



The McCurdy Ministries Message

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McCurdy Schools
261 S. McCurdy Rd.
Española, NM 87532

Volume 1, Number 4

Sharing God's love through education and mission

May 2013

McCurdy honors Dee Dee Heffner's 39 years of ministry May 25

McCurdy will joyfully and tearfully celebrate Dee Dee Heffner's 39 years of ministry May 25, and Dee Dee will retire May 31. She and her husband, Dennis, are building a new home and will be moving to Tijeras in the mountains outside of Albuquerque in June. McCurdy wishes the best to the Heffners and wants to celebrate the years of ministry both Dee Dee and her husband Dennis have given to McCurdy and area.

Our celebration will begin in the cafeteria at 5:30 PM with a catered New Mexican dinner honoring Dee Dee and her family. **The cost for the meal will be \$10 per person and prepaid reservations must be made by May 20!** Please mail your pre-paid reservation to Eufemia Romero, 261 S. McCurdy Road, Española, NM 87532. To put your meal cost on a credit card please call Denise London at 505-753-7221, ext. 264.

Dinner will be followed by a program at 6:45 PM in McCracken Gym which was the site for many classes, programs, musicals and dramas led by Dee Dee over the years. Dee Dee and her family will greet attendees in a receiving line and by 7:15 PM we will honor Dee Dee's 39 years of ministry at McCurdy with drama, laughter and tears.

To make the night special we need your help. Please share with us your special memories of "Mrs. Heff" and mail them to McCurdy to the attention of Diana Loomis or email your memories to dloomis@mccurdy.org.

These memories will be collected in a binder and presented to her as a part of the program. We would also appreciate your emailing photos of Dee Dee from the last 38 years to Diana Loomis no later than May 20 for a photo collage to be used that night.

Dee Dee has asked that we honor her ministry by setting up a Drama, Arts & Music Fund to benefit future McCurdy Ministries programs. If you would like to donate to this fund please use the enclosed envelope and mark your donation "Heffner Retirement." On May 25, Dee Dee will be presented with a certificate listing the names of those who donated. **Please help us surprise Dee Dee by keeping all these plans secret!**

Over her 39 years of ministry, Dee Dee has changed many lives. We hope that you will join us in celebrating the difference Dee Dee has made.

The good news is that Dee Dee has agreed to volunteer in alumni and church relations after her retirement. She will be helping us to keep in touch with alumni and travelling to tell the McCurdy Story.



Dee Dee Heffner
McCurdy Ministries missionary



Camp Stars to launch in June

Helping kids reach for the stars!

Camp Stars will launch on the McCurdy campus June 10. The Camp Stars Director will be Zelda Jaramillo, a current McCurdy Charter School teacher, a former McCurdy Schools of Northern New Mexico teacher and a wonderful Christian woman. The camp, sponsored by McCurdy Ministries, will emphasize STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education and the Christian faith through VBS music, scripture and crafts.

The scripture theme for the camp will be, "When I look up at your skies, at what your fingers made—the moon and the stars that you set firmly in place—what are human beings that you think about them; what are human beings that you pay attention to them?" Psalm 8:3-4 We will be using Cokesbury's "Everywhere Fun Fair: Where God's World Comes Together" VBS curriculum to help inform the Camp Stars experience.

There will be spots for 15 kindergarten, first and second grade students, 20 third and fourth grade students, 20 fifth and sixth grade students and 20 seventh and eighth grade students for a total of 75 students. Tuition for the first child in any household will be \$70 per week, the second child will be \$60 and the third

child will be \$60. Tuition will include snacks, lunch and supplies. For those demonstrating need, financial aid will be available. A generous grant from the Montei Foundation, Columbus, Ohio, has made it possible for tuition to Camp Stars to be very modest.

The camp will be open for six weeks starting June 10 and ending July 26. Daily hours will be 8 AM to 3 PM. There will be a one week break for 4th of July week. An age appropriate learning center rotational model with five stations each day will be used with science, math, games, arts and crafts and story telling/drama/music stations. Technology and engineering will be woven through each rotation. Ms. Jaramillo and five additional certified teachers will be employed to run the program and camp counselors will be employed also. There will be an open application process for the camp starting May 1, 2013, for McCurdy Charter School students and open to the entire community on May 7, 2013.

