



The McCurdy Ministries
Message

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

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Helping students and families in the Española Valley succeed in school and in life

March 2017

Donor Dinner lifts up the moving of God's spirit at McCurdy Ministries

The first Donor Appreciation Dinner on Feb. 25, was a great success with McCurdy donors attending from all over Northern New Mexico. Highlights included Project Cariño Big Buddies sharing their testimonies about the difference this ministry makes in their lives and FBT Architects, Sanjay Engineer and Rathi Casey, who donated over \$25,000 of labor, skill and love to create a new Master Plan for the campus, shared a video of the McCurdy campus. The response from the audience was, "Ooohhh!" "Aaahhh!" and "Wow!" Over the next three newsletters we will share architectural renderings that demonstrate how our buildings will look when the Master plan is implemented including the new Children's Ministries Center which is pictured on page two of this newsletter. The Rev. Dr. Randall Partin, provost of the New Mexico Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church spoke saying, "In the story of McCurdy Ministries over the past few years, in the way McCurdy has faced and continues to face daunting

challenges, and, most importantly, in the expansive, imaginative vision that sees a new and renewed future for McCurdy where all kinds of entities and organizations and people gather to serve and make a difference in the Española valley, I am sensing a powerful, powerful movement of God's Spirit here, that I would give anything, anything, to bottle up and distribute in every community of our area, if not the world." The positive response to the dinner was summed up by Santa Fe resident and McCurdy supporter Janet Dennison who said, "The Donor Appreciation Dinner was an uplifting and joy filled celebration of the children and their families who are being changed through the work of McCurdy Ministries." Plans are now being made for our second Donor Appreciation Dinner which we hope will be a Saturday lunch event that will include tours of campus next summer. The date and time will be announced in the June 2017 newsletter so that you can save the date because we are planning another exciting event.

Right: The Big Buddies share the difference Project Cariño makes in their lives.

Far right: Sanjay Engineer lead architect from FBT Architects, presents the new Master Plan for the McCurdy Ministries campus.



Preparations being made for Camp Stars' FIFTH summer on the McCurdy Ministries' campus

This summer Camp Stars, our summer educational enrichment camp which combines the best of STEM education with Vacation Bible School faith building fun, will be celebrating its fifth anniversary. Camp Stars will welcome students in the Española Valley who have completed preschool to fifth grade for a fun summer of science, technology, engineering, math, Bible stories, crafts, recreation, music and mission. The theme for this year's camp will be "Hero Central—Discover Your Strength in God!" and the scripture will be "Do good! Seek peace and go after it!" Psalm 34:14b.

Camp Stars will run six weeks during the summer Monday through Friday from 8 AM to 3 PM and will start on June 12. There will be a break on July 3 and 4 for the July 4th holiday and Camp Stars will end on July 25. Tuition will be \$330 per child which includes breakfast and lunch with discounts available for multiple children from one household. Students who qualify for free or reduced lunch or families who qualify for SNAP assistance will receive financial aid to reduce the tuition cost.

Sandra Archuleta, the McCurdy Ministries preschool director, will once again be the Camp Stars director. In addition, four teachers and four camp counselors will be hired to staff the camp. McCurdy Charter School juniors, seniors and graduates who are interested can apply for the Camp Stars counselors positions. Registration for Camp Stars will start on April 24. To put your child on a waiting list for registration or if you are interested in applying for a Camp Stars teacher or counselor position for this summer please contact Eufemia Romero at 505-753-7221, ext. 210 or email her at eromero@mccurdy.org.





Above left: An aerial view of the campus which shows many of the details of the Master Plan including the location of the Children's Ministries Center formerly known as Hovermale Elementary School. Note the four key buildings we will be using are colored orange to highlight them. Above right: The Children's Ministry Center, formerly known as Hovermale Elementary School, is the highest priority of the buildings that will receive renovation as McCurdy Ministries becomes a Community Center.



Children's Ministries Center
formerly known as Hovermale Elementary School

McCurdy Ministries Community Center Master Plan adopted

Over the last two years while the McCurdy Ministries Board and Staff were helping make the new McCurdy Charter School building a reality, we were also asking the question, "What is God calling the United Methodist ministry to do in this time and place?" As a result we created a Long Range Strategic Plan to expand our ministries to adults, youth and children by becoming the McCurdy Ministries Community Center once the charter school vacates Cole High School, McCracken Gym, Hovermale Elementary School and Bachman Hall. The mission of the Community Center will be to **"help students and families in the Española Valley succeed in school and in life."** Our expanded mission means changes to these buildings will be necessary. We were blessed that FBT Architects, the firm McCurdy Ministries hired to create the charter school building plans, was willing to create a Master Plan for the Community Center pro bono. FBT Architects donated over \$25,000 of expertise to create our new Master Plan. At the Feb. 16, 2017, McCurdy Ministries Board meeting the plan was unanimously adopted. The board hired Jennifer Tyler, from Tyler and Associates in Dallas, TX, as our fund raising consultant for a Feasibility Study and Capital Campaign to be conducted over the next three years. Ms. Tyler comes highly recommended for her experience in conducting nationwide capital campaigns within the United Methodist Church.

