

J A N U A R Y 2 0 1 0

DESERT BLOOMS

Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati

PROYECTO SANTO NIÑO * ANAPRA, MEXICO



Top
Picture:
Reyna on
all fours.

Picture in
the middle:
Jaqueline
walking
with mom's
help.

Our Christmas party on December 19 was the best ever. We always have some worries about being able to cross all the donations of food, clothing and toys without

question from the customs authorities but Our Lady of Guadalupe must have covered us with her mantle because we got the "green light" every time. The day of the party we had eight crock-pots full of turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy and corn (in addition to our usual baby food fare). It smelled like Thanksgiving!

Fr. Denny O'Mara joined us for a Christmas blessing and anointing of all present. Even with all the excitement of the party there was a quiet, reverent waiting as he made his way around the circle praying with each family. Santa wasn't with us this year but Siba's daughter Rosario made 300 Christmas stockings for children of all ages and for the mothers. Andrew's Toybox, a local charity that provides toys for sick children, gave us a wonderful selection of stuffed animals and other gifts. The grocery gift certificates were especially welcome as the families are really feeling the combined effects of the bad economy and the violence which has shut down many small businesses.



Now we are back on our usual schedule after a holiday break. Last Tuesday Angel had a big smile to welcome us back. His mother Isidra was busy setting up the massage mats and tables while running hot water in the Jacuzzi for his bath. She said that he couldn't sleep the night before. "He knew it was time to come back to the clinic. I teased him and said that I was coming but wasn't going to bring him." Of course Angel knew that was a joke because she never goes anywhere without carrying him along! You always know where Isidra is by watching Angel's face which follows her like a sunflower to the sun!

Little Reyna turned one year old on the feast of the three kings ("los Reyes Magos", hence her name!) She is just starting to crawl and is the darling of the clinic. Meanwhile Jacqueline is now walking with a one-hand assist. At age 18 months this little one with cerebral palsy is making wonderful progress, thanks to the therapy her young mother and father have given. And she has a new sister or brother on the way- as does Cristofer who is doing splendidly since his club foot repair in El Paso last October! We rejoice in these little milestones, in the gift of life and health. We pray that the peace of our little Santo Nino project radiates outward into all of Ciudad Juarez in the year to come.