



The McCurdy Ministries Message

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Sharing God's love through education and mission

September 2013



Thanks Fest scheduled for Nov. 16 for McCurdy students and families

All McCurdy Charter School and McCurdy Ministries students and families are cordially invited to the First Annual McCurdy Ministries

Thanks Fest

from 10 AM to noon, Saturday, Nov. 16, in the cafeteria. For admission every family is asked to bring a canned or dry food item which will be donated to the San Martin de Porres Soup Kitchen in Española.

The day's activities will start with a free brunch for everyone followed by fun, games and activities aimed at helping participants to "give thanks

to God for all we have been given," which is a perfect way to start the Thanksgiving season. Everyone will have a chance to make turkey centerpieces for the Thanksgiving Table and thank you cards to God, friends, family members and teachers. In addition, there will be fun family-friendly games for all ages. There will also be frozen turkeys given away as door prizes to a number of families.

McCurdy Charter School teachers are invited to join with the McCurdy Ministries staff to work together to make this event possible. In addition, we invite area UMW units to travel to Española to help staff the Thanks Fest. For more information contact Rev. Diana Loomis by email at dloomis@mccurdy.org or call her at 505-753-7221, ext. 352. If you can't be in Española on Nov. 15 you are welcome to make a \$30 donation to provide a turkey as a door prize for the Thanks Fest.

Save the date for the semi-annual McCurdy Alumni, Staff & Volunteers Reunion on the McCurdy campus July 20 & 21, 2014

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 20 and 21, 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 'n jill bathroom between the adjoining room. Check in will run from 6 PM to 8 PM, July 19. Checkout will be no later than noon on Sunday, July 21. Hotel accommodations are available in town also.

The 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.

- **3 to 5 PM Saturday Tours of the campus and Open House for the new McCurdy Charter School Building.** The McCurdy Gift Shop and Historical Room will also be open. This will be a great opportunity to see the changes on campus.
- **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** the location will be announced at a later date.
- **10 AM Sunday Worship** the location will be announced at a later date.

More complete information on the reunion schedule, costs and registration information will be provided in the November 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 or call her at 505-753-7221, ext. 210.

Special thanks to the 1,383 churches, agencies, annual conferences, foundations, UMW units, Sunday School classes and individuals who donated to McCurdy during our 2012–13 fiscal year. Due to your generosity we met and surpassed our fundraising goals and therefore were able to expand our ministries with the start of the new school year!
You are a blessing to McCurdy. Muchas gracias!

A word from our executive director, Patricia Alvarado



Patricia Alvarado
Executive Director

A new year has begun at McCurdy Ministries. The theme for the Gala this year is, “¡Adelante! Moving Forward with Vision.” The inspiration for the theme comes from Habakkuk 2:2–3 where the scripture says, “make the vision plain.” As the theme says, we look ahead asking for our Father’s guidance in making the vision plain, clear and attainable.

Our work continues “behind the scenes,” ensuring the children are surrounded with nurturing spirits and loving hearts. A prime example of this nurturing was Camp Stars, the fulfillment of a two year vision for a summer camp for our children. This summer Camp Stars was very successful as evidenced by the many positive comments we have received from parents, students, and community members who had children attending the camp. As I meet Camp Stars parents and students and visit, I cannot adequately describe the joy I feel when I receive hugs and hellos from the children. I ask them if they remember what they learned at camp and they eagerly respond with a resounding “YES!” I ask them not to forget to be a Good Samaritan this school year, to pray for their teachers, and to be kind to their classmates. Their enthusiasm is a reminder to all to embrace the reason

for the “work behind the scenes.”