If you are interested in this program for your child please contact Eufemia Romero at 505-753-7221, ext. 210. If you would like to make a donation to support Camp Stars please enclose a check marked Camp Stars in the envelope provided or contact Rev. Diana Loomis at dloomis@mccurdy.org, call her at 505-753-7221, ext. 352 or write her at 261 S. McCurdy Road, Española, NM 87532.

Camp Stars is one of the new ways we are seeking to make God's difference in our area. We hope that our alumni, donors, volunteers and supporters will join us in praying for the success of Camp Stars.

We are asking McCurdy alumni, donors and supporters to prayerfully consider donating \$100 to Camp Stars by June 1. We need 40, \$100 financial aid grants to help needy children attend Camp Stars.

A word from our executive director, Patricia Alvarado



Patricia Alvarado
Executive Director

As the trees bud and the wild flowers bloom, I wake each morning to the birds' greeting, and I am reminded that our Father gives us proof of his unconditional love in the simplest of things. In the midst of the recent tragedies that have occurred this past week in Boston and in Texas, it is easy to forget that he is always with us to protect and provide. When we are bombarded daily with news of tragedy and cruelty, it is easy to lose faith and hope. But even in the midst of this horrible tragedy, we witnessed that love is indeed the "...greatest of these..."

It is in this spirit that we, at McCurdy Ministries, serve our children. The mission is not without challenges, but the vision is clear. Our Gala theme for next year, "*¡Adelante! Moving forward with Vision,*" speaks to this. We are called upon to love one another as Christ has loved us. He certainly showed us that in all things, we are to honor and glorify our Father's name. In the midst of challenges and

suffering we are to create opportunities to serve him, thanking him always for all things.

In this newsletter, you will read about the recent activities that have taken place and exciting details on our upcoming summer program, CAMP STARS. We also continue to work out the details of the new school building and renovations to other areas that will be taking place as we support McCurdy Charter School; always ensuring clear separation of church and state. At the center of all of our plans and behind-the-scenes work, we focus on our only driving force which is, "to love one another, as Christ has loved us!"

And so I invite you and challenge you as you read this newsletter to focus on the hope, the faith, and the love that Jesus has commanded us to have and show for one another. I ask that you search your heart and pray for each of our mission goals and lift in prayer each of the children, families, and our Ministries in this Española Valley. If we are to be God's hands and feet for our community, we need continued support and resources.

May God's Blessings continue to sustain you! *Patricia Alvarado*

Thanks to everyone who supported Gala 16!

Thank you to those who supported Gala 16 held in February of 2013. Over \$65,000 was made for the McCurdy Foundation, McCurdy Ministries Project Cariño, and the McCurdy Charter School Athletic Fund. Please mark your calendars and

Save the date for Gala 17!

¡Adelante! *Moving Forward with Vision*

is our theme for Gala 17 which will be from 6 to 10 PM, Saturday, Feb. 8, 2014, in Memorial Gym

Gala 17 will once again feature a catered dinner, silent and live auction with over 350 items and entertainment. By supporting the Gala, you help to support McCurdy Ministries and McCurdy Charter School. The profits are divided with 15% going to the McCurdy Ministries Foundation, 42.5% going to Project Cariño and 42.5% going to the McCurdy Charter School Athletic Program. You are invited to be an Alumni Supporter, Gala Supporter, or Sponsor. You can also donate an auction item or purchase a ticket to attend. For information, write McCurdy Ministries Gala, 261 S. McCurdy Road, Espanola, NM 87532 or call contact Eufemia Romero at 505-753-7221, ext. 210, gala@mccurdy.org. Information will also be on the web at mccurdy.org under Gala 17.



You are cordially invited to the

Deconsecration & Celebration

of Bachman, Blake & Herrick at 2:30 PM, June 1, on the steps of Bachman Hall. This will be a time of prayer and remembrance followed by a time of fellowship for the McCurdy community.

(Demolition of Bachman, Blake & Herrick is scheduled to begin June 3.)

