

DESERT BLOOMS

November 2013



We are thankful for many things at the Santo Niño Project this month. Sebastian and his mother came back after being absent for a few weeks. He had been sick with a cold and Adela was reluctant to bring him but she told us that she had a dream in which a little girl that she recognized from a photo on

the wall of the center told her to bring Sebastian back again. She pointed to the photo of Maria de Jesus, a tiny child who passed to eternal life about eight years ago. "Did that little girl ever speak?" Adela asked. "Why would she come to me in a dream and tell me to bring my son here again?" Maybe because our angels are grateful for the loving kindness they received at Santo Niño and are ever on the lookout for others who would benefit from the same. One look at Sebastian in the Jacuzzi is enough to know Maria de Jesus is right!



We're also grateful for the "ball pool" that provides sensory stimulation for our children. Whether they are able to see the brightly colored plastic balls or just feel themselves submerged in them, the pool has become a favorite activity. No child is too small- or too big- for the experience. It's also a nice place for a siesta!



For many months Cristina Coronado has been working with the special brothers and sisters on art projects in the

backyard during our Saturday program. A friend of hers offered a playground/ swing set that his children had outgrown. He even provided a workman to dismantle and re-assemble it. It was pretty much an all-day project on November 16. The workman arrived and was busy until almost dusk when Cristina Estrada remembered and went to check on his progress. He was just finishing and the playground equipment was impressive: a wooden tower with a slide and a climbing wall connected to a set with a bench swing and two standard swings. There is nothing like it anywhere in Anapra! Cristina told us that the most amazing thing was what the workman told her as he finished. He said that as it was growing dark in the backyard, he heard a child's footsteps. He looked around him, expecting to see one of the neighborhood children, but no one was there. "I felt a little frightened but then I prayed to the Santo Niño because my family has a great devotion to the Holy Child." Cristina asked if he knew that the center was for children with special needs and was dedicated to the Santo Niño. He had no idea. The two of them just looked at each other. Both of them knew that a Special Visitor had come to check out the new playground and give his seal of approval.

What a surprise awaited the children in the backyard last week! Climbing and swinging and sliding for everyone! A good time was had by all. So when we gathered as we always do to give thanks before lunch, many were thinking of how quickly they could finish and return to the Santo Niño playground.