Our maintenance team, along with our many volunteers, perform small “miracles” in transforming our grounds into an oasis in the valley. As one steps onto our grounds and walks through our campus, there is a sense of serenity and safe haven. I am reminded how blessed I am to be able to work here and when I arrive every morning, to be re-energized, as I step out of my car and experience God’s beauty in all of his creation. Aside from the grounds, much planning has been done to start up the year including communicating with the McCurdy Charter School administration to prepare the classrooms by painting, laying out tile, repairing items that needed attention, and mapping out procedures for supporting the school grounds operations as well as our landlord responsibilities. We have also described McCurdy Ministries support services that will be available to students free of charge to meet their needs. We continue to work on the legal documents and process needed to begin the work on the new school building that will help house the students at McCurdy Charter. We ask for your continued prayers and support.

Finally, I want to acknowledge and thank our Board of Directors and our staff who work tirelessly and faithfully to be God’s hands and feet in surrounding the children and providing them a home away from home. May our Father continue to bless and sustain you. *Patricia A. Alvarado*

Volunteer makes a BIG difference!

While reading this newsletter you may have noticed references to grants McCurdy Ministries has received from the Monteí Foundation. These grants are the result of one faithful volunteer, Judy Beck, from Ohio, remembering McCurdy’s needs after she returned home. Three years ago Judy’s daughter, Deborah Monteí, asked her if she knew of a good place to make charitable donations because Deborah’s husband, Todd Monteí, was on the board of the Monteí Foundation, and they were looking for good causes. Judy thought of McCurdy because as a retired special education teacher she felt it was “so neat to be on a Christian campus.” Judy says she was “impressed by the polite, mannerly kids at McCurdy who were always smiling and greeting the volunteers.”

Judy consulted Tom Hofmann, her long time McCurdy VIM leader, about McCurdy’s financial needs. Tom, who is now a member of the McCurdy Ministries Board of Directors and chairperson of the Development Committee, met with the Board of the Monteí Foundation outlining our finances and needs. The result was a 2010 donation for scholarships and increasing donations since that have been crucial to McCurdy Ministries. The last donation from the *Monteí Foundation made Camp Stars possible this summer and is helping fund the second counselor for Project Cariño for the 2013–14 school year!*

I share this story, with Judy Beck’s and the Monteí Foundation’s permission, because you may know family, private foundations or donors looking for ministries like ours to support. If you do, please call me at 505-753-7221, ext. 352, or email me at dloomis@mccurdy.org. I will be glad to share the McCurdy story with them. *With hope! Diana Loomis, director of development/church relations*

Make plans to attend

Gala 17!

¡Adelante!

Moving Forward with Vision
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. Volunteers are also welcome to come help with the setup and tear down for the Gala between Feb. 6–9. For information, write McCurdy Ministries Gala, 261 S. McCurdy Road, Española NM 87532 or 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.

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, After School Program, 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. Your donations of time, talent and funds help us keep our aging buildings and 44 acres in shape for 540 MCS students and for McCurdy Ministries programs. 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 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 news & updates

Project Cariño has hit the ground running as we start the 2013–14 school year! I am excited we will have additional staff to help with support and counseling services for McCurdy Charter School (MCS) students and their families. McCurdy Ministries will hire an additional full-time counselor in October, who will carry a caseload of 25 to 30 additional individual counseling cases, as

well as coordinating the Peer Conflict Mediator Program, which trains high school students in the skills necessary to intervene and deflate student conflict.

Also, we are fortunate to have Stacie Waters on staff as a Clinical Social Work Student Intern from New Mexico Highlands University for field practicum experience! Stacie Waters is a candidate for a Master of Social Work degree and will be on-board with Project Cariño for the entire school year as a part of her graduate school training. She will coordinate the Big Buddy/Little Buddy Mentoring Program which matches elementary students with secondary students at MCS. This program establishes close mentoring relationships between younger and older students to increase self-esteem and decrease potential for bullying problems on campus.

