

DESERT BLOOMS

January 2013

We came back to the Santo Niño center in Anapra on Tuesday, Jan 8 after our Christmas break. Everyone was happy to be together again after the holidays. Jesus Manuel and Oscar were out of the hospital, thanks be to God, and Nena's cast had been removed from her left forearm that was broken when she fell during a seizure in November.

Just before noon Celia called to say that she was at the doctor with Martin because he seemed to have some kind of an infection. The doctor said he needed to go to the hospital immediately so Cristina hurried over to drive them. When she returned from the hospital run, Cristina said that Martin's condition was critical. Less than three hours later, after we had returned to El Paso, she called to tell us that Martin had died.

Martin was laid out in the sweat suit we had given him for Christmas, with an array of toys that were his favorites. It was truly the first time we had ever seen him absolutely still. In life, his

body was constantly in motion with the spasms of cerebral palsy. Now he is at peace. The vigil was held in his grandmother's house because there was more room for visitors. All the Santo Niño moth-

ers and some of the children went in the van to pay their respects at midday Thursday. They



accompanied the family to the cemetery on the other side of town, out in the desert where many of our other children are buried. Rest in peace, dear Martin.

Winter cold invaded the borderland in mid-January. Thanks to a big donation of blankets from the children of Our Lady of Assumption school in El Paso, we were able to help many families through the cold days.

We've had several days without water in the center because the pipes froze. We moved all activities, therapies and gas heaters into the big room to share the warmth. The blessing of togetherness! We had no thought of canceling those days because we realize it is warmer in the clinic than in the homes of the families, many of which are heated with wood stoves. Thankfully temperatures below freezing are rare, especially those that last for several days in a row.



Martin

Halloween 2012

After the cold came the thaw...and the flood. The faucet in the kitchen area had not been left open and the pipe burst. Cristina discovered the disaster by the time six inches of water covered the main room. Salvador came to help clean up the mess and repair the pipes by our next scheduled session. There is significant damage to the wall by the kitchen sink. We have also decided to connect the center to the sewer system that was developed some years after we had already installed a septic tank. So there are big projects ahead of us in 2013! Stay tuned!