Ways to support the work of McCurdy Ministries

McCurdy Ministries needs your support to continue our ministries. We make God's difference through McCurdy Preschool, Project Cariño, Breakfast & Lunch Program, Before & After School Program, Student Athletics, Volunteers in Mission, Praise@727 and Camp Stars. We are also the landlord for McCurdy Charter School and your donations of time, talent and funds help us keep our aging buildings and 44 acres in shape for 520 students. In Española the need is great because the U.S. Census Bureau 2010 statistics say 25% of adults over 25 have not graduated from high school, the per capita income is \$19,703 and over 25% of the population lives below the poverty line. Here are several 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 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. **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. **Invite the McCurdy church relations team to your church program, dinner or worship event.** Donate to McCurdy through Advance #581479 for the general fund. **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 or write her at 261 S. McCurdy Road, Española, NM 87532.



Amanda Gonzales
Project Cariño director

Project Cariño Statistics & updates

Last month Project Cariño received eight requests for emergency services for McCurdy Charter School (MCS) students in crisis, one request for mediation services to assist two MCS students toward a peaceful conflict resolution, made seven referrals to off campus counselors and conducted 41 hourly therapy sessions with students and parents. I made three classroom presentations on bullying in the high school and have continued

collaboration on bullying referrals with elementary school administrators, provided parenting training with two families and consulted with MCS classroom teachers and administrators on student behavior issues without violating confidentiality.

There continues to be more need for individual therapy, classroom education on issues like bullying, and parental support and training than one counselor can handle. I am very grateful that we are working hard as a team to increase Project Cariño funding so a second counselor can be added next school year. Finally, I deeply appreciate the prayers of our staff and our supporters around the country as I seek to do therapeutic work at McCurdy! *Amanda Gonzales*

Editor's note: My office is next to Amanda Gonzales' office. Amanda is a woman of deep faith and amazing listening and counseling skills. She makes a great difference for our 520 McCurdy Charter School students and their families. She is often called to MCS for emergency situations. A few weeks ago she received an urgent call to go to the elementary school. The moment she left I started praying that she might be the healing hands of God in the situation. When she returned she was emotionally drained and asked for prayers for the child she had just seen who was in crisis. That day Amanda listened with love to the student, the family and the administrators. Today the student and the family are stronger because of her caring work. I am able to share this good news because you have faithfully supported Amanda's work with your prayers and your donations. *Diana Loomis*

Second Project Cariño counselor needed

Project Cariño, is a McCurdy Ministries program that provides individual and parental therapy free of charge to the students of MCS and their families. With 520 students this year and 540 students already registered for the 2013–14 school year, there aren't enough hours in the school week to provide the amount of counseling help the students need. For the 2013–14 school year we are hoping to hire an additional counselor. A second counselor on our Project Cariño staff will mean we can provide additional counseling hours plus a Big Buddy/Little Buddy program, parenting classes, a peer conflict mediation program and Celebrate Survival which is a grief recovery program for students. The total expense to add a second full time counselor will be \$58,908 which includes salary, benefits, administrative costs and startup funds for programs like the Big Buddy/Little Buddy program. Diana Loomis, has been writing grants to help raise the funds for this new position. Recently, we were awarded \$15,000 from the Montei Foundation to help fund this new position and on April 29, McCurdy will receive a site visit from the Santa Fe Community Foundation for another potential \$15,000 grant. If you would like to help fund the second counselor by making a gift to support this program please call Diana at 505-753-7221, ext. 352 or email her at dloomis@mccurdy.org.

In March McCurdy Ministries launched

Praise@727

a time before school every Wednesday morning
for McCurdy Charter School students to praise God,
eat breakfast and fellowship together in the McCurdy
Ministries Teen Center before school starts. Please keep
this important ministry in your prayers.

Search for new program director has begun

For more than 100 years, deaconesses and home missionaries have been important staff members at McCurdy. It was a United Brethren deaconess, Mellie Perkins, who answered God's call to start McCurdy in 1912. Many other deaconesses and home missionaries followed as teachers, administrators, support staff, doctors, nurses, and medical technicians. McCurdy Ministries is accepting applications for a deaconess who will be the director of program ministries to continue that tradition. She will lead in establishing new outreach initiatives such as the new computer lab for people without access to technology, a teen center, adult basic education, and parenting classes. In addition, deaconesses are available for covenant relationships with churches. As Dee Dee Heffner retires, she is asking her covenant churches to continue a strong partnership with the new deaconess including prayer, financial support and covenant relationships. Details will follow about her Advance number. Please keep our search for a new deaconess in your prayers!