Over this and the next four newsletters we will feature our key buildings and programs. Pictured above is the Children's Ministries Center which was formerly known as Hovermale Elementary School. This building will house two, all day, four year old preschool classes for 40 students. The preschool, currently housed in Pilling Retreat Center, will move to the Children's Ministries Center after it is rehabbed to meet state standards for preschool education. Starting the fall of 2017 the west wing of the building will house an expanded After School Care program which is currently housed in the old kindergarten house and has limited enrollment of 30 students due to space issues. After the move to the Children's Ministries Center we will have four, 20 student classrooms including one each of

preschool/kindergarten, 1st/2nd grade, 3rd/4th grade and 5/6th grade. Also available in the building will be a computer lab and teaching kitchen. During the summer Camp Stars, our summer educational enrichment camp which combines STEM education with VBS fun, will be located in the Children's Ministries Center. The building will be used for ministries with children year round. Once a successful capital campaign raises funds the Children's Ministries Center will receive new metal roof, building envelope, HVAC and windows to improve energy efficiency, the bathrooms will be updated, a teaching kitchen will be installed, handicapped accessibility and building security will be improved and the kindergarten and first grade classrooms will be converted to two preschool classes.

This strategic plan for the future of McCurdy Ministries is the result of many years of discernment and prayer. These plans are based on our faith in Jesus Christ, our mission to serve students and families in our community and are a reflection of McCurdy's 100 year history of creating programs and ministries that meet the needs of students in the classroom and at home. As we reach out to children, youth and families, lives will be transformed, families will be strengthened and new hope for the future will take root. This plan is bold and much too big for us to accomplish on our own which is a sure sign it is from God. Together with God and in partnership with the friends of McCurdy Ministries, we will be able to accomplish far more than we would ever dare to ask or even dream. We are preparing to launch a broad-based capital campaign to invite friends to partner with us in this Kingdom endeavor. In preparation for the days ahead we are asking you to do three things: **Partner with us in prayer as we prepare our hearts to step out in faith to fulfill this plan. Become ambassadors to help communicate the story of McCurdy Ministries and how fulfilling this plan will transform lives. When the opportunity comes, participate joyfully with a generous gift. If you have questions about the Master Plan please feel free to contact Patricia Alvarado or Rev. Diana Loomis at 505-753-7221.**

Notes from the McCurdy Ministries executive director



Patricia Alvarado
Executive Director

We have just hosted our first annual Donor Appreciation Dinner. (See the Donor Dinner article on page one.) I would like to personally thank all who attended, all who prayed for a successful event, all the First UMC, Athens, TX, volunteers and all the individual volunteers, both locally and from afar, who worked hard to make the dinner a success. In addition, I thank my staff who worked behind the scenes that evening to host the event. I also thank our architect, and attorney who diligently guide our vision and work as we plan for the future. I also want to thank Big Dawg's Catering for the preparation of our delicious meal. Seeing so many folks inquiring about our future plans with such enthusiasm inspires our staff and our community to

work even more diligently to serve our children and families in the Española Valley. I also thank the McCurdy Ministries Board who have supported our

vision and stepped out boldly to act on Faith and Hope for the future of the Española Valley.

We are now in the Lenten season and are reminded this is a time of preparation for the hope and joy of the risen Christ. Our "giving up" for Lent could include giving up personal time to serve others by writing a simple note of encouragement or making a visit or phoning others to let them know they are in our hearts and our minds. Our commitment could include spending more time in praise and worship remembering, "wherever two or more are gathered in his name, there Christ will be," which can help us fill our cup, so we will have more to pour out for others! Our actions are a form of thanksgiving and praise prayers. Our kind words and our positive acts of sharing love are a form of giving glory to Our Father. So during this Lenten season, I invite you and encourage you to give up your time to serve others as a form of praise and glory, as a form of love and kindness, and as a form of being one in Christ! May God's blessings be yours during this Lenten and Easter Season! *Patricia A. Alvarado*

Project Cariño changes lives

One of the most powerful programs that Project Cariño sponsors is the Big Buddy/Little Buddy program because elementary and high school students learn from and support each other as they learn from the Project Cariño counselors. The lessons they learn through this program are carried into adulthood. As the Project Cariño Big Buddies prepared for Valentine's day they did some thinking about what Project Cariño means to them. Here are a few of their thoughts:

Project Cariño has been a great help to me. I was dealing with problems at home and in school. I felt alone, worthless, stupid and like I had no place anywhere. Then one day when I couldn't take it anymore, someone took me to Project Cariño and introduced me to Ms. Amanda. I thank God I met her. She has impacted my life in such a positive way. She has also inspired me to become a social worker because now I can see a positive future where I am useful. Thanks to her and this program I feel like I have a place in this world. (This message is from a student in therapy.)

