

DESERT BLOOMS

January 2014

We came back to a party at Santo Niño on January 7! Reyna turned five on the Feast of the Three Kings and of course we would celebrate. There was a special request for lunch: hotdogs! The theme of the party was SpongeBob Squarepants (“Bob Esponja”) and this favorite cartoon character was with us as...the piñata! Reyna has grown into her birthday celebrations and was so happy to be the focus of the singing, blowing out the candle several times for photos and enjoying the traditional “bite” of birthday cake. She even helped other children take their swings at the piñata.



Christina de Santos and her daughters have come to volunteer with us several times on Saturdays this past fall. They made the candy bags for our Christmas celebration along with coloring books and crayons. Isabella, a seventh grader at St. Clement’s School, wanted to do more. When she saw our therapy ball pit and heard of our plans to purchase a larger one to accommodate the bigger children, Isabella decided to have a bake sale to raise the funds. She and her friends were wonderfully successful



Isabella (first on left) and classmates

and the order for the ball pit has been placed. Meanwhile, the mother of one of the students asked how she could help Proyecto Santo Niño. She has a catering service and offered to provide a beautiful meal for our Christmas party: a delicious ham and turkey dinner for eighty. How one good deed leads to another!

Our Water with Blessings program continues. We had a gathering of the “water women” last Saturday to share what has been learned in the first months of the project. We discovered that the water quality varies greatly in different areas of the city. In Anapra the water is much more salty and the women have found that if they filter the water two or three times it tastes better. In other areas the water is very dirty but one filtration is sufficient to provide crystal clear and clean water. All agreed that when their families use the filtered water exclusively there is a marked improvement in their health!

Just before Christmas we received wonderful publicity through an article about Proyecto Santo Niño that appeared on the front page of The Albuquerque Journal Dec. 23. We received many kind notes and donations from readers who were moved to learn about the center. Several from northern New Mexico offered remembrances of having been taught by the Sisters of Charity or nursed in the hospitals they sponsored in Albuquerque and Santa Fe. We were also featured in a video that appears on the Sisters of Charity website (www.srcharitycinti.org) and you can watch it following this link: <http://vimeo.com/83251138>



We are able to do what we do for these special children because of the generosity of so many donors who take very seriously the call to care for the least of our brothers and sisters.