

DESERT BLOOMS

November 2011

This month has been all about giving thanks to God- and that doesn't stop when our national holiday has passed. We are particularly grateful at Proyecto Santo Nino for the return of two special women. Tracy Kemme is back, bringing her pastoral skill and fun-loving presence that support a spirit of community on our team and with the mothers of our special children.

Claudia was one of our first clients at Santo Nino. She was thirteen years old and had been born with a birth defect that crippled her right arm and leg. She had a prosthetic device on the leg that did not fit properly. The parish priest recommended that she see if we could help. For a year we worked with Claudia getting the prosthesis re-fitted and improving her gait. She was self-conscious about her disability but we gradually saw her blossom and she celebrated her quinceanera (fifteenth birthday "coming out" fiesta). Then she graduated and we didn't see her again...until October.



One Saturday a young woman came to the clinic with a toddler in tow. She was dressed in professional medical "scrubs" and she presented herself with a shy smile. "Claudia?" What a surprise! She is married now and has a young son. She is also studying physical therapy and came to the center to ask if she could volunteer!

Of course there were changes in the routine and many new children since the days she had come for treatment but Claudia was right at home. She made the rounds of the massage

tables and floor mats. Gradually she offered some suggestions based on what she had seen in other clinical settings. Our team of mother-therapists immediately accepted her and sought her advice.



Now Claudia comes regularly on Saturdays and she even plans to bring her instructors from the university! She told Sister Carol that she was nervous initially, "but I wanted to study physical therapy so I could come and help others here the way you helped me." Thank you, Claudia, and thank God.

We celebrated Eucharist at our house on Thanksgiving morning. We remembered especially each of you and your intentions. May God bless you a hundredfold for your concern for these little ones!

We are planning our annual Christmas party and anointing of the children for December 17. Please pray for our many border crossings in the next few weeks as we will be taking many donations of diapers, clothing, food and of course: toys!

Photos

Top right: Tracy shares a laugh with Nena.

Center: Claudia, alumna and volunteer therapist at Proyecto Santo Nino!