

DESERT BLOOMS

October 2013

Water with Blessings arrived at Proyecto Santo Niño this month! We have been preparing for weeks, talking to the mothers and clinic volunteers and crossing the border with food-grade plastic buckets recycled from local bakeries. Debbie Weber from the Sisters of Charity social justice office and her husband Jim came from Cincinnati to help with the training for the first group of “Water Women” aka “Mujeres del Agua”.



Water with Blessings is a worldwide community created to bring clean water to all God's thirsty children. Based in Louisville, KY, the project unites people of faith in one simple act of compassion in the name of Jesus Christ. Some are called to provide \$60 to purchase a simple, highly effective filter for each Water Woman. Some make connections across borders to identify communities in need and bring the program to them. The Water Women form the third indispensable part of the project. They are the mothers who accept the call to purify water for their own and at least three other families in their neighborhood.

When the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati became program partners with WWB last winter, Debbie contacted Santo Niño to see if we would be interested in participating. We said “Yes!” immediately. The water that comes from the tap or from the trucks where water service isn't yet available is not suitable for drinking. Judging from the water we see as we fill the Jacuzzi, it might not even be suitable for bathing! Our mothers purchase bottled water to use

in their homes. It costs about a dollar for five gallons and most families require several containers a day for use in the home. Most of them do not have cars and they have to carry the five gallon bottles home from the store or “water machine”.

On October 2 twelve mothers participated in the training to become Water Women. They reflected on the call to become part of a worldwide ministry, filtering water as an act of compassion. They listened to the story of the woman at the well who found life-giving water in the presence of Jesus and shared in his mission. They talked about clean water as a basic human right and about the consequences of not having a reliable source of pure water. Finally, they learned how the WWB filtration system works. Each woman personalized and decorated her bucket, drilled a hole for the filter hose and assembled the system. Each woman promised to use and maintain the filtration system for her own and at least three other families. The group agreed to meet every



month to support each other, share what they have learned and continue their education in health promotion. They elected Celia as coordinator of the Proyecto Santo Niño Mujeres del Agua.

Now we have safe, clean, freshly filtered water at Santo Niño and in the homes of our children. We will continue to train additional Water Women . To learn more about Water with Blessings: www.waterwithblessings.org

Checks for the Sisters of Charity WWB project can be sent directly to Debbie Weber, OPJIC, 5900 Delhi Rd, Mount St. Joseph, OH 45051 .