In addition to these service learning programs and individual therapy, this team of therapists will co-facilitate three six-week group therapy sessions for students referred by MCS on anger management, children of divorce, grief, depression, and developing positive self-esteem. Celebrate Survival will again host the annual meeting of the Club No One Wants To Be In, honoring the survival of those students who have lost a parent and/or sibling to death, and supporting their continued growth and development despite significant loss. Plans are also in the works to mark this year's Week Without Violence with activities and programs that teach students about the many forms of violence that exist in our society and empower them to seek change and avoid potentially dangerous situations.

For the first time in nine years, Project Cariño will have a team of therapists providing support to the social and emotional development of McCurdy students. We are excited to provide support and service through various programs in addition to individual services! *Amanda Gonzales*

McCurdy is grateful for grants from the Monte Foundation and the Santa Fe Community Foundation for making the hiring of a second Project Cariño counselor possible.

A word from Stephanie Suggs, McCurdy's new program director

I am so happy to be onboard here at McCurdy! When I learned McCurdy would be shifting its mission to community center style programming and they were looking for someone to help develop new programs to support McCurdy Charter School students and their families, I had a big smile on my face. I have experience in building new programming, and it is something I really enjoy.

I grew up in the suburbs of Atlanta, GA and received a BA in English Literature from Queens University in Charlotte, NC. After graduating, I moved back to Atlanta, and began my career as the development director for a grassroots social justice organization, Project South. I then became the associate director at Wesley Community Centers, a National Mission Institution of the United Methodist Church, for five years. I directed their home repair program, and was commissioned as a United Methodist deaconess. Next, I was hired on at Senior Citizen Services of Metropolitan Atlanta. There, I reorganized the housing repair program and rebuilt their Meals on Wheels Atlanta program, which serves 300+ clients.

After three years at Senior Citizen Services, I decided three things: 1) social services, while vitally important, is not the type of work I wanted to do for the rest of my life, 2) as an artist and writer, I needed to express my creative side through work, and 3) in all of the work I have done around issues of poverty, creative self-expression is vital to human existence and happiness, yet isn't encouraged by "helping" agencies. So, I took a break, moved to California, and pursued a Master's of Fine Arts in Writing at California College of the Arts.

I finished my degree in 2010, and that same year, a gas pipeline explosion occurred in San Bruno, CA, not far from where I was living. I signed on with the United Methodist Committee On Relief (UMCOR) to be a long-term recovery case manager for that community, and worked with the families affected by the



Camp Stars kids learn about DNA with their teacher and counselor.

Camp Stars first summer a great success

For six weeks this summer, 36 kindergarten to 6th graders had fun learning and exploring faith with their Camp Stars teachers and counselors on the McCurdy campus. They learned about science, technology, engineering and math as well as Bible stories, scripture, art and mission. The program went from 8 AM to 3 PM Monday

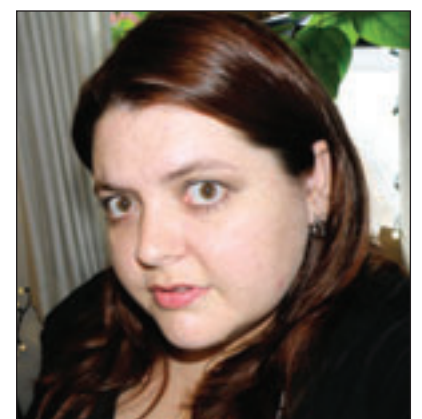
through Friday with breakfast and lunch provided free of charge in partnership with the Rio Arriba County Breakfast and Lunch Program.

In addition, each week the students worked on a different mission project including: care packages and cards for overseas soldiers in cooperation with the Northern New Mexico Blue Star Mothers Chapter 4, collection of supplies for the Española Valley Animal Humane Society, \$75.04 donated to Nothing but Nets to buy life protecting mosquito nets for families in Africa, 5,880 napkins donated to the San Martin de Porres Soup Kitchen in Española, 96 posters for Española Valley Nursing and Rehabilitation Center residents and \$25.90 for Heifer Project International.

