



The McCurdy Ministries Message

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Sharing God's love through education and mission

November 2012

McCurdy ministries fall mission, activities and fun!

This fall McCurdy has been hopping with 512 McCurdy Charter School students, 20 McCurdy Pre-school students, 30 Before & After School students, an average of 330 students eating lunch, twenty McCurdy Ministries staff, 45 McCurdy Charter School staff and dozens of long and short term United Methodist volunteers.

The week of October 21, McCurdy Ministries and McCurdy Charter School, joined together to celebrate Founder's Week. Every class was visited by Mellie Perkins (played by Dee Dee Heffner) to share the story of McCurdy's beginnings 100 years ago. Then McCurdy Ministries assisted the charter school in finding locations for service learning. School projects currently underway include working with Habitat for Humanity, Espanola Animal Shelter, Heifer International, Ronald McDonald House, Amigos del Valle, and the San Martin Soup Kitchen. Students are also very busy cleaning the campus, planting bulbs on campus, filling food bags, reading to younger students, and organizing the Elementary Library. McCurdy Ministries projects included the Preschool walking to benefit the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, supplementing and delivering school supplies donated by the New Mexico Conference United Methodist Women to every charter school class, donating and delivering school supplies to Chimayo Elementary School, preschool books for children to take home to a local Laundromat and volunteering at Valley View UMC's Pumpkin Patch. The proceeds from the Pumpkin Patch support the church's snack pack ministry to 85 local food-insecure children.



Clockwise from below: McCurdy Preschool students at their Juvenile Diabetes Foundation Walk, ministries cafeteria staff serves McCurdy Charter School students, preschoolers experience a hands on science station and Ohio volunteers organize school supplies that McCurdy Ministries donated to McCurdy Charter School.

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 and our Student Enrichment Program (including devotional ministries). 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 512 students. In Espanola 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 the school to earn income during your life and bless the school 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 scholarship 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 and Advance #581325 to support our missionary, Dee Dee Heffner. **Pray for the school daily!** For more information contact Rev. Diana Loomis, McCurdy Director of Development/Church Relations at 505-753-7221. Email her at dloomis@mcurdy.org or write her at 261 S. McCurdy Road, Espanola, NM 87532.

Campbell's labels update

Thank you for supporting McCurdy Ministries by sending us your Campbell's Labels! Please note the McCurdy Ministries Preschool and Before & After School Programs still qualify for this program. We continue to collect, clip and process those UPCs and lids, and have increased our balance at Campbell's to 898,565 points! We are now preparing another shipment to deposit. We can bank our points until needed. One of our goals 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 the Campbell's Labels For Education Program for more than 20 years! Your efforts are appreciated.

Box Tops for Education

We recently were told by the General Mills Box Tops for Education Program, because McCurdy Ministries oversees preschool but not the K-12 grades, we are no longer eligible to participate in their program. Because of your faithfulness to McCurdy, and your continued support of this program, we have an earnings balance with General Mills at this time. Even though we cannot use the earnings, we can commit the balance to an eligible, participating school. After prayerful consideration, we have chosen to split our earnings between Red Bird Mission and 3 of our local schools including McCurdy Charter School.

For many years, McCurdy Schools of Northern New Mexico, has benefitted from your faithful commitment to this program. As McCurdy Ministries moves forward we ask you to continue to send your Box Tops to us. We have worked out a partnership to support McCurdy Charter School. McCurdy Ministries will continue to coordinate the program, enlist the help of volunteers to cut, sort, and send out our Box Tops and the proceeds will be used for supplies and equipment for McCurdy Charter School children.

We pray our churches, alumni, donors, and volunteers will understand and continue to support this mission that serves the children, youth, and families of the Espanola Valley. Please send us your Box Tops so that we can use them to enrich the lives of the children of the valley through their improved school experience.



Above left: McCurdy Preschoolers enjoy a costume parade. Above right: McCurdy Charter School 5th graders join pick up trash around campus for their service learning project.



New McCurdy website to launch in November

When you are on the web, surf to www.mccurdy.org and there you will find the new McCurdy Ministries website. Features on the website include the McCurdy Ministries history, vision, mission, staff, board and gift shop. These ministries will have their own pages Preschool, Project Cariño, Before & After School Program, Breakfast & Lunch Program, Volunteer Program, Church Relations and Safe Sanctuary Training. Our supporters will be able to make donations to McCurdy Ministries directly from our webpage and McCurdy resources such as the McCurdy Message, VIM applications, McCurdy power points and bulletin inserts will be able to be downloaded from the website. Featured on the website and all our publications will be the new ministries logo which is included in this article.

