

Desert Blooms
April 2007

Dear Sisters and Friends,

These days we find ourselves attending to many extra needs in the lives of our special children and their families. We continue to worry over the situation with Miriam that was mentioned in the last letter. We have investigated placement in a kind of long-term care facility but none of us are enthusiastic about that prospect, besides which it is too expensive. We all know that she would continue to improve if we can arrange a therapeutic home for her. Please pray with us for wisdom and openness to God's will as we work on Miriam's behalf.

Zoila, young mother of three (including a 2 year old with cerebral palsy) has been struggling to support her family by selling candy and snacks at a little stand outside a Juarez factory. Sister Margaret Marie provided some homemade "chocolates Americanos" last month which were a big seller and the students of Guardian Angels school also collected chocolates for her during Lent. Despite her best efforts Zoila has been unable to keep up the payments on her pitiful house/land. She was threatened with eviction or at least the "payment" of her debts using her few pieces of furniture. We decided to use our donations to pay off her debt this month. Perhaps without that burden she will be able to support the family on the revenue from her business. Then on Holy Thursday someone broke into her house and stole her candy supplies, especially the American chocolates!

Fabian just celebrated his 24th birthday. He is a paraplegic since a bullet wound to the spine 5 years ago. He has worked hard since first coming to the clinic full of pressure sores and with chronic bladder infections. With Sister Peggy's instruction he has improved upper body strength and can transfer himself from wheelchair to bed. She has always told him that "You can live independently if you master these skills!" Thanks be to God he has paid attention because as of last Saturday he was homeless. A variety of harsh family circumstances created the situation but we have known for months that this was a possibility. We were able to locate benefactors who funded the construction of a room for him that will be attached to a simple home we had purchased for the use of another of our special families. For now Fabian is living in the clinic but hopefully he will be in his own "handicapped accessible" space by the end of May.

Both Vanessa and Alan (hospitalized in March) are doing much better and we've had no other emergencies, thanks be to God. We have about four new children per month, some of whom come for just a few visits and others who become "regulars". This increase is in part because a "school" downtown in Juarez that provided therapy for special needs children recently lost its therapist. So one of our mothers said, "Send them to the Sisters!" We trust that God will continue to find funds for all these needs and "send them to the Sisters!" Thanks to all of you who have been so generous and faithful to this mission.