

DESERT BLOOMS

February 2014



The therapy ball pit has arrived and the wait was worth it! To make room for the new equipment, our sensory-motor area has been re-organized into learning centers. Cristina C is working with the mothers to develop their skills as primary therapists for their children. The new ball pit can be used by several children at once, providing sensory stimulation through touch, positioning, sight and sound. And it's also a nice place for a little nap after lunch!



We are blessed to have a new regular volunteer. Annie Klapheke is an Affiliate with the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati. As she discerns her vocation to religious life she will spend this year living and serving with us. Annie is a registered dietitian and has already begun to share her gifts at Santo Niño. She prepared a fruit and yogurt dessert for our last Saturday clinic and there was not a speck left over for second helpings! The mothers are eager to learn from Annie's expertise and have already begun by asking the question that apparently transcends borders and cultures:

"How can we get our children to eat their vegetables?"

Our trusty old Ford van appears to be taking its last gasps. It has spent more time in the shop than on the road in the past several months. Fortunately, Cristina and Francisco Estrada were able to go the extra mile for us on many occasions. About two-thirds of our families live in areas of Juarez distant from Anapra. Travel by public transportation requires several transfers and is especially difficult with children who have limited mobility. Though we have known that the van's days were numbered, we do not have funds to replace it and so we are sending an SOS to our generous benefactors. We were blessed to receive the old van from the Ronald McDonald House in El Paso many years ago and it has served us well. We are trusting that Providence will take care of us again.



Speaking of benefactors...the Albuquerque Journal article continues to generate interest in Santo Niño. One of the most touching letters we recently received included a check from an account with the Texas Dept. of Corrections. A man who is incarcerated wrote the following, "Dear Sisters of Charity, May this find you all in the best of health and spirits. Enclosed please find a check and accept it as my humble donation to Proyecto Santo Niño. May God bless you and all the residents and families you serve." We are ever amazed at the beautiful web of relationships woven by the hand of God because of our special children.