A word from our executive director, Patricia Alvarado

As I sit down to share with you, I look out my window and see the leaves turn colors, the mountains light up with hues of gold as the sun sets. I am reminded of the gifts that God sends us in the simplest and yet most splendid manner. In our "busyness" with everyday tasks and the unexpected that always comes up, we probably do not make time to notice, much less appreciate those gifts.

My heart and prayers go out to all who are battling Hurricane Sandy. By the time you receive this newsletter, the actual hurricane will have long passed, but the aftermath will be on-going for years to come and I ask you to join me in prayer for them. Because of turmoil, challenges and changes in our daily lives, we are always facing choices that can determine our immediate and long-term future. Some have said that "...change is the only constant in our lives..." and yet I invite you to confess the only constant in our lives is our Father (Abba), our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit who guides us and comforts us in those times of confusion and fear.

As McCurdy Ministries unfolds its plans and opens up doors of opportunities to serve our Father, I ask for your continued prayer and support, your patience and encouragement, your advocacy and networking on our behalf. We are in partnership, supporting McCurdy Charter School, as well as improving upon existing programs while developing new ones to reach out to the community at large. You have heard about the ways in which McCurdy Schools of Northern New Mexico has helped individuals, families, and the communities in this beautiful Espanola valley. You have heard about the statistics that are part of this valley. You have also heard of the rich culture, the faith communities, and the hard work by committed servants that is being done daily in many different

ways. The Lord never promised a life filled with happiness, but He did promise us a life filled with joy if we allow Him to be that for us.

That is evident when we provide opportunities for families and their children to contribute to their community, now and in the future. Well educated children, who feel safe and nurtured; whose parents feel valued and supported, whose teachers and staff are respected and supported as well, community members and friends across the United States who pool their resources for the benefit of the children are all partners for a better life where youth are valued, respected, encouraged and celebrated. Many facets come into play in this collaborative network that strengthens diversity rather than offers excuses for a hopeless future. Public and private entities, partnering together to strengthen the network lifts youth to new heights of self-awareness, self-determination, and self-realization of goals and dreams that, at one time, may have appeared impossible and impossible dreams are the mandate we achieve.

Our Lord Jesus said, "...suffer the children to come unto me..." I invite you to join us as we continue the work that was begun one hundred years ago. As alumni, volunteers, parents, staff, supporting churches and individuals, I pray that you will see your role in this partnership and act on it. Help us to continue to be the "hands and feet" that help guide our children for another hundred years.

My prayer for you is indeed one of thanksgiving for your choosing to be a part of McCurdy Ministries, as well as a prayer for a Christmas filled with the true joy and spirit of our Lord's birth. May your New Year be filled with the Holy Spirit in every facet of your life.

Yours in Christ, Patricia A. Alvarado

Project Cariño news

The McCurdy Ministries staff has been educating new staff, students and parents on the benefits offered by Project Cariño, a school-based mental health program. Our track record show that Project Cariño contributes to a low drop-out rate, peaceful resolutions to conflicts, and a safer learning environment for all.

As the school year has progressed, teachers, principals, parents and grandparents have requested various group and individual services including classroom presentations on bullying (at all levels), making friends (at the elementary level), and classroom observations of student interactions and behaviors. Project Cariño has received thirty-one referrals, or requests for individual therapeutic attention since the start of the school year. Each month the student referrals increase.

The individual sessions with students offers the biggest challenges, and also the biggest rewards. One high school girl whose name has been changed to protect confidentiality, Rosa, seeks emotional support weekly. She comes from a family who is divorced and both parents are actively using drugs and alcohol. They are unavailable to her emotionally most of the time, and physically some of the time. Rosa has moved from parents' to grandparents' homes and she also stays with extended family members when she can. Rosa has joined one of the local gangs because she believes they "take care" of her and keep her safe. They provide her meals when she needs them and alcohol and drugs. In exchange, she must keep silent about gang activities, and she must submit sexually to her gang spouse. Rosa is conflicted because while she receives what feels like acceptance from her gang, she is not able to accept their way of life. Before coming to Project Cariño, she was unable to talk with anyone about her dilemma. The Project Cariño therapist has helped her with information and resources. She has been helped to make healthier decisions that make for a safer existence. Rosa has said that she would have dropped out of school long before if it had not been for Project Cariño and the dedication and support of the teachers at the high school. Rosa is only one of the many students who benefits from extended support at McCurdy School due to the strong belief of McCurdy Ministries in the comprehensive health of every student and the importance of Project Cariño. Without the support of the Church and its many ministers, Project Cariño would not exist, and the "Light in the Valley" would not burn as bright as it does today for so many whose way is lit by this extraordinary school nestled in the heroin capital of the nation.