The students enjoyed hands on learning experiences to the Bradbury Museum in Los Alamos and the Chamber Music Festival 2013 Summer Youth Concert in Santa Fe. The summer ended with students, families, staff and volunteers enjoying a closing program including skits, songs and awards as well as an Open House in each learning center where parents could observe what the students learned that summer.

While evaluating Camp Stars, McCurdy Ministries Executive Director Patricia Alvarado said, "The staff did such a good job of weaving their curriculum together with mission, science, technology, engineering, math and faith." In reflecting on the how the Camp Stars children were affected by this summer program, Alvarado said, "I can honestly say the children that attended camp this summer walked away believing they could be a good neighbor, knowing how to be a good neighbor and experiencing the joy of giving themselves to others."

McCurdy Ministries is grateful to the Monte Foundation of Columbus, OH, for their \$25,000 grant which covered half the costs of Camp Stars making the program affordable for our families. Because of the generous support of the Monte Foundation our Camp Stars students returned to class this fall better prepared to learn and knowing how to be a good neighbor!



explosion for two and half years. I developed a series of art journaling workshops to assist clients dealing with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

I started this job on July 15th, and am thrilled to have the opportunity to combine my passions as a writer and artist with my professional skills. I am planning a writing clinic with the high school students this year, and a series of workshops on topics such as financial planning, cottage industries, parenting, intrapersonal communication skills, and any others recommended by students, faculty, families and the community. Once the new charter school is built, we hope to expand into adult literacy, GED prep, ESL classes and other adult education classes, including weaving, art journaling and papermaking. I would love to hear from you if you have any questions, concerns, or ideas. You can email me at ssuggs@mccurdy.org or phone me at 505-753-7221, ext. 252. *Stephanie Suggs*

We are excited to welcome Deaconess Stephanie Suggs to McCurdy Ministries as our new missionary. You can support Stephanie's work as program director through the McCurdy Ministries General Fund Advance Number which is 581325. Please designate your donations to Suggs Salary Support. You can find the Advance link at www.umcmmission.org/Give-to-Mission/Search-for-Projects/Projects/581479. Or you can send your salary support directly to McCurdy at 261 S. McCurdy Road, Española, NM 87532 and designate your gift for Suggs Salary Support.

McCurdy Charter School news

McCurdy Charter School (MCS) began its second year of operations on August 15, 2013, with an enrollment of 540 students. It is exciting to welcome back our returning families as well as embrace new students and parents to our McCurdy family. We are hopeful for a productive and rewarding school year.

McCurdy Charter School is committed to providing an excellent education to the students of the Española Valley and surrounding communities. In that regard, we were extremely pleased to earn a **“B” grade** on the NM Standards Based Assessment 2013. This is a significant achievement for a first year charter school and demonstrates the dedication and hard work of our staff, board, parents, volunteers and community members.

MCS continues to work with McCurdy Ministries regarding the **new school building**. The anticipated new building opening date is spring 2013. As with most large projects, there are many, many details that need to be attended to as well as guidelines to be followed. Numerous individuals are giving of their time and expertise to make the new school a reality. MCS is very thankful for the dedication and commitment of the McCurdy Ministries Board of Directors.

In our pledge to continuous improvement and academic excellence, school year 2013–14 brings additional student resources in the form of new math materials for grades 6–12, new Spanish materials for grades 6–12, increased Advanced Placement and Pre-Advanced Placement course offerings at the secondary level, the kick-off of AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination), and additional inquiry science materials for grades K–6. Intervention initiatives include Accelerated Reader for grades K–12, Accelerated Math for grades K–12, and First in Math for grades K–12.

The 2013–14 school year holds promise to be even more successful than last year. Routines are established, the student body has had one year to develop relationships, and the curriculum is in place and being fine-tuned. Thank you to everyone that has contributed to this success.