I thank Mrs. Amanda and Mrs. Teresa. They have really taught me how to be happy. I am also thankful for anyone else who has supported me in my bad times. Project Cariño has made me feel safe and glad I came to McCurdy.

Definitely the best part of McCurdy is Project Cariño. I hope this program will forever remain to help others feel this happiness that I enjoy. (This message is from a student who is a Big Buddy and in therapy.)

I have noticed the effect (Project Cariño) has had on my Little Buddy. The time spent coming to Project Cariño has made him smile (and helped him) get away from problems at home and school. When I get to pick up (my Little Buddy) from class, play games and make him smile and laugh, it makes me feel good that I have positively influenced a child. Project Cariño is a great program that should be continued as long as possible because these children get a chance to make a friend in a safe environment. (A message from a student who is a Big Buddy.)

Project Cariño is a life changing ministry supported by grants from the United Way of Northern New Mexico, the Monte Foundation, the Con Alma Foundation and donations from hundreds of individual donors and United Methodist Churches from across the country. We thank you for your generous support of Project Cariño and our students!



After School Care fun and faith

"And these three remain: faith, hope and love. The greatest of these is love." 1 Corinthians 13:13. This is one of the Bible verses that we are learning in Bible Study at the After School Care Program. We currently care for 20 students, ages 4-12. While we spend time on completing homework assignments, reading, bible study, games, computer time, outdoor/indoor play, and projects, my staff and I have been blessed to witness not only acts of kindness...but also love. A pair of siblings who attend the After School Care program displayed a heartwarming moment while we were watching a movie. During the movie the siblings were sitting on opposite sides of the room. Halfway through the movie the older sibling invited the younger sibling to go lay down next to him on the floor. The oldest sibling folded his jacket and placed it under his little brother's neck and cuddled with him until the movie was over. It is so rewarding to be able to teach children about God's love, but it is even a greater gift when God allows us to experience it in our daily lives. May we each experience God's love and blessings always. *Flor Cordova, After School Care Provider*



ASC student enjoys the monkey bars

Volunteers in Mission News

Our need for volunteers continues and NOW is the best time to make a reservation for next summer to bring a Volunteer in Mission Team from your church to McCurdy. The peak season for VIM Teams is May through September and we still have openings for this summer. The charter school is scheduled to be completed in May and the school will move into their new building by June 30. The elementary, high school and portable buildings will need cleaning, painting and some updates to house expanded Adult GED, After School Care and Project Cariño programs so between July 1 and Aug. 15 teams with construction skills will be needed. Our board and staff believe the work our board, staff and volunteers do in the next five years on McCurdy Ministries' behalf will make a difference in the Española Valley for the next 100 years! Please consider recruiting a Volunteer in Mission Team for this year.

We also need individual volunteers to come for two weeks or the entire school year. Individual volunteers who stay for two weeks or longer receive free board in our retreat center. If you enjoy working with children and are willing to stay six weeks from mid-June to the end of July you can volunteer for Camp Stars. We are recruiting volunteers with skills in science, technology, engineering and math, drama, music and storytelling to work with Camp Stars. There is also a volunteer liaison position who works with VIM Teams and our maintenance staff.

For information on bringing a team or becoming an individual volunteer at McCurdy go to our website at www.mccurdy.org and click on the VIM tab at the top of the page to locate the VIM Team Handbook or the Individual Volunteer Handbook. To schedule a team to come to McCurdy contact *Eufemia Romero* at eromero@mccurdy.org, to volunteer as an individual contact *Vickie Luviano* at vickie@mccurdy.org. You can call Eufemia or Vickie at 505-753-7221 or call Vickie on her cell at 505-927-3683. *Vickie Luviano, volunteer manager*



The outside work on the charter school building is progressing. Rigid insulation has been installed on the north end and the stucco base layer has been installed on the eastern and southern side of the buildings. Some of the islands and lighting have been installed in the parking lot.

McCurdy Charter School news

The countdown to the completion of the new two story 38,000 square foot classroom building for McCurdy Charter School is on. The building is expected to be completed in May. The snow, rain, mud and a few design issues slowed down construction for two weeks but they are still on schedule for the charter school to move out of the McCurdy Ministries buildings and onto their own 11 acre campus which includes Memorial Gym, Pringle Student Center, the football field and three acres of the old orchard. The MCS campus is located on the McCurdy's Ministries' western boundary and the irrigation ditch east of Memorial Gym is now the dividing line between the McCurdy Ministries and charter school properties. Please keep the construction and construction workers building this new building for our children and youth in your prayers. They are doing a great job!

