

## DESERT BLOOMS

June 2017



Jesus is back at Santo Niño! He was hospitalized more than a month ago with asthma and complications and has taken awhile to return to the *escuelita*. He is as shy as ever but he has the keenest of radar for the dessert at the end of lunch!

The mothers are being integrated into the daily school routine. It is especially helpful to have two or three of them supervising the littlest (and most active) students while Cristina and Nancy are teaching the older children. We have been delighted with the progress of our students and are planning an end of the school year ceremony and celebration in July.

This time of year we welcome many groups of visitors to the center. We hosted the first of three border immersion experience participants with the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Concordia, KS last week. They joined us for Neftali's 12<sup>th</sup> birthday party and they brought the ice cream to go with the delicious chocolate cake. The theme of the party was Ninja Turtles and Nef was attired appropriately thanks to his mom's artistry.



In recent months we have received donations of dozens of eggs from local small farms that heard of our project. What a wonderful source of protein for our special children! One of the growers is anticipating bumper crops of tomatoes, peppers and squash this year and has promised to share their produce with us.

We will put our other very special donors to work praying for an abundant harvest. The Adoratrices Perpetuas del Santisimo Sacramento at the Monastery of Christ the

King have called us regularly to share donations they have received. Cases of flour tortillas and huge bags of *bolios* (small French breads) have been gratefully accepted and distributed. The biggest surprise was a donation of many, many kilos of *maseca*, the corn flour used for tortillas, tamales and gorditas. The nuns re-packaged the flour in smaller ziplock and plastic shopping bags. The white powdery substance sure looked suspicious in the back of the station wagon but though it took several trips we were able to cross it without difficulty. Gracias a Dios y a las monjas! (Thanks be to God and the nuns!)



We know that miracles happen at Santo Niño so this final story makes us smile. Cristina, mother of Chuy, Andrea and Alexa, came into the treatment area with a puzzled look on her face. She told Sofia that she just had the strangest experience. As she was closing the bathroom door and turned to walk into the next room she noticed a small child, a little boy dressed all in white, on the steps next to the toy shelf as though he was choosing something to play with. "I only saw his profile but I thought, 'That's not one of our children...'" and as I turned back to look again he was gone." Who do you think it was? Sofia asked. Cristina didn't know. A few days later she mentioned the episode to the rest of us. Sister Janet pointed to a picture on the wall. Is that him? "Yes!" Cristina exclaimed. We wonder how often the Holy Child is with us at the center and we don't notice. But maybe when our special children suddenly smile or giggle it's because they see him! Only the purest hearts are aware of his presence. Give us eyes to recognize when You come to visit!

