

DESERT BLOOMS

June-July 2012



Early in May we got out the calendar to plan our summer schedule. With the end of the school year in Mexico the last week of June we agreed to close from June 21 – July 3. It was actually a shorter vacation than other years but nonetheless,

several of our clinic regulars were disappointed that we were taking a break at all. “I’ll just stay at home and cry,” said Sandra, Conchita’s mother and one of our therapists. She was absolutely serious as she continued, “I really miss seeing everyone. I feel so alone when we don’t have clinic because this is really my home.” In a nutshell, that describes the experience for many of the women of the Santo Niño Project.

Joshua, the child with spina bifida who was featured in last month’s newsletter, has seen Dr. Jacob Heydemann, an El Paso orthopedic surgeon provides consultations in Juarez once a month for needy children. Our social worker Cristina is working with the doctor’s office staff to arrange surgery (pro bono) at Providence Hospital that will hopefully allow Joshua to walk. There is an incredible amount of paperwork to make this happen but as we say, “Vale la pena!” (translation: It’s worth the effort!)

We had a graduation last week! Bryan de Jesus finished primary school and will begin middle school in August. Sister Carol, Cristina and Reyna attended the ceremony that included a song performed by each grade level. Bryan has been coming to the clinic since he was five years old. He wasn’t allowed to go to kindergarten because he was still in diapers, though his incontinence is due to spinal cord damage. We’ve been supplying him with pull-on dispos-

ables and lots of encouragement over the years to keep him in the classroom. This summer he’s receiving extra tutoring at the afterschool program Cristina coordinates every weekday at her house to be sure he’s ready for class this fall.



Two new children found their way to the Santo Niño Project. Seven month old Yamilet was born with a form of hydrocephalus. Her parents brought her from the other side of the city to receive therapy. They said they found us on the internet. It demonstrates the tremendous initiative and devotion of her parents since our website is in English and doesn’t give an address or directions to the clinic! Four year old Valeria was born two months premature. Her twin did not survive. She has cerebral palsy and seizures. Valeria’s parents had been taking her to the general hospital for therapy but each appointment was just fifteen minutes long. Imagine their surprise-and delight-at our routine: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., massage, physical therapy, Jacuzzi, energy therapy, and lunch. Last Thursday Valeria’s mother told Lucy how blessed they are to have found a place where their daughter is treated with such tenderness and care.

Brisa continues to receive her chemotherapy for neuroblastoma. Her immune system is depressed and she is susceptible to many infections as well as the side-effects of the medications. But she surely enjoys summertime treats like watermelon and ice cream! Please continue to keep her in your prayers and have a wonderful summer!

