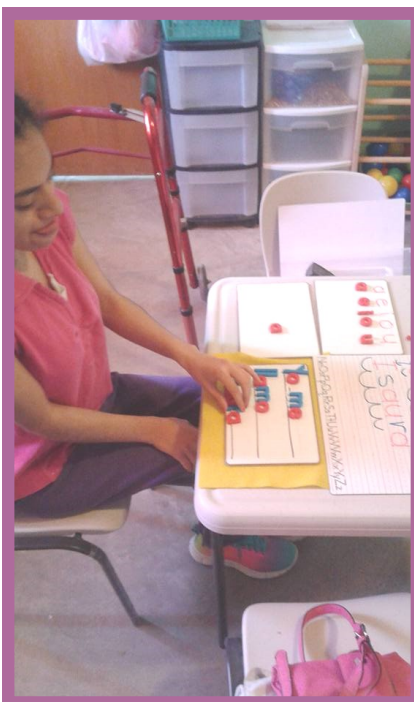


DESERT BLOOMS

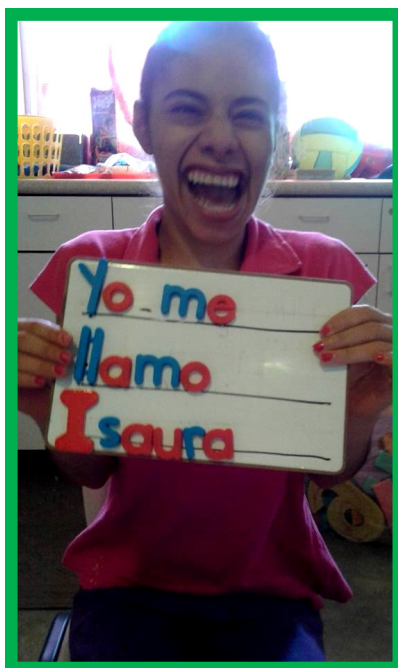
June 2016

Our Mother's Day fiesta on May 14th, was well worth the wait. We chose to celebrate on Saturday so that more women could join us. Sofia and Griselda planned a little "retreat" for the mothers that included time for sharing appreciations with each other of the special qualities and gifts each contributes to our Santo Niño community. It was a sacred experience that Sister Peggy named "a little glimpse of heaven". We all need to feel affirmed and appreciated not just for what we do but for who we are in each other's lives. It was Isidra's idea to surprise us with mariachis. Just as we sat down to a special luncheon a troupe of mariachis arrived to serenade us! They entered singing *las mañanitas* and then took song requests. The surprises continued after lunch with gift bags for each mother and a raffle of some pottery pieces that came as a special donation. All in all it was a beautiful day that honored the women of Santo Niño.

The *escuelita* is taking shape nicely. For several hours of our Tuesday and Thursday morning sessions the two front rooms of the center are a beehive of concentration and fun. At age 21, Isaura is learning to read. Reyna is working on word recognition and surprised Sister Carol last week by naming colors correctly in English! We are thinking that for the summer we might try to offer class on Tuesday, Wednes-



**My name is Isaura
and I can read!!!**



day and Thursday mornings.

Much of the exterior of the center has been resurfaced and is just awaiting paint. The playground fence in the back of the center will be replaced with a cement block wall to provide safety and improve our ability to keep the area clean. Once these needs have been attended we will start on the inside.



On Saturday June 18 our children were hosted by the Juarez museum of art for a little day camp. They were treated to craft projects, a class on senses and shapes, story time and dancing. They ate their sack lunches in the shade of our little bus. A music quartet performed after the lunch break. Of course all this happened on the hottest day of the year so far: 106! But there were no complaints. This shows the tremendous dedication of the parents and museum volunteers to give such an experience to their children. Special thanks to Cristina Coronado and Adriana Granados for making the museum connection.

We pray for a safe and enjoyable summer for all the friends and benefactors of Santo Niño!