

CENTRO SANTA CATALINA

FOR EACH WOMAN, EVERY FAMILY, AND THE COMMUNITY

December 2010

A THOUSAND THANKS FROM THE WOMEN

Francisca: I am so grateful for the opportunity to study that the Center has given me. I didn't have the chance to go to school as a child and now, thanks to the Center, I have graduated from the university with my degree in education. Now I am more prepared in my work and more secure in myself. This has helped me also with my own children because I have been able to give them an education. I am so grateful to all of you who helped me through my studies.
(When Francisca began at Centro Santa Catalina she had not even completed primary school.)



Francisca



Miriam

Miriam: I am 29 years old and have a 10-year old son. I work at the Center in the preschool. Through these few words I want to thank all the persons who have made it possible for me to fulfill my dream. I have always wanted to study psychology and thanks to God and to you this December I will receive my degree in psychology from the university. Thank you so much for helping me live my dream!

Rosa: I am 37 years old and have worked at the Center in the sewing cooperative for 4 years. For a long time I have had a dream in my heart of one day being able to attend the university. This year I am fortunate to have a scholarship to study at the *prepa* (high school). I am SO enthusiastic about my studies and so very grateful. God bless all of you who make our dreams come true!

Elisa: I am in my first semester of *prepa*. I am so grateful to God and to you that I can go to school and meet my goals in life. I can hardly believe that there are people like you who make our dreams possible. I think you are our guardian angels, always at our side in our struggle. You will always be in my heart. Gracias.



Elisa (left) and Rosa

ABOUT THE CO-DIRECTORS

We both belong to the Dominican Sisters of Peace, a congregation based in Columbus, OH. Our sisters work in many parts of the US as well as Peru, Honduras, Nigeria, Vietnam and now Juarez.

SISTER HELENA SAUSE: I am originally from Connecticut and spent many years in education in the states of Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York and Connecticut. More recently I worked in Puerto Rico and Peru where my teaching became bilingual. The ability to speak Spanish was useful later on when I helped to coordinate the Catholic Social Justice program for the Archdiocese of Hartford and its parishes. The women and children of Centro Santa Catalina have touched my heart.



*SISTERS HELENA SAUSE
AND RENE WEEKS*

SISTER RENE WEEKS: I am a Kansas native but have ministered mostly in Colorado, first in Denver and then in the southern part of the state where the culture is more akin to New Mexico. I began learning Spanish on the streets of Denver and continued to learn more in each new place of ministry. I have worked primarily with adults in bilingual, bicultural parishes whose membership was made up of local Hispanics as well as immigrants from Mexico and Guatemala. I am delighted to be at Centro Santa Catalina and especially love working with the women of Valores, Fe y Vida, the sewing cooperative and the gardeners.

IN MEMORIAM: In this newsletter we honor Maria Isabel Vizcaíno (Chavela), a founding member of the sewing cooperative and a leader at Centro Santa Catalina. Chavela died on November 6th from complications of pneumonia. Because she was taking chemotherapy for lymphoma her system was unable to withstand the additional stress. Chavela was a true leader, not just for the positions she held as president of the sewing cooperative and member of the Center's leadership team, but also because of her personal leadership skills and the high values to which she committed herself.



Chavela loved to share the story of her involvement with the Center and what it meant to her. She also delighted in selling the products from the sewing coop around the El Paso area. Chavela's body was brought to the Center where the women kept vigil for two days. Chavela, we will miss you. The greatest tribute we can give you is to continue in the struggle!

CSC WISH LIST:

- Used gas stove \$200
- Cash donations for the scholarship fund (both for women and for children, too)
- Cleaning supplies
- School supplies
- Buyers for products from the sewing coop
- Replacements seats and chains for swings (\$75 each/ need 4)

Please consider being a monthly or quarterly donor. Special thanks to all who already are!!!