old at that time and will celebrate her 104th birthday on October 16th. At the thoughtful and foresighted suggestion of one of our chapter members, the board decided to have this celebration and dedication while Mama was still able to appreciate it. And appreciate it she did. She said a prayer and asked that all of her "Flying Angels" be blessed. And then she sang for us the following verse from a famous British anthem:

“It's a long way to Tipperary,  
It's a long way to go.  
It's a long way to Tipperary  
To the sweetest girl I know!”



We were all amazed at what an absolutely beautiful singing voice Mama had. I'm not sure what the anthem sung by British soldiers as they went off to war in 1914 had to do with the occasion, but we were all delighted and agreed that at 104 years old she could sing whatever she wanted to, and we were grateful for it. She shed a few tears of joy, as did most of us there. Then Roli treated everyone to a wonderful fish taco lunch at the famous Mama Espinoza's Restaurant.



We were honored to have the town mayor attend the ceremony. He read a proclamation and had words of praise for the many years of caring service the Flying Samaritans had provided for the people of Baja California. His proclamation is on the next page. Also attending from San Quintin was our dear friend, Honorary Chapter Member and great Sam's supporter, Thomas Sanchez. This was in addition to many other townsfolk.

The Tucson Chapter members attending were our President John Osborne and his lovely, hardworking wife Diana; Judy Austin; Vince Baker; Michael Don; Robert Doughty; Vince Lacsamana; Kay Lehman; Richard Razo; and yours truly. I think I can speak for everyone when I say it was an event that we all felt fortunate to be a part of and one that we shall never forget.

Respectfully Submitted,  
 Wally Austin

BIENVENIDOS TODOS A ESTE ACTO TAN SIGNIFICATIVO QUE HOY SE LLEVA ACABO POR SAMARITANOS VOLADORES Y LA COMUNIDAD EN GENERAL, QUE MUCHO LE TENEMOS QUE AGRADECER A ESTE GRUPO ALTRUISTA, NO NADA MAS EN ESTA POBLACION DE EL ROSARIO SI NO EN OTRAS COMUNIDADES MAS DE NUESTRO MUNICIPIO.

CABE HACER NOTAR QUE ELLOS SAMARITANOS VOLADORES HAN TENIDO ACCIDENTES LAMENTABLES COMO EL DEL PASADO EN LA CIUDAD DE ENSENADA Y OTROS MAS, PERO AUN ASI SIGUEN CON EL ENTUSIASMO Y EL DESINTERES SIEMPRE EN BENEFICIO DE LOS PUEBLOS, TENDER LA MANO A SUS HABITANTES EN MEDICINA ATENCION MEDICA GENERAL, TRAUMATOLOGIA, DENTISTAS, PEDIATRIA Y OTRAS ATENCIONES MAS.

Y HOY TENGO EL HONOR DE PRESIDIR ESTE ACTO EN DONDE LE DEDICAN ESTA CLINICA A LA SRA. ANA GROSSO MEJOR CONOCIDA COMO "MAMA ESPINOZA", CLINICA QUE SIN DUDA NO PUDO HABER UNA MEJOR DONACION YA QUE MAMA ESPINOZA SIEMPRE ESTUVO Y LO SIGUE ESTANDO AL PENDIENTE DE QUE SE TRAJERA ATENCION MEDICA A ESTA COMUNIDAD DE EL ROSARIO.

MUCHO LES AGRADEZCO LAS ATENCIONES BRINDADAS A ETA DELEGACION DE EL ROSARIO, MUCHAS GRACIAS.



DELEGACION MUNICIPAL  
EL ROSARIO



▲ The spruced-up courtyard is ready for the September clinic.

▼ Judy Austin did a great job with the power washer.





◀ The work crew did a fantastic job of cleaning the building inside and out.

## First-timer Reports

Furkan Dogan:

I had such a fulfilling experience on this trip to Mexico. Flying in a small plane was really fun. My pilot was also one of my attending dentists from my residency program. Everything was well organized. The local village people had already lined up for us before we got there. We provided dental treatment to around 40 patients each day. It is a great opportunity to give back to those who are not as lucky as we are. Our hotel was by the Pacific Ocean, and the scenery at sunset and sunrise was breathtaking. I walked at the beach and watched sunrise, it was a very relaxing time. Apart from all, one would get to network with colleagues who also chose to volunteer. I plan to participate again, and I encourage anybody who has the generosity to dedicate a weekend of their time for something this meaningful.

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D. Kendel Garretson, D.D.S.:

Some months ago my friend Ken Reed, who is a pilot and a dentist, invited me to join him on a Flying Samaritans trip to El Rosario. We met on a Friday morning at Marana Regional where Ken keeps his plane. Ken is a veteran of these trips, and was joined by fellow veteran Samantha, who wore many hats on this trip, including interpreter and health educator. Two other dentists also rode in Ken's plane and were first-timers like myself.

