

# DESERT BLOOMS

August 2014



We had some special visitor-volunteers last month. Emily Heine and Samantha Beeler are graduates of Seton High School, sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati. Both are in college, studying

biology/pre-medicine and physical therapy respectively. They first learned about the Santo Niño Project when they were high school students, often when Sister-teachers began class with a prayer for the safety of the children and their mothers during the years when the violence was extreme in Mexico.



So Sam and Emily spent three weeks of their summer vacation learning and helping at the center. They practiced Spanish, observed some

of the new techniques Sister Carol is using with the children, played lots of games and supervised the activities on the monkey bars and the swing set. Monster cookies and a photo session were very popular. But as we discussed on one of the last nights of their visit, it was the “ministry of presence” that made the most significant impact on the young women.

School is back in session! Or it is when the teachers show up. Some of the “special sibs” were in the center this week on the second day of school. Why? “The teacher didn’t come so they sent us home,” said Celia’s daughters Patti and Janet. How sad is that? In their school five teachers were absent that day. “It’s very irresponsible,” said one of the mothers. Such is often the state of public education in Mexico.

The girls were happy enough at Santo Niño where Siba and Annie helped them with some learning games and then there was a nice long recess on our playground.

The most exciting news this month is that the Love Bus is in service! After many stops and starts due to the licensing bureaucracy, our official chauffeur Sofia took to the streets in our beautiful vehicle.

The bus is much more spacious with seating capacity of 18. It also has front steps with a handrail and a back wheelchair lift. The air conditioning works and there is plenty of room for the occasional cases of donated diapers, walkers, crutches and wheelchairs.

Thanks and God bless everyone at Hoy-Fox Toyota of El Paso who made this van “like new” for us. And Cristina Estrada who made arrangements for the importation and licensing. Patience paid off! We’re riding in style now!

