



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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Sharing God's love through education and mission

February 2015

Camp Stars will launch its third summer season June 15

The 2015 Camp Stars students will learn what it means to “*move, act, care, follow and share*” when this McCurdy Ministries program launches its third summer on June 15 on the McCurdy campus. Camp Stars is for children who will enter kindergarten to 6th grade in the fall of 2015. This summer educational enrichment camp combines the best of STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education with Vacation Bible School fun and faith building.

The camp will run for six weeks starting June 15 and end with a Closing Program and Open House for families on July 28. There will be a holiday for Independence day July 2 to 5. The daily schedule for Camp Stars will be 8 AM to 3 PM Monday through Friday. Breakfast and lunch will be provided to each camper at no charge. Financial aid will be available for students qualifying for free or reduced lunch. More information on Camp Stars will be posted on the McCurdy Ministries website at www.mccurdy.org after March 15. Tuition costs, Camp Stars application, financial aid application and scheduled information will be posted on the website.

The Camp Stars 2015 theme will be “*God's love in action*” and kids will be encouraged to explore how to put their faith and minds into action on God's behalf. In this mission focused camp, kids will experience God's unstoppable love and discover how to fuel up and move through life with God. The scripture theme will be “*In God we live, move and exist.*” Acts 17:28a.

McCurdy Charter School teacher Zelda Jaramillo will return as the Camp Stars director this summer. In addition, teachers and camp counselors will be hired to staff the program. For more information on registering your child for Camp Stars or for Camp Stars employment call the McCurdy Ministries office at 505-753-7221, ext. 210.



On one of their field trips last summer a Camp Stars' participant learns how to cast a fossil with the help of a Ghost Ranch staffer.

McCurdy Ministries cordially invites the children and families of McCurdy Charter School & McCurdy Ministries' After School and Preschool programs to a

Rock-n-Roll Easter Event

for preschoolers through sixth graders

3 PM, Tuesday, March 24, 2015, in the cafeteria

Bring a basket or container to hold your eggs and prizes as well as canned goods which will be donated to the Soup Kitchen of San Martin de Porres. An after school snack will be provided and then the children will enjoy prizes, arts and crafts, games, gifts and an Easter Egg Hunt. The Easter Egg Hunt will be moved inside in case of rain or snow.

Teachers, parents and United Methodist volunteers are invited to help staff the event. To volunteer or for more information call the McCurdy Ministries office at 753-7221, ext. 210 or email

eromero@mccurdy.org.



Notes from the McCurdy Ministries executive director



Patricia Alvarado
Executive Director

We just hosted the 18th Annual Gala and I am happy to report that it was another success due to the commitment of our Volunteers in Mission, board member volunteers, parent volunteers, student volunteers and staff. A successful event requires a tremendous amount of attention to detail. We have hosted 18 successful Galas and we are grateful for the fact that our community is generous in supporting our children through sponsorships, ads, support and donations for the silent and live auctions. We had a very lively auctioneer who made the evening bidding enjoyable as well as successful. As always, we thank the Gala committee for all the work behind the scenes as well as our maintenance and other staff who help with odds and ends and last minute issues that may arise. Our website lists the many folks who helped sponsor the event.

We continue to serve 17 beautiful young children in our morning CYFD sponsored PreK who remind us every day of our Lord saying, "...let the children come unto me." Their innocence, enthusiasm, energy, and inquisitiveness both challenge and bring joy to our PreK staff as well as to me. I am so blessed to have a small part in the planning for and the implementation of their early childhood

learning. Our staff has had rigorous training and follow-up consultation with reflective supervision. In addition they have to complete required daily documentation which helps them in their best practices. These children are truly blessed to have such dedicated and highly qualified teachers as part of their first school experience. I am also excited about the impact our faith based afternoon preschool is having on the lives of our students and their families.