The trip to El Rosario was absolutely beautiful! We stopped in San Felipe to clear customs before landing near El Rosario, where the Flying Sams leave a van to provide ground transportation. We arrived at the clinic near midday to a full house of patients. Dr. Kari had her pediatric specialty skills put to the test, while Dr. Furkan rekindled her exodontia talents, which have been lying dormant during her anesthesia residency. We also provided restorative services. We were joined on Friday by four others, as they arrived from Tucson, to provide support and other services, beginning with some roof maintenance on the clinic. At the end of a busy first day we checked into our hotel on the beach. Qué bonito! We enjoyed some time together and some good eatin'! Walks on the beach, whether in the evening or early morning, are definitely another highlight of the trip.

Saturday morning we were treated to a breakfast feast at Mama Espinoza's, near the clinic. We spent the day in the clinic, settling in to our routines and getting used to the equipment and the 'rhythm.' Everyone worked as a team, pitching in to do anything needed, from taking out the trash to bringing more food from Mama E's – thanks Vince! A medical team arrived Saturday morning and had a successful day in the clinic as well. Our group met again as before at day's end, for dinner and camaraderie back at the hotel. Sunday morning we flew back to Tucson after breakfast and again we enjoyed beautiful flying conditions.

If you've ever been a part of a team like this, then you know the rewards. What an amazing effort the Flying Sams have sustained over the years as a service to these wonderful people! It's been my experience that when we serve others, we end up feeling as though we were the ones being served. I'm very grateful to have had this opportunity.

Thanks so much to everyone involved!

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### **Ben's Bell Award**

Congratulations to Howie Adams for receiving a Ben's Bell! Wally and Judy Austin had the opportunity to be part of presenting this surprise award to Howie on August 2nd during a "business meeting" that he was having at Starbucks. Also present were Howie's wife and daughter and a group from the Ben's Bells organization. Howie was most pleased to see some Flying Sams members among the presenters. For those of you that aren't familiar with Ben's Bells, it is an organization started by a young mother who lost her 3 year old son, Ben. She was so amazed at how much the simple acts of kindness by so many people really helped her and her family through the worst time of their lives. They wanted to find a way to pass on that kindness and to help others in the process. Ben's Bells symbolize kindness and that is why Howie was "Belled"! To learn more log onto <http://www.bensbells.org/>. Again, congratulations Howie. Knowing you as we do through Flying Samaritans, we have no doubt that this honor was well deserved!



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### **A Shift in the Wind**

by Craig Albright, Treasurer, Flying Samaritans Arizona

Many of you may not realize that for the past 1 ½ years, the two Arizona chapters of Flying Samaritans (located in Phoenix and Tucson) have been working together to restructure our portion of the organization and form a new corporation. We're still the same folks providing the same wonderful services to the same gracious patients down in Baja. Nothing about our mission and the way we deliver

free healthcare to the underserved populations in Mexico has changed. And, of course, we will be a 501(c)3 organization in the eyes of the IRS. That allows each of us to treat our mission costs as tax-deductible expenses. In fact, except for a name change, the organizational modifications will be invisible to most of our membership! We'll be known as **Flying Samaritans Arizona** rather than Flying Samaritans. This fundamental change was accomplished with the consent and cooperation of the existing, California-based Flying Samaritans organization.

Why the change? As you probably know, we have a long and successful history of Samaritan service. After being founded as a California corporation in the early 1960s, we eventually grew to 10 chapters: eight in California, two in Arizona, and one in northwestern Mexico. However, that growth was not without organizational challenges. And, recently two of the smaller, less successful California chapters consolidated with larger, more active chapters. Our decision to form a separate, Arizona-based, charitable corporation was based on several factors:

- *Distance* – We're a long way from any of the California chapters. Quarterly corporate meetings (held in California) require costly flights for multiple Arizona aircraft. And, we waste quite a bit of volunteer time flying approximately 6 hours for a 1-day meeting. Plus, the inherent distance prevents any synergistic resource sharing with the California chapters. So, although we have the same Samaritan desires as our California brethren, there is very little actual sharing between Arizona and California.
- *Resource scarcity* – Resource allocation, both labor and monetary, is a fundamental concern to an all-volunteer organization like ours. Supporting the California-based corporation requires both time and money. Forming an Arizona-based corporation was a savings in both areas.
- *Administrative concerns* – Over time, both Arizona chapters had become concerned about the direction, actions, and lack of cohesiveness of the existing organization. Despite repeated and long-standing attempts by Arizona leadership to resolve the corporate issues and re-create a mission-based focus for the group, progress has been nil. Although it was tempting to simply "do our own thing" in Arizona and remain with the original organization, actions by one California chapter in particular had potential liability impacts upon the corporation. (The general membership wasn't at risk; "only" the officers and Board members.) It will be much easier to properly manage our affairs and safeguard the corporation and its members using an Arizona corporation.

