



# The McCurdy Ministries Message

McCurdy Schools of Northern New Mexico is a registered nonprofit corporation.  
The corporation also uses the trade name McCurdy Ministries.

Volume 2, Number 3

Sharing God's love through education and mission

March 2014

## Save the date for the McCurdy Reunion July 19 & 20

All McCurdy Schools of Northern New Mexico and McCurdy Ministries alumni, staff, faculty and volunteers are cordially invited to the semi-annual **McCurdy Reunion July 19 and 20, 2014** on the McCurdy campus. Pilling Retreat Center will be available for up to 45 guests the nights of July 19 and 20. The housing cost will be \$35 per person per night. Most rooms have two twin beds with a Jack and Jill bathroom between the adjoining rooms. Check in will run from 6 PM to 8 PM, July 19. Checkout will be no later than noon on Sunday, July 21. Also hotel accommodations are available in town. Please call Eufemia Romero to make a reservation at the dorm. Her contact information is listed at the end of this article.

Reunion events will include: **9 AM to noon Saturday Brunch, McCurdy Storytelling and Fellowship Time** in the cafeteria. The storytelling will be videotaped to record this aspect of McCurdy history. **Saturday Lunch will be on your own** and during this time we encourage alumni classes to arrange class reunions. **2 to 5 PM Saturday there will be work projects around campus and town** including a work day at La Loma Vista Cemetery where many of our missionaries are buried, Campbell's labels clipping for those who want a more sedentary task and maintenance projects around the campus. The McCurdy Gift Shop and Historical Room will also be open. **6 PM Saturday Dinner** we will enjoy dinner, a good old

fashioned sing-a-long and a presentation on **Future Directions for McCurdy Ministries. 9 AM Sunday Brunch and 10 AM Sunday Worship** at Santa Cruz United Methodist Church. More complete information on the reunion schedule, costs and registration information will be provided in the May newsletter. If you would like to help plan the reunion or want to coordinate your class reunion with our activities please contact Eufemia Romero by email at [eromero@mccurdy.org](mailto:eromero@mccurdy.org) or call her at 505-753-7221, ext. 210.

### 50th Reunion set by Class of '64

The McCurdy Class of 1964 will celebrate its 50th anniversary on Friday, July 18, 2014, in Santa Fe, NM. The event is set to precede the McCurdy Reunion so participants may enjoy both events. Any one interested in attending the evening celebration can receive detailed information by contacting David & Judy (Kelly) Duran by email at [dadclassof64@gmail.com](mailto:dadclassof64@gmail.com) or by phone at 505-797-4776. The 50th anniversary organizers—Mavis Esparza, Clifford Miller, David & Judy—look forward to hearing from you.

### Gala 17 raises over \$62,000

The 17th annual Gala held Feb. 8 in Memorial Gym raised over \$62,000 which will be split 15% to the McCurdy Foundation, 42.5% to McCurdy Charter School athletics and 42.5% to Project Cariño. This year we were glad to welcome the United Methodist Women National Office as a new Gala sponsor.

The Gala is successful because of McCurdy's amazing volunteers. Helen Finch, co-chair, has worked on the Gala for 16 years and David and Martha Milhouse, co-chairs, have worked on the Gala for twelve years. In addition, the Gala Committee includes Marian Martinez, Ymelda Samora, Norma Herrera, Janette Archuleta, Patricia Alvarado, Diana Loomis, Pat Lujan, Denise London and Eufemia Romero. Twenty-six United Methodist volunteers came from across the country to help make the Gala happen including Pat Alexander, Terry and Alice Langehennig, Ken and Jan Hathaway, Ray Cook, Bev and Dick Karr, Nancy Cadwell, Cheryl Baer, Mary Jane and Arlen Packard, Bonnie and Jay Coble, Helen and Bill Dale, Dennis and Dee Dee Heffner, Rosemarie and Earl McMillan, Paul and Marcia Baynes and Fred and Sandra Pomeroy. McCurdy is grateful for the hard work of the Gala Committee and our volunteers.



Above: Gala entertainment was provided by Fletcher and John. Above left: David Milhouse, Gala co-chair, enjoys a fun moment during the event. Right: Participants enjoy fellowship as well as their steak and salmon dinners.

