

## A Boy's Game and A Man's Gift

Each year the Northern California Baseball Leagues have a father/son three-day tournament in Sacramento. This year I played for the Sonoma County team and with my son-in-law (a former college pitcher) and his 15-year-old son. Together, we were three of our team's five pitchers -- **the first time three generations pitched on the same team**. The *National Men's Adult Baseball Magazine* made it a featured article with pictures (*MSBL* July 18, 2022, "Three Generations Take the Field").



My sweetheart and our families were there. It was a wonderful experience and it set up our next event. Pitching as a threesome for the 750 member **Redwood Empire Baseball League** in the Oakland Coliseum. The opposition was a team from the **Portland Oregon League** – which served as another first when three generations from one family pitched a tournament game in the Coliseum.



It wasn't easy though, as we faked my grandson's age to satisfy the A's requirement that all players must be minimally 18 years old. Together we pitched six of the nine innings and gave up four runs in a seven to four loss. The A's videotaped the game resulting in a three-hour movie - - which will be a beautiful memory cherished forever along with being the last player to be inducted in the Northern California Baseball League Hall of Fame in 2019.



*free health care for those in need*

More importantly, the Santa Rosa Free Medical Clinic has now seen 18,000 patients -- all at no charge. We were recently honored by the National Human Rights Commission as a successful non-government financed all volunteer organization. I am the last of the four original doctors who created the Clinic back in 2014. Regrettably, one has died and two no longer work. Now, with an entire new group of

volunteers and the clinic so well organized I'm thinking maybe at age 78 it is time to retire -- again.

The original clinic received seed money from the Bay Area Jewish Federation and was initially named the Santa Rosa Jewish Free Clinic. Sadly, a few years ago we received threatening phone calls and anonymous letters that we would be bombed. The police increased surveillance and suggested we close one exam room and make it into a safe room with a heavy door for protection. We decided not to make any facility changes, especially out of fear. If we had agreed to make alterations, it essentially would have closed off a medical room which consequently would reduce the number of clients served which was not acceptable.

Happily, the threats have stopped, and we continue with the original name. For my clinic, treating 18,000 people is but a beginning. To the question asked by the ancient Bible -- in early Genesis -- that before we are done, all too soon done -- yes, *I Am My Brother's Keeper*.

David "Doc the Pitcher" Charp, M.D.  
APHS Class of 1962