

I Can't Fix It ...

By Catherine May, FDC Liaison

HER NAME WAS ROSA. We met for just a short while, thirty minutes or so, and likely we will never meet again. Yet, she has touched a place in my heart and soul.

Rosa and two other women arrived at the Migrant Resource Center (MRC) in Agua Prieta around 4pm. They were wet and shivering in the cold. We gave each of them a blanket, hot coffee, water, and food. We asked, "Are you feeling okay? Do you have any medical concerns?" Rosa shared that her left eye hurt and all she could see was white through the injured eye. Of course, we can only address small health concerns at the MRC: Advil, a bandage, some antiseptic cream, and in Rosa's case, some eye drops.

Two of us looked in her eye, under the lids and all around, to see what particle might be in there, but we saw nothing. Rosa and I agreed that we could patch her eye because it hurt less when the eyelid was down. With patch in place, I quipped, "Now you are more beautiful than ever." We all chuckled until her laughter turned into tears. All of us know that in times of stress, worry, and grief, it is remarkable how easy it is to move from one big emotion to another. For Rosa, in that moment, her distress spilled over. Comfort, hugs, and sympathetic words were the only gifts I could offer. I could not fix it!

That is not the first time I have experienced someone in physical pain but, somehow, this connection with Rosa was stronger and ran deeper. Not only were we unqualified to fix her eye, but we could not end the pain expressed in the words she shared through her tears. Rosa could not reach her family in Phoenix... she had no one in Mexico. What was she to do? Her despair coursed through me. I could not fix it!

It is my country that keeps her from reaching her new home. It is her country that failed her and sent her northward. Who can appreciate the trials she faced as she journeyed to the border? Collectively, we impose on Rosa's dignity and challenge her hopes. All the wrongs that are heaped on Rosa, and I cannot fix it!

Hear my prayers, loving God.