We are beginning the Lenten season. I invite you to lift our ministries in prayer and support us as one of your Lenten offerings. There is so much need in the Española Valley. McCurdy Ministries is partnering with other local area agencies to create a safe and viable community for our children and youth. We work to pool our efforts but collaboration and coordination also take manpower. Each agency seeks to gain community support and therefore our businesses are asked to support so many local area schools, agencies and programs. There is so much need and so few resources in our community which is why we are grateful that United Methodists from all over the country support our ministries. Our Father is a great provider and he is a faithful father who continues to show that all of us together can and do make a difference in children's lives. I thank you in advance for your prayers, support and the creative ways you continue to be the hands and feet that support our children. May Our Father continue to bless you and sustain you. *Patricia A. Alvarado*



Gala volunteers from Kansas, Texas and Española work together to create bouquets of hands to symbolize the Gala theme "Hand in Hand: Making a Difference." McCurdy Ministries and McCurdy Charter School students traced their hands to create the hands used in the bouquets.

Gala 18 made a difference!

The theme for Gala 18 was "Hand in hand: making a difference" after thousands of volunteer and staff hours all year long Gala 18 made a difference raising over \$60,000 to support McCurdy Ministries and McCurdy Charter School programs. When a final total is determined 15% of the proceeds will go to the McCurdy Ministries Foundation, 42.5% will help fund MCS athletics and 42.5% will help fund Project Cariño.

Our thanks go to our Platinum Sponsor Leo Valdez of HSE, our Gold Sponsors Desert Sun Auto Group and Garcia Tires, our Silver Sponsors Audrey's House, Inc., Espanola Transit-Mix, Presbyterian Espanola Hospital and Johnny and Veronica Silva, our Bronze Sponsors Century Bank, First United Methodist Church of Los Alamos, Insurance Del Norte, McCurdy Charter School Governance Board, McCurdy Ministries Board of Trustees, McCurdy Ministries Foundation and the Santa Clara Development Corporation. Thanks also to the Gala Committee including Patricia A. Alvarado, Helen Finch, Martha and David Milhouse, Diana Loomis, Ymelda Samora, Janette Archuleta, Norma Herrera, Pat Lujan, Anita Rodriguez, Amanda Gonzales, Denise London and Eufemia Romero. And a special thank you to the many volunteer hours provided by our auctioneer, Luis Abeyta, our United Methodist volunteers from around the country, our community volunteers, our McCurdy Ministries staff, and our McCurdy Charter School families, students and staff volunteers.

Be sure to save the date for Gala 19 on Feb. 6, 2016!

Thanks for your Giving Tuesday support!

McCurdy Ministries is celebrating our donors who supported us through the United Methodist Advance **Giving Tuesday Campaign** on Dec. 2, 2014. We are grateful for our donors' generosity because McCurdy Ministries received 68 gifts totaling \$16,888 and \$8,540 in matching funds from Global Ministries for a total of \$25,428 that day. While this total was less than the \$31,524 received on Giving Tuesday on Dec. 3, 2013, we are excited that we increased the amount of match from \$0 to \$8,540. We hope that you will mark Dec. 1, 2015, on your calendar as Giving Tuesday and plan to support McCurdy Ministries that day.

Sharing hope in Española

Please consider supporting McCurdy Ministries

In Española the need is great. U.S. Census Bureau 2013 statistics say 25% of adults over 25 have not graduated from high school and 28% of the population lives below the federal poverty line. In addition, Rio Arriba County has the highest death by heroin overdose rate in the United States and New Mexico has one of the highest high school dropout rates in the United States. McCurdy Ministries is a sign of hope in the midst of great need. Together McCurdy Ministries and McCurdy Charter School reach 21% of the under 18 population of Española every school day. Every school day through the McCurdy Ministries Project Cariño, Pre-K, Preschool, After School Care and the Breakfast and Lunch Programs McCurdy Ministries touches the lives of more than 500 students. Most importantly our ministries happen because of your support. Your donations of time, talent and funds help us keep our facilities in shape for our children and youth.