What's next? The Flying Samaritans Arizona corporation was actually formed in June 2010. But, with the consent of the California organization, we've continued to operate as a member of their organization while awaiting our 501(c)3 designation from the IRS. (That's what allowed your expenses to be tax-deductible!) In June 2011, we received the IRS determination letter granting our 501(c)3 status! Now, we can begin operating under the new Arizona-based corporation. In the upcoming months, a variety of small "nomenclature" changes may be evident – nothing major. Our mission remains the same. Our actions will be that much more focused. And, we're all still "Sams."

I hope to see you in Baja!

## Meeting Schedule

All board meetings, unless stated otherwise, are held at St. Gregory Preparatory School on Craycroft just south the Rillito. The meeting schedule is on the [schedule](#) page of the website.

The original purpose of the board meetings was to plan the upcoming clinic trips. With the advent of the Internet and better communication, the planning can be done through emails and phone calls. The board felt that meeting with members who were not directly involved with clinic trip planning was not adding content to the board meetings. There are now four general membership meetings per year, and the board hopes that everyone can attend and participate in the chapter operations.

Please join us on Thursday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> at the First Christian Church, Fellowship Hall, 740 East Speedway starting at 6:00 p.m. We have an interesting program and would like to share our activities with all of the volunteers that make our organization what it is today.

## Website

The website has the current schedule in both table and calendar formats. We also added a PayPal link to facilitate both donations and dues payments. Now you can pay dues using your PayPal account or a credit card. Bear in mind that you still must send in your completed and signed application and waiver each year. Licensed providers must also submit signed Professional Standards Forms when the previous ones expire. [Website Link](#)

## Fundraising Activities

Rose Quiroga has some details on the upcoming Fundraisers.

### Rummage Sale

First of all we are going to do a Rummage Sale on November 19<sup>th</sup> at the VFW parking on Beverly. The last page of this newsletter is a printable flyer. Please print some and tell your friends so we can collect a lot of good rummage. We have reserved a storage room on Speedway and Columbus to store all this stuff until that morning. We will really need hands on help the morning of the sale to get everything set up and help monitor our stuff. Ruben Ramirez, Bob Smith, and I each have a key to the storage unit, and Bob has graciously offered to pick up any items since he has a truck.

### Christmas Party

We are planning the Christmas party for Sunday December the 4<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at the Outback Steakhouse. The date is tentative, and if the 4<sup>th</sup> does not work out, we are looking at December 3<sup>rd</sup>. I will send out more details as soon as I nail down the date.

### Continuing Education Dental Conference

Lastly, we have secured a date for the Dentist Conference for Saturday April 7<sup>th</sup> to be held at PCC campus on the northwest side. We have been working closely with Ken Reed to set this up. This will be a great event and we will definitely need lots of help from the dentists in our group in getting the word out.

Thanks everyone and these events will only successful because of you.



2010-2012 Officers:

John Osborne, President  
Jennifer Treece, Treasurer  
Olivia Sanders, Secretary

Dental Coordinator: Ken Reed, DMD

Medical Coordinator: (Open Position)

Directors:

Wally Austin  
Peggy Clementi  
Carl Foster  
Pat Hartowicz  
Bill Hunt  
Richard Johnson  
Michael Mandig  
Ruben Ramirez  
Richard Razo  
Gloria Salas  
Chuck Schroll  
Bob Smith  
Gena Damento

Pharmacy Coordinators:

Judy Austin, RN (ER)  
Jennifer Treece (LSI)

Interpreter Coordinator: Olivia Sanders

Pilot Coordinator: Bill Hunt

Webmaster: Carl Foster

Membership: Judy Austin

Newsletter Editor: Carl Foster

Fundraising:

Ruben Ramirez  
Bob Smith  
Rose Quiroga

Trip/Clinic Coordinators:

Judy Austin (ER)  
Pat Hartowicz (LSI)  
Jillian Moore (AP)

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Greg Hatch  
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Jimmy Jimenez  
Doug Jones  
Nancy Lefco  
Bill & Angie Merodious  
Bob Netherton  
John Osborne  
Thomas Sanchez  
Dan Shoemaker  
Mike Still



## **We need your help.**

The Flying Samaritans are planning a fun-raising Rummage Sale and need your junk and treasures!!

WHEN: Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup>

WHERE: VFW post at 1150 N Beverly Ave (Beverly and Speedway)

TIME: 8am to 2pm

### **How can you help???**

- We need lots of items for the sale – we have a storage room we can hold these items along with pick up if needed
- We need volunteers for the night before and day of the sale- lots of volunteers
- We need buyers the day of the sale so please spread the word

So start digging into those closets, garages and storage sheds – we need your help!!!

**For questions please call:**

**Rose Quiroga 603-5889**

**Ruben Ramirez 906-1519**

**Pat Solvas 850-1373**

**Yolanda Rodriguez 591-5412**

**Bob Smith 977-1096**