

# DESERT BLOOMS

October 2016



Fall is here and tomorrow is our Halloween party at Santo Niño. The candy bags are ready and preparations are underway for “Pin the Nose on the Pumpkin” and other games. Just as anywhere else, the most popular boys costumes are some version of the Superheroes and for girls

the Disney princesses, especially anything *Frozen* is sure to be represented. Sister Carol is going as Elsa and Sister Peggy as Olaf! Whitney has created an amazing spider costume (in addition to Peggy’s “Olaf”) and is in charge of the games.

At the beginning of the month a woman appeared at the center with a donation of diapers, underpads, and a wheelchair. She told us that she has a daughter with cerebral palsy, Anali, who had come to the center some years ago. “I would like to bring her again but I don’t have transportation,” she said. “I borrowed this van to bring the donations today.” They live about five minutes from the center but in a wheelchair the journey would be impossible. We arranged for our Anapra driver, Francisco, to add Anali and her mother to his schedule and now they are both enjoying the therapies and school at Santo Niño.

The *escuelita* is taking shape quite nicely. In fact, teachers in the local kindergarten and lower primary grades have noticed the difference in the children who are attending our little school on Tuesdays and Thursdays. One of them contacted our director, Cristina, and asked if they can send other students with special needs to us! For now Cristina has agreed to receive one additional child each month while we figure out how to manage in our limited space. While in Albuquerque recently, the Sisters received an old framed wood-cut of St. Elizabeth Seton, foundress of the Sisters of Charity and the Catholic parochial school system in the United States. The picture used to hang in St. Mary’s School in Albuquerque. We have placed it in our little classroom and asked Mother Seton to guide our efforts in special education at Santo Niño!

One beautiful October Saturday we were blessed with a music session by David Romo and family.

They brought two large drums and other flutes and percussion instruments for everyone. We sat in the backyard of the center where David led us in a program of music for the soul. At times he accompanied us on a small saxophone, explaining the origin of the music and the rhythms we were hearing. We surely made “a joyful noise unto the Lord!”



In happy news, Luci received her border crossing card last month! It took a long time and many trips to complete the process but now she is able to do her little cross-border shopping errands to support her family. Several mothers and older sisters are part of the prayer-flags workshop, directed by Siba

Escobedo. The decorative flags with their inspiring messages offer the women a way to support their families. They make great gifts for all occasions and can be purchased on Etsy and Amazon. Just Google “Guerilla Prayer Flags” and we are the first two listings!