Please consider these creative ways to support McCurdy Ministries

McCurdy Ministries touches the lives of more than 500 students every school day. Your donations of prayer, time, talent and funds literally help us save lives, support their education and create a safe place for the children and youth under our care. Please prayerfully consider these ways of supporting 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 or Tyson Project A+ Labels for McCurdy Ministries and Box Tops for Education 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 and become a part of the Mellie Perkins Society.
- **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.**
- Invite the McCurdy church relations team to your church program, dinner or worship event.
- **Donate to McCurdy through Advance #581479.**
- Pray for McCurdy daily!

For information on making a donation to McCurdy Ministries please call Diana Loomis at 505-753-7221, ext. 352, write her at 362A S. McCurdy Road, Española, NM 87532 or email her at dloomis@mccurdy.org.

Loving couple makes a difference for children

McCurdy Ministries recently received a \$108,260 bequest from the estate of Bill and Mary Hartman of North Liberty, Indiana. Although they did not have biological children, the Hartman's profoundly influenced the lives of many children in their lives. Mary was a teacher and Bill was a builder and in their spare time they volunteered in many different ways in their community. They were the youth group leaders at North Liberty United Methodist Church. Bill and Mary "are fondly remembered as good people who do many good things for friends and family." The

Hartman's intentionally planned their estate "to share their blessings with organizations that would improve the lives of others." As a result McCurdy Ministries and 22 other nonprofits received bequests from their estate. This gift came at time when McCurdy Ministries is expanding our ministries and the impact that we have on the children, youth and families of the Española Valley. We are privileged to carry on the wishes of the Hartman's to improve the lives of others and are grateful for their generosity and their dedication to children!



Mary and Bill Hartman at their 50th wedding anniversary

Box Tops, Campbell's Labels & Tyson updates

Thank you for your support of McCurdy Ministries through the Labels for Education Program. Our goal is to accumulate 1.6 million points before this program ends at the end of the 2016-17 school year. All UPCs now **MUST HAVE** the "Labels for Education" wording or logo to be valid. Campbell's is gradually reducing the number of products with the "Labels for Education" wording.

For every Tyson Project A+ label donated the 26 cents we receive supports McCurdy Ministries programming as opposed to the 10 cents per label we receive from Box Tops which benefits McCurdy Charter School students. Remember that the Tyson Project A+ label is only on **frozen item packages**. Tyson does not put the A+ labels on fresh Tyson chicken products. Please visit www.projectaplus.tyson.com for more information, or visit our website.

McCurdy Ministries continues to help McCurdy Charter School through coordination, clipping, counting and submitting the Box Tops for Education you submit each month. Since MCS opened in August 2012, you have helped raise \$69,440! MCS is ranked #1 in New Mexico, and is ranked #21 in the U.S.A!

Please mail your labels to McCurdy Ministries new address at 362A S. McCurdy Road, Española, NM 87532.

McCurdy Preschool news

Greetings to all! Although the month of February was a short month it was a very busy month, since Valentine's day was one of the main holidays for the month, it gave the children the opportunity to share their feelings of love and friendship with their families and one another. The children learned many songs, poems and finger plays about love and friendship. One of the poems they particularly enjoyed is as follows:

"Roses are red. Violets are blue. Can you guess who loves you?"

The children response was **"JESUS!"** They then would sing "Jesus Loves Me."

During February at afternoon Preschool I got to once again witness God's love in action when we learned the story of Jesus and the children. (Mark 10:13-16) I introduced the theme by gathering the children together and showing them a party invitation. I asked "What's this?" I let the children respond then gave them the correct answer. I then asked if anyone had ever been invited to a party, I let the children share their experience of what it felt like to be invited or what it felt like to be left out. I then told them that our story for the month of February was about an invitation, an invitation that was sent out by Jesus asking the children to come to Him, and no one was left out. This made the children very happy. As the month progressed we continued our lesson, repeating our Bible verse: Jesus said "Let the children come to me." on a daily basis.

One cold February afternoon as the children were unpacking their backpacks, a young boy came up to me and said "Can you help me put these in all the kids folders, so they can take them to their home today? I asked what it was, and said he didn't have to put them in the folder, he could set them on top of the cubby so the kids could pack it up themselves. The young boy said, "Well Ms. Sandra, These are very important, that is why I want to put them inside the folder. These are some invitations I made for my friends to come to my party and I made sure not to leave anyone out like Jesus. I want to put them in their folders so that no one gets left out."

Remembering our lesson, I immediately helped the child put the invitations into the folders. What a perfect example of God's love in action!!!!!! **Sandra Archuleta, McCurdy Preschool Director**