

# DESERT BLOOMS

April 2012



We experienced long lines on the return trips to the U.S. after our clinic sessions during Holy Week and Easter. The violence in Mexico doesn't deter people who visit with family on either side of the border. We cancelled our sessions on Holy Thursday and Saturday because of the long

waits and moved our Easter party to Tuesday. We boiled 6 dozen eggs for coloring and organized an Easter egg hunt and craft activities.

There was magical face-painting and several other Easter craft projects. We always notice that the mothers enjoy our craft activities as much as the children.

Coloring Easter eggs was a real surprise. In Mexico it is more common to blow out the raw egg and fill the empty shells with confetti and glitter- with the intent of breaking the "cascarones" on an unsuspecting victim's head! Everyone was amazed to discover that the eggs were hard-boiled already and that it was not only possible but planned to decorate and eat them. Who knew this would be a cultural moment? We are always learning!

The feast of Easter gives us an opportunity to strengthen our belief that Love is stronger than death. The families we serve at the Santo Niño Project in Anapra live that faith every day.

Violent deaths in Juarez have decreased from eight a day in 2010 to three a day so far this year. That is good news! They also celebrate little victories like the opening of a full-service supermarket in Anapra so they don't have to take the bus or

pay high prices at the corner store. Most especially, they are intimately connected to suffering Christ whose body they touch each day as they care for their special children/brothers/sisters. But it is belief in the resurrection that is their strength, their hope, their joy. Love always wins over death!

When Martin laughs as he sits up in a special highchair watching all the activities around him: Love wins! When Nena can be coaxed to climb up and down the front steps eight times: Love wins! When Monce can propel herself around the clinic in a rolling walker: Look out! Love wins! When brothers and sisters bring plastic colored eggs

filled with candy to their special siblings before searching for their own: Love wins!

We are blessed to see these victories of life over death every day- if our eyes are opened and our hearts informed by faith. God did not let death have the last word with Jesus.

May our lives give witness, as do the children of Santo Niño, that "Love wins!"

