



PROJECTS IN MEXICALI—AN EXAMPLE OF TRUE PARTNERING



~by John Brunk, Groveland Rotary. Once again volunteers worked together to really make a difference in the lives of those in need in Mexico. This was accomplished by the combined efforts of doctors, Tom Mihok O.D., Ted Mihok D.P.M., Jose Bustos D.D.S., and Brian Elliott O.D., along with Dr. Nadia Rosales, MD of Mexicali, and a team of volunteers from Ameri-corps, **Groveland, Riverbank, San Francisco, and Twain Harte Rotary Clubs**, and the Alameda and Oakdale Lions Clubs, and

friends and families. The mission included the donation of an ambulance that was procured by the **Riverbank and Groveland Rotary Clubs** to the Baja Rescue Corporation. The ambulance was transported from Groveland to the border by Walt and Pam Reimers of Groveland. Another aspect of the mission included 624 optical, podiatry, gynecology, dental and general medical examinations and treatments. On April 13 and 14, 27 US citizens worked side by side with members of the **Calafia Rotary Club of Mexicali, BC, Mexico**, in this goodwill mission. Dental extractions and fillings were performed in a portable 3-chair, fully contained 30 foot van that was provided by the University of Baja California. Graduates of the dental school are required to do community work and were present to assist in the dental work. Jim Lima, a lens maker in Modesto, was present to assist both optometrists. Many of the glasses fitted came from **Rotary Interact clubs in district 5220**. Medical equipment donated by Keckler Medical/Jim Whitworth, an **Oakdale Rotarian** was donated to the Baja Rescue and the Mexicali General Hospital. Walkers, crutches, and porta-potties were donated by the Groveland Helping Hands. 22 cases of English/Spanish 5th grade books, donated by the **Merced Sunrise Rotary** and the Oakdale Lions, and paint and spackle from Valley Lumber found their way to the school. Dick and Doty Davis of Groveland donated 6 gross of school-inscribed pencils, sharpeners and inflatable globes to the school where the clinics took place.

While the exams were being performed at the Visita a Escuela Otilia U de Corta school, the interior of Hogar Emmanuel, a home for children whose parents are incarcerated, 8 miles southwest of Mexicali, was completely refurbished with paint, florescent lights, sheetrock, refrigerator, 3 washing machines and cabinetry for the boys' restrooms. 15 cases of food and one of the washers were donated by the Oakdale Lions Club. The total amount of the items donated and services was just over \$78 K, which does not include the value of the medical assistance given to the doctors nor the man hours donated to refurbish the interior of Hogar Emmanuel. It is gratifying to be involved in this type of an international service project. Plans are already underway for the project for next year. For information on how you can be involved in service to mankind call John Brunk, 209- 962-6276.