We ask that you 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 for McCurdy Ministries and Box Tops for Education for McCurdy Charter School.** Donate a gift annuity to earn income for you 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.** Remember McCurdy in your estate trust. **Invite the McCurdy church relations team to your church program, dinner or worship event.** Donate to McCurdy through Advance #581479. **Pray for McCurdy daily! For information on making a donation to McCurdy Ministries** please call 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.

Project Cariño news and updates



Community Partner



Amanda Trujillo Gonzales
Project Cariño Director

On a weekly basis I work with a girl in therapy who has a long emotional trauma history including the loss of a parent. Her remaining parent also experienced these traumas and consequently, is unable to support her daughter toward healing and positive developmental outcomes. This student was referred to me last November by McCurdy Charter School administrators because my client had been getting into fights with peers and was very disrespectful in interactions with teachers and staff. She comes in for sessions every week and we talk about the things at home and at school that are difficult and make her feel very angry. She is often the victim of bullying at school because she is a big

student. She isn't "fat" but she is taller than other girls her age and she looks older than she really is. Her self-esteem was very low and she had given up trying to be the person she knew she could be. She became the person others expected her to be mean, aggressive and a failure—in other words a bully—until she came to Project Cariño.

With therapy she has chosen friends who support her and help her to make good choices. Project Cariño has helped her find the gentle, compassionate person she was too scared to become. Now she feels good, because she says, she sees the good in herself through the eyes of staff at Project Cariño. She dresses up, pays attention to her appearance and smiles more than not. Suspensions at school have stopped, because this girl no longer needs to hurt others in retaliation for their hurtful behaviors and her grades are improving. Her teachers and

principal have all commented on how well she is doing. Her life has been changed and it all started with a Project Cariño counselor believing in her and helping her think about her life and her actions in a different way. We helped her to think about all of her options and the consequences that come with each one. Now she is carefully making informed decisions with the support of Project Cariño, that have transformed her school day and her educational success. No doubt these changes are having positive effect.

Our Project Cariño staff which includes two full time counselors, a therapy dog and a master's intern and bachelor's intern working on degrees in social work, are grateful for your prayers, donations, grants and support because those gifts help us transform lives and give new life possibilities to the youngest, most vulnerable members of our community. Thank you! **Amanda Gonzales**

Editor's note: Project Cariño is McCurdy Ministries mental health counseling program which provides services to the students and families of McCurdy Charter School free of charge. For the 2014-15 school year Project Cariño has received grants from the Monteí Foundation, the Northern New Mexico United Way, the Con Alma Foundation and the Albuquerque District of the United Methodist Church. In addition, Project Cariño receives 42.5% of the profits of the McCurdy Gala. Funding is also provided by hundreds of faithful donors from across the United States. Project Cariño was started through a United Methodist Women grant and has been saving and transforming lives of the youngest, most vulnerable residents of the Española for over 30 years.

McCurdy's Box Tops and Campbell's Labels updates

Late last year McCurdy Ministries used 1.6 million points from donated Campbell's Labels to order a new seven passenger van. A factory shut down has delayed getting the new van but it is expected to arrive this spring. The good news is that our donors continue to send us labels and after ordering the van we still have a balance of 275,000 points that can be used to purchase educational equipment and supplies to support our ministries! The latest list of Campbell's Labels products can be found on the McCurdy website by using the following link:

<http://mccurdy.org/documents/EligibleProducts2014-2015.pdf>.

In addition, since McCurdy Charter School started in August of 2012, McCurdy Ministries has collected \$37,896 in Box Tops earnings for McCurdy Charter School. The charter school has used these earnings to provide field trips for students, classroom and art supplies, gates for the playground, family events and many other activities that support learning.

We thank you for your continued support of this program and ask you to **keep mailing those Box Tops and Campbell's Labels to McCurdy Ministries at 261 S. McCurdy Road, Española, NM 87532.**



Reynoldsburg UMC internship program

Reynoldsburg United Methodist Church (RUMC) in Ohio has been sending Volunteers in Mission to McCurdy for many years and is deeply committed to making a difference in the Española Valley. This summer the church is launching a new way to make a difference for McCurdy graduates by establishing a McCurdy Internship Program based at their church in Reynoldsburg, OH, which is just outside Cincinnati.

