

Desert Blooms
May 2006

Dear Sisters,

Let us bring you up to date on Miriam and Natividad. We have been able to bring Miriam to the clinic 2-3 times a week for a bath and a meal, after which she goes home with Teodora for an hour or two to continue to get acquainted with her foster family. She loves Teo's singing and accepts her guidance readily. Last week the construction of her room began and it will be about a month or so until it is ready.

In the week after Easter when Miriam was at the clinic there was a rather miraculous experience. Miriam was lounging in the Jacuzzi, tapping her fragment of a drinking straw against the tub as Teo whistled and sang. Sister Peggy began clapping in time to the music and Gloria poured glassfuls of warm water over Miriam's back and shoulders. Suddenly Miriam looked up with a bright face and a smile. She lifted her hands towards the other women and said, in ENGLISH, as plain as could be: "***Thank you!***" Remember, Miriam has only two words: her own name and the word she uses for "food". Gloria gave the only possible explanation. "You know that was Jesus!"

Natividad broke her leg last month and was hospitalized for several days. It made Miriam's situation even more desperate. She is home now but it's evident that she won't be able to walk again. She has agreed to sign a statement authorizing us to arrange a foster home for Miriam. Peggy says that Miriam is literally shaking the metal door of her room to try to get out and run to the car when they go to pick her up each day. And she is despondent when it is time to return home. The other day she sat down on Teo's front steps and refused to move. We have to just be grateful for what we can provide each day and trust in God's timing in it all.

The past two Saturday clinics we've had a "skeleton crew" because of our various commitments in Cincinnati but we've managed to function with our wonderful volunteers. Our motto has been "the show must go on"! Peggy, Ann, and Kirstin have tried to accommodate more children during the week so that we would have a lighter load on Saturdays.

Vanessa's mother, Azucena, had her baby just after Easter. She delivered a healthy baby girl, Andrea, without complications. They are living in a new two room house built by Fr. Bill's work crew, so much larger, brighter and more comfortable than the tiny pallet and cardboard house they had. Knowing that there are now two "babies" requiring total care, we try to bring Vanessa to the clinic for the days we are there to lighten the load. She is more than content as long as we keep the food coming! She loves yogurt and pudding best of all and we pour in extra calories with a diet supplement to try to fatten up the emaciated child. It seems to be working. Please keep these two families in your prayers.