Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati

www.proyectosantonino.org
Proyecto SantoNiño ▪ Anapra, Mexico

DESERT BLOOMS

May 2014

On Saturday April 26 we celebrated Dia de los Niños. Our team of mothers prepared a major fiesta! There were games with prizes, skits and favorite snacks: hotdogs, nachos, cake and ice cream. And of course CANDY (as if anyone needed more sugar after the Easter holiday!)

Isaura is one of our newest young ladies at Santo Niño. She is in her early teens and has cerebral palsy but can navigate the center with her walker. At the fiesta Isaura had her eyes on a Barbie doll that was one of the raffle prizes. She negotiated a deal with Cristina. Instead of raffling Barbie, what could she do to ensure that she would win her? Cristina said, "If you use your walker to go across the center and out to the play area, climb the wall on the swingset and come down the slide, Barbie is YOURS!" So began Isaura's trek. She wheeled her walker across the room and out into the sandy playground. She grasped the handholds on the six foot climbing wall and slowly made her ascent. She made it to the top with a great deal of effort and then sat above us like a queen holding court. Until she saw the Barbie at the bottom of the slide. In the blink of an eye she swooped down the slide to claim her reward!

Actually, Isaura is a U.S. citizen. We don't know all the details but she is living in Mexico because her mother was undocumented and was deported but her father has legal status and lives in El Paso. We took Isaura to see Dr. Heydemann, the orthopedic surgeon from El Paso who has clinic in downtown Juarez once a month. He has recommended tendon release surgery to straighten Isaura's legs and feet which will improve her mobility. The surgery will be scheduled sometime this summer in El Paso but it is unlikely that her mother will be allowed to cross the border due to the prior deportation. If that is the case, one of us will meet her at the bridge, take her to the hospital and be her temporary "mama" during that frightening adventure. Another reason we need comprehensive immigration reform.

Edgar has muscular dystrophy. For those who have watched the annual Labor Day Telethon, he would qualify to be one of "Jerry's Kids". His stepmother brought him to the center last fall, asking if we could do anything to help him. Wheelchair-bound, Edgar hadn't been to school for many years and in fact rarely left the house. His mother abandoned the family around the time of his diagnosis and his father has difficulty accepting his son's increasing debility. Thank God for his stepmother who has been a wonderful advocate and caregiver!

Edgar was hospitalized just before Easter because of a respiratory infection. The muscle weakness makes it difficult for him to clear his secretions so pneumonia is always a danger. Last Christmas we gave him a nebulizer machine that makes it possible for him to get the medications into his breathing passages more effectively but now he also requires oxygen. He is learning to read which will help him to communicate by a word/picture board as his illness progresses. Edgar was able to come to the center for our fiesta where he enjoyed the games, companionship and food.

Children's Day is officially over, but every day is the Day of the Children at Santo Niño!