McCurdy mission school and charter school graduates who will be freshmen, sophomore, juniors or seniors in college next fall are invited to apply for a RUMC internship for the summer of 2015 if they are interested in hands on work experience in child development, education, music, business, finance, technology or theology. RUMC will provide roundtrip airfare to Ohio, land transportation, housing, food, entertainment expenses and a weekly stipend of \$50 to each intern. Over the summer interns will gain hands-on work experience, have the opportunity to shadow professionals and increase job skills in their selected area of work. The internship schedule is flexible over the months of May, June, July, August and September and can be tailored to fit the intern's college schedule. The application deadline is May 1, 2015. For an application on the RUMC internship please contact Rev. Diana Loomis, director of development/church relations at dloomis@mccurdy.org or call her at 505-753-7221, ext. 352.

Volunteers in Mission needs

If summer camp, Vacation Bible School and an opportunity to make an educational and faith difference in a child's life interest you, then we invite you to consider being a volunteer teacher for McCurdy Ministries Camp Stars Program next summer. Camp Stars is a six week summer program that combines the best of STEM education (science, technology, engineering and math) with the best of VBS for students entering kindergarten to sixth grade. The program runs six weeks starting June 15 and ending July 28 with a break July 2, 3, 4 and 5 for the Independence Day holiday.

We also have volunteer openings for a dorm host and for a VIM team maintenance coordinator from mid-May to Labor Day. The dorm host is a hospitality position and checks in VIM groups as they arrive, ensures the dorm is in good condition and assists volunteer teams with any issues that arise. The VIM team maintenance coordinator helps to organize the work that VIM teams do ensuring

needed supplies are on campus, projects for each team are lined up and coordinates all maintenance issues with the maintenance director and the teams. Individuals who enjoy coordinating maintenance and grounds projects, love working with people and love the Lord are urged to consider this position. Housing as well as some meals are provided for all long term volunteers.

Persons who sign up for these summer volunteer opportunities will enjoy Northern New Mexico's moderate climate surrounded by the mountains. Cultural, scientific and outdoor activities are numerous and volunteers will normally have weekends, evenings and two afternoons off every week to relax. If you are interested in these long term individual volunteer positions please be in contact with Vickie Luviano, volunteer manager by e-mailing vickie@mccurdy.org or phoning 505-753-7221, ext. 268 or 505-927-3683.

McCurdy Charter School news



In February an External Review Team (ERT) from AdvancED New Mexico conducted an appraisal of the school's performance on the AdvancED quality standards of Purpose and Direction, Governance and Leadership, Teaching and Assessing for Learning, Resources and Support Systems and Using Results for Continuous Improvement. We are very proud the ERT recommended that the AdvancED Accreditation Commission award McCurdy Charter School accreditation for a five-year term through June 30, 2020. This is a significant achievement for our school in that it acknowledges the infrastructure and daily operations of the school are based on quality educational standards and the school is actively engaged in continuous improvement. The ERT said, "The governing body is extremely dedicated, actively involved and focused on guiding the school within the limits of their authority and responsibilities." An additional finding is that there is a strong relationship between the board and administration which enables them to work collaboratively to achieve the school's vision and mission. The ERT also said MCS has a "Dedicated and caring staff and faculty providing a nurturing and safe environment for every student; and clear emphasis on protecting instruction time." The ERT conducted observations in 98% of our classrooms using a rating tool based on best classroom practices. This information contributed to the score of 273.81 for the Teaching and Learning Impact component. The entire AdvancED Network Average (including 32,000 institutions) has a score of 274.14. We were very pleased that in the two and a half years of our school's existence, our classroom practices have developed to this level. We anticipate continued stability in our teaching and support staff will result in an increase in this area. The ERT stated Improvement Priorities are technology, media and library services and communicating and engaging stakeholders in the school's purpose as it relates to the relationship between the school and McCurdy Ministries. These areas will be given focused attention in the months to come.

