

Desert Blooms
October 2007

Dear Sisters and Friends,

Our new organizational plan is in full swing and seems to be working beautifully. We have a clinic “team” of five women: Gloria, Sophia, Lucy, Azucena and Rosa. They call themselves the “grupo de apoyo” which translates “group of helpers”. Sister Peggy had a quizzical look on her face when she heard the name which to her sounded like “grupo de pollo” (group-o day poy-o) which means “group of chicken”. The ladies had a good laugh about that but they are used to stories about Peggy’s Spanish!

Sister Carol arrived home on Oct.3 and yesterday she presented the first in-service for the clinic team. Various healing therapies were discussed and practiced on each other. The women are so eager to learn and there was an abundance of love and laughter which is still the best medicine. Our hope is to offer education and personal development experiences once a month for these women and the other mothers of our special children.

Through the generosity of our benefactors (you!) we have been able to buy new leg braces for Oscar and Conchita. Both children have the capacity to walk if their legs are supported adequately. Conchita had outgrown her braces and her walker but nevertheless would chase through the clinic with her little buddies as best she could. Now she can really fly! Last week Jose Luis, the husband of Gloria from our El Paso clinic and construction handyman, came to Anapra to take measurements for a set of adjustable parallel bars that he will make for our therapy room. It’s something we’ve wanted for a long time but were reluctant to buy. Soon we’ll have equipment that is “custom-made” for our clinic space and we won’t have to bother with getting it across the border.

Speaking of custom-made, Gloria from Anapra had a brilliant idea. She saw how many of our little children benefited from a molded plastic seat with a belt to support them in the sitting position. We had one that was donated from St. Joseph Home in Cincinnati. Gloria noted that the laundry detergent buckets were the right size and could be cut to accommodate the children. She used pieces of eggcrate mattress from under the massage mats to pad the seat and sides. Peggy furnished the wide gait belt to thread through the sides. Another mother got her husband to put additional support bands around the top and middle of the bucket. Voila! Our children can now enjoy “bucket seats”!

Cristina, our clinic “social worker”, has arranged consultations for many of our children with Juarez neurologist Dr. Jorge Miramontes. Since she always accompanies the mothers and children to their appointments (and negotiates discounted fees!) Dr. Miramontes was very curious about Proyecto Santo Niño. He will soon have a new associate in his office: a pediatric neurologist! We hope to invite both doctors to see the Saturday clinic in action and encourage their good work for our special children.