## Come learn about McCurdy at the UMW Assembly

McCurdy Ministries will be well represented at the UMW Assembly in Louisville, KY, April 25 to 27. Staff attending the Assembly will be Patricia Alvarado, executive director; Rev. Diana Loomis, director of development and church relations; Deaconess Stephanie Suggs, program director; and Dee Dee Heffner, retired missionary. The McCurdy Ministries Board will also be represented including Marilyn Peabody, president; Tom Hofmann, development committee chairperson, and Glenna Kyker Brayton, board member. McCurdy will have a table with information about McCurdy along with many of the other National Mission Institutions.

We invite you to come visit our table, learn more about McCurdy and take home a gift made for you by our students.

In addition, Rev. Loomis will help lead the "Strengthening Communities: Mission Dollars at Work through UMW National Mission Institutions Workshop" which is scheduled for 12:30 PM Friday and 1 PM Saturday. We invite you to join one of these workshops to learn more about the difference McCurdy and all the UMW National Mission Institutions make. **We are looking forward to seeing you in Louisville!**

## A word from our executive director, Patricia Alvarado



Patricia Alvarado  
Executive Director

We just hosted our 17th annual Gala and I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of our Board of Directors, Gala Committee, and staff to express our heartfelt gratitude for the many volunteers, near and far who dedicate so much of their time, talents, and resources to make the Gala a success. We especially thank Helen Finch and David and Martha Millhouse, co-chairs for the annual gala committee. As well, we thank the many local sponsors, alumni, and other supporters who continue to give so generously of their resources to help in funding the event.

In my message for the Gala booklet I said, “Despite challenges and circumstances that may arise, we move forward in faith and action believing that our Father continues to guide our decisions and work. We are committed to, and consider of the utmost priority, surrounding our children with the support and encouragement that they need. Providing the opportunities for them to learn life skills through participation in sports and Project Cariño, requires many resources and manpower.” Along with providing resources to support athletics, through Project Cariño McCurdy Ministries provides excellent

counseling resources to McCurdy Charter School students. In addition Project Cariño offers opportunities for students to serve others through the Big Buddy/Little Buddy and Peer Conflict Mediation programs. Students who participate in these programs receive valuable training that serves them into adulthood. Neither of these programs would be possible if it were not for your faithful commitment, your prayers, and your giving.

During the Gala I was reminded of the impact that McCurdy Schools of Northern New Mexico has had in its 101 year history. As I met and greeted alumni, former staff and local business sponsors in attendance, and worked alongside our volunteers who transformed the venue from a sports complex to a beautiful arena, I heard the stories of days gone by, fielded questions about the present, and inquiries about the vision and more concrete plans for the future. And so, I responded by saying we continue to work to bring the vision of a new school building for the charter school to fruition within the upcoming year, to expand the outreach to our community through a mid-week dinner and ministry for all ages in the fall, to provide a quality preschool program for our community, to provide a safe, enjoyable after school program and quality food services for McCurdy Charter School.

As always, we ask for your continued prayers and support for our ministry. God’s blessings to you and your families. *Patricia A. Alvarado*

## New plans being developed to construct MCS building

Construction of the New McCurdy Charter School buildings was delayed in late November 2013 after a routine audit by the New Mexico state auditors found the charter school’s financial books for the 2012–13 school year were not auditable. The New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED) is now working with the charter school to remedy the situation. As a result the lender McCurdy Ministries was using for the school build withdrew their offer to lend the funds.

As you all know when the Lord closes one door he opens another to our benefit. In Habakkuk 2:3 the scripture says, “For there is still a vision for the appointed time...If it seems to tarry, wait for it; it will surely come, it will not delay.” (NRSV) With a 101 year history the McCurdy Board of Directors, staff and volunteers have learned that every large project like constructing a new school takes longer than we think it will! Most importantly we have learned God is at work in the time we tarry and today there is exciting evidence that God is using this delay to benefit both McCurdy Ministries and McCurdy Charter School. A taskforce has been researching alternative financing and construction methods for this project. Our research shows we will be able to secure much lower financing for the project which will save substantial funds and in turn will help make both McCurdy Charter School and McCurdy Ministries financially strong. We are grateful for the ways God is working in these difficult circumstances and we are grateful for your prayers and support as we work through the construction of a new building. If you have questions about this process please contact Patricia Alvarado, McCurdy Ministries executive director at 505-753-7221 or [pialvarado@mccurdy.org](mailto:pialvarado@mccurdy.org).

*Marilyn Peabody, McCurdy Ministries board chairperson*



McCurdy Ministries After School Care girls enjoy the playground equipment.

## Have you remembered McCurdy in your will?

Please consider these creative ways to support McCurdy Ministries.

