

DESERT BLOOMS

April 2011

As the families arrived to Proyecto Santo Nino on Thursday morning, we intercepted the little ones before they could make it in the door and asked them to sit outside on the front steps. We had a surprise for them! They sat and squirmed and asked if it was time to go in yet, but we told them to have patience. When all of the children had finally arrived, we gathered them at the entrance to the clinic. "Last night, the Easter bunny visited the clinic and left lots of eggs here for all of you to search for!" we told them, and they jumped up and down with excitement. "Are you ready?! Uno...dos...tres!" we counted, and they were off. The clinic was filled with the pitter patter of little feet and with squeals of laughter.

There was a flurry of excitement as kids darted from room to room, looking above, around, under, inside, and on top of everything imaginable. Some kids carried the eggs in their arms, some in a plastic bag, and some compiled them in a little mound of eggs at their moms' feet. The moms and older kids helped the younger ones. Everyone helped to bring eggs to the special kids who can't run around. Moms cheered and then marveled as their little angels showed them the eggs they had found. The whole thing was just a celebration. All was forgotten except the joy of the moment.

As we experience this Easter season, it is appropriate to reflect on what it means to live with such joy. At the Easter Vigil Mass we attended last Saturday night here in El Paso, our presider offered a beautiful message of hope encouraging us to live as people of the Resurrection. We should exude such a joy that people have to ask where it comes from – and we can say that it is because our Lord is risen! In the end, joy

wins, good wins, Christ wins. Knowing this, we must be people of hope.

The families that come to our clinic teach us what this call to be hopeful really means. In the midst of the violence, mistrust, fear and poverty that blankets Juarez, our



friends know how to celebrate the good at hand. Just as the kids searched for the Easter eggs, our families search for the joy that life has to offer around every corner. They remind us that the causes to be joyful are abundant and numerous. The clinic continues to be a place where the families can share this joy with each other. Of course, by itself, the clinic is just a building, but the people fill it with a joy and warmth that could only come from hope in the Lord.



This spring, the joy just keeps growing! We have had four new kids with special needs enroll in the last month – Oscar, Kevin, Anali, and Israel. Kevin is a four year old with some motor difficulties on the left side of his body. His mom, Antonia, has a great big smile and laugh and has jumped right into the clinic activities. She told us in her second week that she felt very at home because everyone there acts like family.

Thank you for supporting a place that allows such beautiful people to be together and as a result generate joy and hope. May you find many reasons to be joyful in your own life this Easter season and always.

For more pictures from the Easter egg hunt, visit picasaweb.google.com/proyectosantonino

Photos

- Top right: The kids wait for the signal to begin the great egg hunt!
- Center: Sr. Janet and Nena play with some Easter eggs!