A final message from Dee Dee Heffner

In August, 1960, I stepped on the McCurdy campus for the first time. My family and I were on a family vacation from Ohio to California, and, since my father was an Evangelical United Brethren pastor and both he and my mother were ardent supporters of mission initiatives, we scheduled into that road trip a stay at McCurdy. We spent the night in the "clinic," where Dr. Sam Ziegler had come in 1946 with his wife Isabel and their young family to begin the work that would become the Espanola Hospital. How fortunate we were to have long-time McCurdy superintendent Glen McCracken to be our tour guide the next day! As we stood on the bridge over the irrigation ditch, Dr. McCracken asked me, a 13 year-old, what I planned to do with my life after high school.



Dee Dee Heffner, missionary

When I told him that I wanted to attend Otterbein College and become an English teacher, Dr. McCracken said, "Maybe God is calling you to come to McCurdy as a missionary English teacher." Eleven years later, an Otterbein graduate and married to Dennis, I was teaching English and directing *Our Town* here at McCurdy.

Now, 53 years after that first McCurdy encounter, I am filled with gratitude for God's allowing me to be a part of the McCurdy family, and, as a United Methodist Home Missionary since 1975, to be a representative of United Methodists across the United States in sharing the good news of Jesus through the work of McCurdy School and, beginning last year, McCurdy Ministries. Dedicated, faithful servants of the Lord with whom I have been privileged to serve, the amazing students whose academic lives were entrusted to me, the wonderful folks in churches who have undergirded our work with prayer and financial support have blessed me beyond measure. Dennis and I are both thankful that God has allowed us to live out our ministries in beautiful northern New Mexico. Our three adult children are McCurdy alumni: Todd (1990), Heidi (1993), and Andrew (1998), and one of our four grandsons is a student at McCurdy Charter School.

God says, in Revelation 21:5, "See, I am making all things new." At McCurdy Ministries and McCurdy Charter School, exciting new things are happening to impact lives of people in the Espanola Valley. With acknowledgement of their years of use, old buildings are being razed to make room for a new building for the charter school. Wonderful new programs such as Camp Stars are beginning to share God's love in new ways. As Dennis and I retire and leave this beautiful valley, we know that God will call us to serve in new ways as well. Please continue to pray for and support all that God has planned. *Dee Dee Heffner*

As of May 31, 2013, we will not be able to accept missionary support for Dee Dee and her Advance number will be retired. You can support McCurdy Ministries through our General Fund Advance Number which is 581325. Find the Advance link at www.umcmmission.org/Give-to-Mission/Search-for-Projects/Projects/581479

McCurdy Charter School news

McCurdy Charter School (MCS) is continuing the McCurdy tradition of excellence in sports. This year 71% of MCS middle school students and 49% of MCS high school students are participating in at least one sport. Many students are participating in several sports. As the last month of the school year unfolds it is exciting to celebrate many MCS sports accomplishments. According to Anita Rodriguez, the MCS athletic coordinator, girls volleyball advanced to first round of the state tournament, boys football advanced to the state finals, boys basketball advanced to the state semi-finals and girls basketball advanced to the first round of the state tournament. McCurdy was the district champion in football, volleyball and girls basketball and this week boys baseball won district for the fourth year! Girls softball is undefeated and currently playing in the district tournament. Boys basketball was district runner up. Several athletes made it to the State North-South Teams including four boys in football, one girl in volleyball, one girl in basketball and one boy in basketball. Congratulations to all our MCS athletes, coaches and supporters for a great year!

Editor's note: We are proud that 42.5% of the Gala proceeds go to support MCS athletics every year. Research shows that students who participate in athletics do better academically.

First Rock-n-Roll Easter Event a great success

Eighty McCurdy Charter School children and forty parents enjoyed the McCurdy Ministry Rock-n-Roll Event which included faith building games and crafts, telling of the Easter Story, breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 23.