In Española the need is great. U.S. Census Bureau 2010 statistics say 25% of adults over 25 have not graduated from high school and 24% of the population lives below the poverty line. McCurdy Ministries needs your support to continue our ministries. We make God’s difference through McCurdy Preschool, Project Cariño, After School Care, Volunteers in Mission, and Camp Stars. We are also the landlord for McCurdy Charter School (MCS), the vendor for the MCS breakfast and lunch program and through the McCurdy Gala support MCS student athletics and Project Cariño. Your donations of time, talent and funds help us keep our aging buildings and 44 acres in shape for 543 MCS students and for McCurdy Ministries programs. Here are ways to support our ministry: **Donate and encourage others to donate regularly to McCurdy.** Make a donation of cash, stocks, land or an appreciated asset. **Send us Campbell’s Labels for McCurdy Ministries and Box Tops for Edu-**

**cation for McCurdy Charter School.** Donate a gift annuity to earn income during your life and bless McCurdy with a donation after your death. **Organize a Volunteers in Mission Team from your church and come enjoy Northern New Mexico.** Remember McCurdy Ministries in your will. **Set up an endowed fund in the McCurdy Foundation.** If you purchase a new car, donate your old one to McCurdy for a tax deduction. **Make McCurdy a beneficiary of a life insurance policy.** Remember McCurdy in your estate trust. **Invite the McCurdy church relations team to your church program, dinner or worship event.** Donate to McCurdy through Advance #581479. **Pray for the school daily!** For information contact Rev. Diana Loomis, director of development/church relations at 505-753-7221, ext. 352, email her at [dloomis@mccurdy.org](mailto:dloomis@mccurdy.org) or write her at 261 S. McCurdy Road, Española, NM 87532.

## Project Cariño news & updates

McCurdy Ministries' two Project Cariño counselors and student intern continue to make a tremendous difference with our students. Year to date we have had 48 charter school students referred to our program and currently Michelle and I have a combined caseload of 26 clients. The Big Buddy Program continues with weekly mentorship meetings between high school and elementary school students. These relationships have grown and have become very influential. Teacher reports indicate behavioral issues that existed in the classrooms before the Big Buddy/Little Buddy was begun, have minimized substantially! We have begun informing 5th to 12th grade students about the Peer Mediator Program. This program trains elementary, middle and high school students to help peers toward peaceful resolutions of conflict. We believe that this program will decrease the number of fights and bullying incidents on campus.

The most exciting part of my work is the transformation I see happening with my clients on a daily basis. Recently, I was working with an elementary student who has experienced many hardships in life. That session the student was having a hard time communicating. Suddenly, there was a scratching on my office door and the student asked, "Is that Compa? Can he come in?" We let Compa into our session and in the process of taking care of this little therapy dog the student was able to talk about feelings and experiences and life. Isn't it amazing what happens when you combine a listening ear with the complete love of a dog like Compa? We deeply appreciate your support of our ministry. You, your prayers and your donations make healing moments like this possible. Thank you! **Amanda Gonzales**



**Amanda Gonzales**  
Project Cariño director

## Therapy dog joins Project Cariño staff

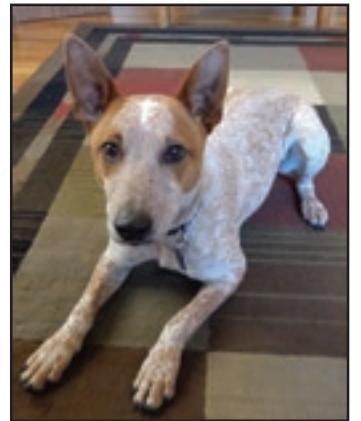
The healing and transformative power of the human and animal connection has been documented time and again. One does not need to look hard to find powerful, every-day examples of the special bond we share with creatures, both wild and domestic. Whether a kitty cat curls up and purrs in our lap, or we take a ride on a spirited horse, the ability to be affected deeply and positively by our interactions and encounters with animals is profound! We can recall being stirred in a special way when a wild animal crossed our path or a special bird was sighted.

Project Cariño creates a space for healing and transformation.

Those drawn to our services seek comfort, support and assistance. As therapists, we are always striving to provide the most effective means of helping others. It is with this intent, and in recognition of the amazing capacity for animals to assist in the healing process, that we have joyfully included a new member to our team!