*Amanda Gonzales
Project Cariño director*

Stambach book on her McCurdy years available

I have tried to put 36 years of ministry in my book from my call to missions to my departure from Espanola, NM. The book, over 300 pages with 120 color pictures, is for sale from me personally or from McCurdy Ministries. Send your order with \$50 to Vicky Luviano, 261 S. McCurdy Road, Espanola, NM 87532. If you live closer to me, I'd be glad to hear from you at 513-933-4944.

Vaya con Dios, Ruth Stambach

"Recipes of a Century Past" cookbook published

Thanks to the Classes of 1958 & 1959, McCurdy is proud to present a cookbook featuring one hundred years of food for the body, mind and soul. The cookbook is available at a cost of \$15 with \$5 shipping and handling. All profits from the sale will support McCurdy Ministries. To buy a cookbook make your check out to Bobcats 12 and send it to Milt Denny, 800 Pearl St. #411, Denver, CO 80203 or you can purchase the book at the McCurdy Gift Shop.



McCurdy Ministries
& McCurdy Charter School
cordially invite you to

A Holiday Greeting to the Espanola Valley

At 7 PM, Thursday, Nov. 29
in Memorial Gym at McCurdy

McCurdy Ministries will provide refreshments afterwards.

Bring canned goods for the entrance fee.
All of the canned goods collected will go
to the Soup Kitchen of San Martin de Porres.

Missionary message from Dee Dee Heffner

What a continuing blessing it is to be a part of the McCurdy Ministries Team! It is a privilege for me to continue to work with students as I teach an ACT prep course twice a week for McCurdy Charter School (MCS) students. To maintain McCurdy Mission's school's amazing culture of scholarship earning—the Centennial Class of 22 students earned \$453,672 in scholarships—I will be helping MCS students prepare resumes and edit scholarship essays. Maria whose name has been changed to protect confidentiality, comes from an immigrant family, is now at the head of her class and determined to improve her ACT scores and perfect her scholarship essays so she can become an engineer.

Between 1995 and 2011, I had the wonderful opportunity of being the college supervisor for 39 excellent student teachers from Otterbein University in Ohio who elected to come to McCurdy for a cross-cultural experience. Although McCurdy Charter School does not have an Otterbein student teacher this year, I am the formal mentor for MCS high school science teacher Chelsea Felker, a gifted young teacher completing the alternative teacher licensure program at a local college. Soon I will begin mentoring some other MCS teachers in less formal ways.

Because of my long association with McCurdy as an Evangelical United Brethren SP (Summer College Program Worker) in 1967, as the freshman and senior English teacher in 1971–72 during my husband Dennis' United Theological Seminary internship here, and as a home missionary since 1975, much of McCurdy's history is my history as well. It is a joy for me to sort through documents and artifacts to preserve those that tell the story of the ways McCurdy has touched lives for 100 years.

For many years in the fall, I have directed my drama students in a play for children. This year, instead of choosing a script, casting a show, directing actors, and building sets, I find myself, in costume, portraying Mellie Perkins, who opened the first school here on October 21, 1912. It has been such fun sharing this wonderful legacy with every McCurdy Charter School student and with the children in the McCurdy Preschool.

Alumni are very special to me, and I will be working this year to update our alumni records so that McCurdy Ministries can stay in touch with the alums. I would love to hear from you to know what you've been doing since graduation and to learn your current contact information. **Dee Dee Heffner**, dheffner@mccurdy.org, 505.929.7373 (cell). McCurdy has been the light in the Espanola Valley for 100 years. I am confident that, with your continuing prayers and support, McCurdy Ministries and McCurdy Charter School will shine brightly during the next 100 years.

You can support Dee Dee by mailing a donation directly to McCurdy Ministries or through Advance Number 581325. The Advance link is

<http://www.umcmission.org/Explore-Our-Work/Missionaries-in-Service/Missionary-Profiles/Heffner-Carolyn-Dee-Dee>



Mellie Perkins (Dee Dee Heffner) visits the preschoolers during Founder's week.

McCurdy Charter School news



The following is an excerpt from a letter sent to McCurdy Charter School parents

“Our first Parent-Teacher conferences were a great success! Teachers were able to meet with the majority of you to discuss your child’s progress both academically and socially. An important focus of the McCurdy Charter School is “Academic Excellence and Achievement”. We are dedicated to this work and consider you an extremely important partner in ensuring that your student is challenged and prepared for college or the next grade level.

This week we are highlighting service learning projects as a means to develop leadership and community engagement. School projects currently underway include working with Habitat for Humanity, Espanola Animal Shelter, Heifer International, Ronald McDonald House, Amigos del Valle, and the San Martin Soup Kitchen. Students are also very busy cleaning the campus, planting bulbs on campus, filling food bags, reading to younger students, and organizing the Elementary Library. We are very proud of the response our students have displayed in being of service to others.