Children listen intently to the Easter Story



A group of girls opening their eggs. They found candy, Easter messages and prizes inside.



McCurdy Preschoolers try on their caps and gowns as they rehearse for the graduation on May 17.

Notes from McCurdy Preschool

I cannot believe that I am once again preparing for our Pre-School Graduation. It has been a great school year that has passed quickly. Nothing makes me happier than to report that the children have all made great cognitive, language, physical and social progress. I have witnessed the most growth in their social/emotional behavior. These once shy somewhat reserved children who have spent most of their time at home, are now displaying a positive sense of identity, have developed the confidence to be successful learners and are able to function well in a group. Above all I have witnessed acts of kindness, compassion and responsibility for their fellow students and each day they demonstrate that our lord God plays a significant role in all of their lives. **Sandra Archuleta**

A preschool observation from our executive director: During circle time, the children took turns, were attentive, did not interrupt, were excited about the discussions on the letter "L" and "Larry the Lion" who represents the letter. They followed directions as they stood in place and marched to the rhythm of the song for the Letter L. When it was snack time, the students were dismissed one at a time. The teacher drew one of the children's names and the child quickly responded that this week his job was to be "caboose", to be at the end of the line. **He was demonstrating responsibility and respect in reminding his teacher that this week it was his job to be the last in line!** During snack time each child cleaned up after themselves and then were called up one by one to dispose of their trash. One child had gone to the restroom and at times, she has difficulty in gathering materials. However, a classmate looked around, saw she was gone and cleaned up for her. When she returned, the preschooler was pleasantly surprised and the smile on her face warmed the heart. **She felt cared for and the preschooler who helped did not feel the need to say, "I did this!"** At McCurdy Preschool a very important McCurdy Ministries program, I observed evidence of our Lord's commandment in action, "Love one another as I have loved you." The caring, kindness, compassion, respect, and peace our preschoolers exhibited is evidence of God's love in action at the McCurdy Ministries Preschool. **Patricia Alvarado**

A word from our Volunteer/Food Service Manager, Vickie Luviano

Currently, we have two mission teams on the campus from Lakewood, Colorado and Lancaster, Ohio. These volunteers have heard the call and answered it, and we are grateful for them, and ALL our volunteers. We thank you for coming to serve and for being flexible, flexible & more flexible in your assignments! We have openings and need additional mission teams to come serve THIS May. We have to prepare for several important celebrations including missionary Dee Dee Heffner's retirement celebration May 25, McCurdy Charter School's first graduation June 1, an alumni reunion the week of graduation and the Deconsecration of Bachman, Blake and Herrick on June 1, so we NEED extra hands to help prepare for these events. Please e-mail vickie@mccurdy.org for a team information packet, or call 505-753-7221, ext. 210 or 268 to let us know you are interested. **Please note that all McCurdy Volunteers must be Safe Sanctuary trained and certified before being allowed to volunteer.**

We are blessed to have the cafeteria crew that serves at McCurdy including Sheri Trujillo, cafeteria manager, and Abel Espinoza, Eva Cordova and Dolores Herrera. They are hard-working individuals whom God has placed on the McCurdy campus to serve students, staff and volunteers. Please keep each of these persons in your prayers as they continue to be an important part of our organization. Each day our cafeteria feeds an average of 35 students breakfast. The highest number of breakfasts served was 46. At lunch we average feeding 300 students, staff and faculty each day. The highest number of lunches served was 337. We would also like to thank St. Luke's UMC, Midland, TX, for their generosity in providing funds to refurbish several cafeteria program appliances and systems. **We thank all volunteers who come, see a need, and fill that need. God bless you!**

Campbell's Labels & Box Tops for Education update

Thank you for your continued support of these programs! Through the generosity of donors from all across the USA, we have deposited **412,490 Campbell's Labels for Education points** since August 1, 2012. We have also collected \$7,300 of Box Tops for Education to support McCurdy Charter School. Thank you to all who have continued to be faithful in supporting these two very important ministries. Our goal is to get a new van. The vans currently cost **1.6 million points**, so we're getting closer with each submission of UPCs. Thank you for your faithful support of McCurdy Ministries through these programs for more than 20 years!