Our four-legged, furry therapist-in-training is a rescue dog named Compa. The name "Compa" is short for Compañero, which is Spanish for "companion." Compa is being trained to work in tandem with our therapists to assist in the therapeutic process. In the course of training with Compa, and with special permission from supportive parents, we have discovered just how incredible working with Compa can be! One elementary student noted after a session, "Compa taught me that I don't need to get mad at people who try to bug me. I can just ignore them like Compa does!" Another student was having "big feelings" and did not want to be at school. After some "Compa time," he was able to exhale and laugh after a very troubling week. His teacher said it was the first time she saw him smile that week.

We welcome Compa to Project Cariño! If you stop by our offices, you might be greeted at the door by the cold nose of an eager-to-play Red Heeler/Terrier therapy dog. You might even get to make his day by playing fetch. His enthusiasm and loving nature are bound to make you smile. **Michelle Esquibel, LMCH Project Cariño therapist**



*Compa relaxes in the living room of the Project Cariño House*

## A word from Stephanie Suggs McCurdy's program director

After School Care kids join together to engineer a puddle with their inspired teachers watching.

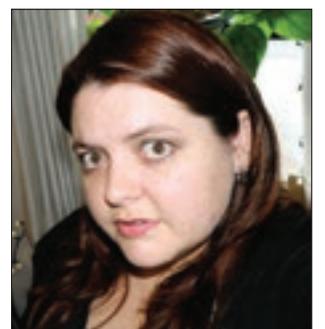


Here's something I've known, since I was a child, about children: Puddles are irresistible. Here's what I learned recently about children living in New Mexico: There is no force on this earth that can keep them out of a puddle. So, put 28 children on a play-ground with one large puddle and the inevitable happens: everyone gets wet, despite the teachers' best efforts. But something else happened that made a few wet sleeves and pant legs utterly unimportant. Several children decided that the puddle must be drained via a canal. An engineering project was born and before long, everyone was involved.

The teachers, including myself, were so stunned by the planning, the camaraderie, and the inventiveness of this project that we abandoned our efforts to keep the kids away from the puddle to watch things unfold. Age no longer mattered. Fights were forgotten. Rivalries were set aside. Different ideas were discussed and tried, some with success and others not. A natural leader stepped up, and the others looked to him for guidance. Several children fell into specific roles, while others bounced from job to job. In the end, they managed to drain the puddle, for the most part.

As teachers, we enjoyed watching all of the personalities come together, the flow of ideas, and the learning that came from mistakes. What else can you do but watch and appreciate? Moments like this are rare like puddles in the desert. **Stephanie Suggs**

**You can support Stephanie's work as program director through the McCurdy Ministries General Fund Advance Number which is 581479. Please designate your donations to Suggs Salary Support. The Advance link is at [www.umcmmission.org/Give-to-Mission/Search-for-Projects/Projects/581479](http://www.umcmmission.org/Give-to-Mission/Search-for-Projects/Projects/581479). You can send your salary support to McCurdy at 261 S. McCurdy Road, Española, NM 87532 and designate your gift for Suggs Salary Support.**



## Box Tops and labels make a big difference!

Every day McCurdy Ministries receives Box Tops and Campbell's labels in the mail from around the country. Currently we have 1,565,996 and need

34,004 more Campbell's labels to purchase a new van for McCurdy Ministries. We are grateful for your support and excited about reaching our goal for a new van!

In addition, McCurdy Ministries prepares and submits all Box Tops received on behalf of McCurdy Charter School. We received the following thank you from

MCS Elementary School. Box Tops make a big difference for our students! *The elementary students and staff would like to express our heart-felt gratitude to all the Box Tops donors who give so generously to McCurdy. As you are certainly aware, budgets are tight, and costs are high for extras like field trips, visiting artists and specialty supplies. With the Box Tops you so thoughtfully clip, collect and send to us, we can breathe a little easier and make a pledge to our students: that no matter their economic status or ability to pay, they will be able to have experiences that make school meaningful and bring the world to them. For our charter school, any extra is a lot extra, it means so much. Thank you so very much for keeping us in mind and supporting our dreams and aspirations! Kiva Duckworth -Moulton, McCurdy Charter Elementary School principal*

## McCurdy Charter School news



The second semester at McCurdy Charter School has been eventful, with the anticipation of spring bringing even more excitement to our campus. Students continue to be busy with service learning projects, dual-credit classes, athletic events, and core academics.

We are pleased with the formation of the first JROTC program for MCS, under the command of Major Mark Gonzales and Sergeant Major Robert Money. The program currently has 13 cadets who serve as Color Guard at athletic events and conduct first aid training, Drill and Ceremony training and service, campus clean-up, and peer mediation. The cadets are excellent ambassadors for our school and bring recognition to their commitment to leadership and service. Their presence will be a nice addition to our spring graduation ceremony.

