

DESERT BLOOMS

September 2015

We are often asked how long the Santo Niño Project has been in existence. Because the center emerged from our efforts to provide general medical care, including prenatal services and various therapies like massage and Reiki, it is difficult to come up with an actual founding date. However we know that we were “found” by the arrival of a special child named Juan Diego. He was born on August 6, 2001 and his mother Gloria was one of our prenatal patients. Juan Diego had Down’s Syndrome and through his struggles we discovered our purpose. He only lived fifteen months but what an impact he had on the creation of a special place for special children! We consider Juan Diego to be the founder of the Santo Niño Project.

Gloria worked with our team for several years until personal circumstances made it impossible to continue. Recently we learned that she has developed multiple sclerosis and Sister Peggy stopped by to see if there was anything we could do. She invited Gloria to come for a session with Sister Carol who is using neuro-movement education with our children.



It was a grand homecoming! She found the therapy helpful and was amazed to see how the children have grown and progressed. We remembered the stories of Santo Niño together and the wonders we have seen over the past fourteen years. With our encouragement

Gloria is coming regularly, receiving help for her own condition, rekindling friendships with the other mothers and reviving her own gifts for working with the children who remind her of Juan Diego.



During a recent team meeting the mothers decided that our Saturday sessions should be devoted to special creative and fun activities for the families. Sofia, Isidra and Sarahi developed craft projects using recycled plastic containers. Never underestimate the fun that can be had with construction paper, glitter, glue and scissors! Last Saturday Celia led a Zumba class. Everyone joined in the fun and we learned some great moves while working up an appetite for lunch.

We are sad to share the news of the passing of a dear friend and supporter of the Santo Niño Project. Jean Ferris initiated many of us into the healing practice of Reiki. And how she loved our children! Each December she offered a special Reiki review at the center for our mother-practitioners. Jean’s gentle spirit and tremendous compassion brought another dimension of healing to our families and to us. We trust that Jean’s healing work continues in the communion of saints.