The New Mexico Public Education Department has released the official 2014 graduation rates for all public schools. MCS has achieved a graduation rate of 82.4% which is well above the state average of 68.5%. Surrounding school districts graduation rates are: Santa Fe 64.3%, Los Alamos 86.3%, Espanola 55.5% and Pojoaque 73.8%. These rates consider a student's four year path to graduation. As a public school, we enroll students as we have available space. We have had students enroll in our school who may not be on track to graduate. We have supports in place such as online credit recovery courses and free tutoring which help these students regain the potential to graduate.

Our school is extremely thankful for everyone who sends in Box Tops for Education. As a result of your continued support, our school is ranked first in our area (25 mile radius), first in New Mexico, and 21st in the nation. Since we opened as a charter school in August of 2012, we have received \$37,896 in Box Tops earnings. These earnings have been used to provide field trips for students, classroom and art supplies, gates for the playground, family events and many other activities that support learning. McCurdy Ministries plays a vital role in the success of this program because I acknowledge most of the Box Tops we receive come from United Methodists around the country, United Methodist volunteers process the labels and Vickie Luviano, volunteer manager, coordinates the effort. We appreciate all the individuals who work so hard to make the Box Top program work for MCS.

Our school is privileged to serve the families of this beautiful valley. We are convinced our efforts are making a difference right now and will have a positive impact for years to come. Thank you for your interest in our school and for the many ways you provide for our families and students. **Janette Archuleta**

After School Care news



After School Care kids enjoy the playground.

Not all important life lessons are learned in the classroom. Some are learned in the transitions and coming and goings of school. One important lesson all students need to learn is that life is about change and coping with change is an important skill. Our After School Care (ASC) staff works hard to help our students learn to be caring and helpful to each other even in the midst of change. Recently a new student was added to the program. The new student seemed very nervous the first day and was quiet and intimidated by the large group of students in After School Care. Right away the other students welcomed the newcomer, showed him around and helped him feel comfortable and included in ASC activities. Because of this warm welcome the new student now walks in each afternoon confident and ready for fun. **Alicia Cardenas, After School Care director**

McCurdy Ministries Preschool news

Our Preschool families are doing a wonderful job of raising their children with values and character. Some of the preschool students are always, no matter the circumstance, willing to "root for the underdog" even if it means a setback for them. One day a few students were playing a memory game and all of the children were getting the hang of it, as the game progressed, it came down to a pair of boys who were tied for "the win." There were only four cards left and everyone already knew which cards were the winning pairs, The particular student who was up next deliberately

picked the wrong cards and started jumping up and down yelling "Yeah for you, you won the game! Good job! Give me a high five!" The other student was so confused, he didn't really know how or what had just happen but celebrated anyway.

Later that day I asked the first boy why he had let his friend win, and he shrugged his shoulders and said. "I don't know. I just like to see him happy. Anyway it is just a game. I will go home and beat my little my sister." I have also seen this same child help someone pick up materials even if he didn't use them. I have seen many other acts of kindness toward others done by many of the children. Such as lending a helping hand by offering to tie a shoe, zip a jacket or even give a few words of encouragement when someone is feeling down.

As a person who works daily with children in the 4-5 year old range, people will often say they can't understand or know how I can be around young kids all day. Other people will ask me "Why do you like that age group?" My answer is I am lucky enough to recognize and see the answer to my daily prayers lived out when I ask "Lord help me to see the face of God in the people and experiences of my life, and to believe in God's great love for me. Amen." I am lucky to see the innocence and goodness in these children as well as the potential of the seeds that have been planted and I am proud to be a part of that growth.

Sandra Archuleta, preschool director



Above left: Sandra Archuleta listens as two of her preschool students describe cards that they made. Above: Preschoolers use their pencils to practice writing H the letter of the week.