Another important event this semester is the induction of 15 students into the National Honor Society. The caliber of students representing MCS in the National Honor Society is outstanding, with these individuals involved in dual-credit classes, community and school service learning projects, community youth programs, church programs, and many more activities that demonstrate their values and focus. Congratulations to these students for their achievements and to their families for instilling excellent values and work ethic in their children.

Thank you to everyone that supported Gala 17 as this event benefits McCurdy Charter School in two significant ways. First, through Project Cariño, our students are provided quality behavioral health counseling by a staff that is dedicated to the wellness of our students and school. Second, the Gala contribution to our athletic program assists in some of the typical costs of an athletic program, such as travel and officials for games. Both of these programs engage our students in the school community and support them in being active members of our student body.

We look forward to the last quarter of our second year of operation. We face challenges knowing that MCS provides the Espanola Valley with a quality education option for families. There is great reward in working with our youth and contributing to their development as outstanding men and women. *Janette Archuleta, McCurdy Charter School director*



*Preschool bulletin board*

said, "That's because Jesus loves all of us and wants us in his place right?" Another commented, "That is one invitation that I never want to forget." and still another said, "Jesus doesn't even care if mom and dad come too right teacher?" As I continued with the story, the children were visibly upset when Jesus friends (the disciples) had turned the children away, but were happy in the end that Jesus called the children to come to him.

With every story we do a Bible crafts so the children have a souvenir to help them remember the Bible verse and the story. This time I prepared a bulletin board with Jesus in the center and added the heading; Jesus said "Let the children come to me." Individual drawings of children were placed around Jesus and the pictures were connected to Jesus using yarn. As the children were drawing their pictures a few of them had drawn children with dark skin, green/blue hair and disproportionate body sizes. When one child said, "That doesn't look like mine see? Mine looks like a person." Another child looked up and said, "So remember that Jesus doesn't care what we look like he gave everybody a invitation to his party."

*Sandra Archuleta, McCurdy preschool director*



*A preschoolers' drawing of someone invited to Jesus' party*



*Two Missouri college students fill a garbage bag at La Loma Vista Cemetery while enjoying a panoramic view of the countryside.*

## Missouri volunteers make a NM difference!

In January McCurdy Ministries welcomed 39 Missouri college students and adult volunteers to our campus. They volunteered at McCurdy, Santa Cruz UMC, Habitat for Humanity, St. Elizabeth's homeless shelter in Santa Fe and La Loma Vista Cemetery in Alcalde. The students heard stories about McCurdy missionaries Glen McCracken, Irene Cole and Dolph and Gwen Pringle so when they were asked to clean up La Loma Vista cemetery they were excited to care for these saints' final resting place. When the work was done there was a huge pile of garbage bags holding weeds, waiting to be hauled to the trash and the cemetery was greatly improved. More than that the students expressed joy in being able to make this difference.

One of the powerful things about being a volunteer for God is that we never know how God will use our actions for other's good. A few days after the students left Diana Loomis received an email saying the day after the students had cleared the cemetery, a burial was held there. One of cemetery trustees had apologized to the family ahead of time because there were not funds or volunteers to clean up the cemetery last fall. Imagine the family and the cemetery trustee's surprise when they discovered a beautifully prepared cemetery! The trustee called around town trying to discover who had cleaned up the cemetery until they learned our college students were the angels who gave a gift of their labor and an even greater gift of comfort to a grieving family. Thank you!

## Is God calling you to make a difference by volunteering at McCurdy?

Then contact Eufemia Romero to schedule a VIM group at 505-753-7221, ext. 210, or email her at [eromero@mccurdy.org](mailto:eromero@mccurdy.org) or Vickie Luviano to volunteer as an individual at 505-753-7221, ext. 268 or email her at [vickie@mccurdy.org](mailto:vickie@mccurdy.org). McCurdy welcomes individual volunteers all year long and group volunteers from March to October. Our volunteers call our retreat center where volunteers are lodged, the VIM Hilton, they rave about our climate and McCurdy hospitality. Most importantly time volunteering in the Espanola Valley located between the Sangre de Cristo and the Jemez Mountains is an inspiration. Acting as the hands of Christ by working with our students, families, community and staff is a wonderful way to serve God. For more information on our VIM program go to <http://www.mccurdy.org/volunteer.html> and for our VIM Team Leader Packet go to <http://www.mccurdy.org/documents/VIM%20Team%20Leader%20Packet.pdf>.