Janette Archuleta, McCurdy Charter School director



Ministries After School Program revamped

McCurdy Ministries is excited to announce a new dimension is being added to our After School Program in addition to snack and recreation time. First, a bank of 10 computers has been set up to assist children with their homework and to provide tutoring for students. Second, between 4 to 5 PM several days a week students will have an opportunity to choose between two fun opportunities. Rev. Steve Trout, vice president of the McCurdy Ministries Board of Directors, pastor at First UMC in Los Alamos and soon to be a black belt in karate, will lead sessions teaching the students the basics of Karate. One of our long term individual volunteers, Alice Langehennig, is also a music director and will provide fun musical opportunities for the students. Finally, we are planning Boys Club activities and Girls Club activities once weekly. The ministries will constantly be looking for new ways to improve this very important program.

Above: Older elementary After School students enjoy computer educational learning and game programs.

Left: Younger elementary After School students enjoy a puzzle table.

Notes from McCurdy Preschool

As we wrap up our first week of Preschool, I am happy to report that I have already seen acts of friendship and kindness among our preschoolers. Many children have gone out of their way to help a friend who was having trouble separating from parents or completing a particular task. One of our returning students from last year, noticed that a child was having a difficult time packing up their back pack at the end of the day, told me, “My friend needs help. Can I get up from circle and go help?” My response, “Yes of course, you never have to ask to be a good Samaritan.” At the end of the day when asked what he had done at school, the child responded. “I was a good Samaritan.” *Sandra Archuleta, McCurdy Preschool director*

On the first day of school the preschool parents, children and staff joined in a circle and prayed for the protection of all students, parents, staff, volunteers and others who would step onto campus for school or other activities. The staff thanked God for the blessing of serving these children and their families. As I looked around the circle and saw parents holding hands with their children, I felt the Holy Spirit surrounding and granting us the gift of peace and serenity that these children will grow in relationship with our Father and his son throughout the school year.

Patricia Alvarado, McCurdy Ministries executive director

Campbell's Labels & Box Tops for Education update

Thank you for your continued support of the Campbell's Labels and Box Tops for Education programs. Through the generosity of donors from all across the USA, we have deposited **1,399,814 Campbell's Labels for Education points!** Our goal of 1.6 million points to purchase a new van is in sight so keep those labels coming. We are also collecting Box Tops for Education to support McCurdy Charter School. Thank you for your faithful support of McCurdy Ministries through these programs for more than 20 years!

Numerous staff & volunteer projects finished to prepare for school opening

Thanks to our Maintenance Staff and volunteers from Washington to Pennsylvania and Ohio to Utah for all the work done to prepare the 2013–14 school year. We couldn't get ready for a new school year without your help! A partial list of projects by building includes:

Irene Cole High School

- Painted all classrooms, restrooms, teachers' lounge, locker room floor and hallway entrance
- Cleaned all classrooms, offices and teachers lounge.

Elementary School

- Painted all classrooms, restrooms and entry way.
- Replaced a section of tile in the west hallway.
- Cleaned all classrooms, offices and teachers lounge windows.

Portable Classrooms

- Replaced tile in the west facing portables
- Waxed floors in the west facing portables.
- Cleaned and painted walls.
- Cleaned all windows

Pringle Student Center

- Painted all class rooms.
- Painted restrooms.
- Shampooed carpet in 2 classrooms
- Replaced bricks in courtyard and painted bench.

Cafeteria

- Scrubbed walls and floors.
- Cleaned all tables removed gum from underneath
- Painted walls and cleaned all windows

Memorial Gym

- Painted classrooms and lobby, as well as floors in boys and girls locker rooms.
- Washed and scrubbed gym floor.

McCurdy Grounds

- Removed 11 Cottonwood trees between Pringle and Memorial Gym for safety reasons
- Fertilized football field
- Dragged student parking lot.
- Dumped two truckloads of sand in elementary play ground.
- Refurbished and painted bleachers at the football field.
- Ongoing mowing, trimming, weeding and cleaning of McCurdy's 44-acre grounds.