Janette Archuleta, Director McCurdy Charter School

MCS updates on the school year

On the 40th day of school the student enrollment was 512 which makes McCurdy Charter School the largest charter school in the state of New Mexico. Currently, 40% of the students qualify for the free and reduced lunch program. The student body from grades K-12 is 81% Hispanic, 2% African American, 1% Asian, 6% American Indian and 10% Anglo.



Ohio volunteers prepare old computers for recycling.

ful volunteers who completed an enormous mountain of work. Listed are a few of the chores completed. Replaced broken windows, inventoried of all books on campus, cleaned and serviced all air conditioners, made sure all fire extinguishers were operational, updated exit signs throughout campus, repaired walls and painted Memorial Gym, cleaned elementary classrooms and desks, cleaned, repaired, mopped, shampooed and painted new Business House and Administration House, cleaned, repaired, mopped and painted wood trim outside and painted in side of Q house, cleaned windows moved shelving and shampooed HS Library, stripped and waxed floors in HS classrooms, painted, cleaned and shampooed HS Principals office, cleaned out and inventoried storage areas, repurposed classroom space in the high school, elementary and student center buildings, lowered chalkboards and white boards for the younger children, signs refinished and parking lots prepared for charter school, held several garage sales, donated numerous items to Habitat for Humanity, emptied buildings scheduled for demolition, moved Gift shop to Business House, installed security cameras at Student Center, installed a new fire suppression system in kitchen of cafeteria, moved all religious curriculum to Q house, upgraded electrical panel in Administrative House of Buildings and Grounds, installed doors and dead bolt locks where necessary, winterized all air conditioners and inspected and cleaned boiler.

A word from our Volunteer Manager, Vickie Luviano

From March to October of 2012, we had a total of 47 Volunteers in Mission teams come to McCurdy. The work team members did many different tasks including cutting & counting Campbell’s UPCs and Box Tops for Education, working on mass mailings, working in the cafeteria, to carpentry and plumbing jobs as you can see from the list above. Our volunteers moved supplies from building to building as we prepared for the charter school opening. Curtains were made, new offices painted, technology lines worked on... and still the yard work got done!

Thank you, from the bottom of our hearts, for all the love, patience, humility and faith you surround us with. While the tasks are sometimes tedious, and you may have waited until we figured out a better way to do something, we appreciate every single piece of work that gets done. You come serving in God’s name, not just to make a difference, but to fill our cups and be in mission. Please remember that we accept mission teams at McCurdy year-round. June and July are months that fill up quickly, but all seasons are wonderful in northern New Mexico! Contact Vickie Luviano, volunteer manager, for more information. Vickie@mccurdy.org.



McCurdy Ministries announces our

16th Annual Gala

6 to 10 PM, Feb. 9, 2013 in the McCurdy Memorial Gym

Hope for the Valley: Planting Seeds for the Future

There will be a catered dinner, silent and live auctions of over 350 items and entertainment. All proceeds will be used to support McCurdy Ministries and McCurdy Charter School Athletic Fund. You are invited to be an Alumni Supporter, a Gala Supporter or a Sponsor. In addition, you can donate an Auction Item or Purchase a ticket to attend. For

more information write: McCurdy Ministries Gala, 261 S. McCurdy Road, Espanola, NM 87532. Or contact Eufemia Romero, Phone: 505-753-7221, ext. 210, gala@mccurdy.org.

Sponsor: _____ \$15,000 (Underwriter) _____ \$5,000 _____ \$2,000 _____ \$1,000 _____ \$500

Gala Supporter: ___ \$1000+ ___ \$500-\$999 ___ \$250-\$499 ___ \$100-\$249 ___ \$50-\$99 ___ \$25-\$49

Alumni Supporter: \$25 per person Name _____ Graduation year _____

Additional Alumni: \$25 each Name _____ Graduation year _____

Tickets: \$60 each _____ Name _____ Phone _____

Mailing address _____ Email _____

Thank you for supporting this United Methodist Mission!

Cafeteria Services Update

This summer we had major equipment failures when the dishwasher, ovens, icemaker, refrigerator and freezer all went on the blink. Volunteers were washing lots of dishes by hand, we bought ice in bags, prayed over the ovens, and did the best we could. St. Luke’s UMC in Midland sent funds to replace the dishwasher (thank you!), and mission teams generously gave to have other repairs done also. God sent a very good repairman, and he, and others he called, have taken care of everything except the compressor for the freezer. The compressor has been ordered, and will be installed next week! Our fire suppression system over the stove was also replaced. Thank you for supporting this very important ministry.

We continue to feed both our preschoolers and the charter students including approximately 330 daily for lunch. The breakfast program has increased, and we expect it will continue to grow as the weather gets colder.

We are grateful for those who come on mission teams and work in the cafeteria. Your help is greatly needed and much appreciated. Thank you!

Vickie Luviano, food services manager