

DESERT BLOOMS

November 2014



November started with our annual “Day of the Dead” memorial altar. This very Mexican tradition flowing from the All Souls Day remembrance is an opportunity to celebrate the lives of our special souls who now support us in the communion of saints. This year the altar also included a wooden coffin into which were placed all the things we want to bury once and for all: violence, illness, family separation, drug trafficking, poverty...



Snuggle-bugs!

Cold weather came early to us as it did in so many other parts of the country. We pulled out our propane heaters but it was still quite chilly on the floor where the children enjoy many group activities like finger painting. Many days it's actually warmer outside in the sun and the kids put the playground equipment to good use all year long. The pipes haven't frozen and we haven't seen the first snowflakes flying so we're giving thanks for that!

We have been working for months to secure a space for Miriam in a government psychiatric

facility where she will be safe and receive the care that has been increasingly difficult for us to provide. It was a very difficult decision for us, especially for Griselda and Sofia who welcomed Miriam into their hearts and homes about seven years ago. After many evaluations by medical professionals and social workers and



several trips to court, the protective services of the state of Chihuahua assumed responsibility for Miriam on November 27. We are grateful to the families who were her caregivers and we pray for her wellbeing in her new home.

Sandra, one of our faithful team members who is in charge of the Jacuzzi, has been out for a few weeks after a long-awaited surgery. As is common in Mexico, she had to seek out blood donors in advance of the hospitalization just in case a transfusion would be needed. Husbands, sons, cousins, neighbors and friends of our team came to her aid and she secured the five donors just two days before surgery. Of course she didn't require any blood at all but that's how the hospital blood banks stay well-supplied. The surgery was successful and Sandra came back to us last week just to get out of the house and have some much-needed companionship.



Plans are underway for our annual Christmas posada and celebration on Saturday December 20. We are changing the menu this year from a turkey dinner to traditional Mexican posole (hominy soup) – and nachos for the kids who are always too excited to eat anyway!