



The McCurdy Ministries
Message

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

Volume 4, Number 1

Sharing God's love through education and mission

September 2015

Moving toward a community center style ministry

McCurdy Ministries vision for the future

During its 103 years McCurdy was a school and started the first medical clinic, collegiate nursing program, hospital, GED program, fire department and community recreation program. Recently, McCurdy Ministries has focused on supporting McCurdy Charter School (MCS) while making plans to further impact our community. This work is critical for our students because as Executive Director Patricia Alvarado, who was a McCurdy classroom teacher, principal and superintendent, says, "Family home situations, positive or negative, impact a child's academic progress, social interactions and behavioral issues before they step into the classroom. 'It takes a village to raise a child,' has never been more true. As we collaborate with other area service providers, it is our hope to provide a strong foundation for our children and our families to thrive."

The McCurdy Ministries Board has approved a preliminary Long Range Strategic Plan for the next three years which includes this mission statement: **McCurdy Ministries is a faith based community center ministry that helps children, youth, adults and families of the Española Valley achieve their educational and life goals.** The plan assumes additional buildings will become available to McCurdy Ministries once MCS occupies their new building in **February of 2017 and focuses on six areas including Children's Ministries, Youth Ministries, Adult Ministries, Volunteer Ministries, Nonprofit Hub Ministries and Art, Drama and Music Ministries.** Aspects of the strategic plan will support MCS and aspects will support the broader community of children, youth, adults and families in the Española Valley.

Long Range Plan Specifics

Develop a cooperative Children's Ministry which supports the spiritual, mental and emotional health of our children and provides support for our families.

Research shows the first five years are the most critical to the lifelong wellbeing and success of children. With state assistance McCurdy Ministries opened a free four year old Pre-K program during the 2014-15 school year. We are currently developing cooperative agreements with other non-profits who focus on the needs of our youngest children. The elementary school will become Hovermale Children's Ministry Center and will house the preschool, After School Care and Camp Stars. McCurdy Preschool will expand to all day four and three year old programs, After School Care will have younger and older elementary programs and Camp Stars will have a permanent home base for the summer.

Sponsor a Teen Ministry for grades 7 to 12th which supports the spiritual, mental and emotional health of youth. McCracken Gym with its gym, stage and classrooms will make an excellent teen center. It will be called McCracken Teen Center to honor Dr. Glenn McCracken. Discussions have begun with the Española YMCA Teen Center to explore partnering to provide teen services in McCracken. Included will be an after school care; tutoring and educational resources; service, mission and worship opportunities; arts, drama, music; and recreational programs.

Develop an Adult Ministry by providing educational, mental health, spiritual and economic programs which help to strengthen the family. McCurdy Ministries can make a unique difference in the lives of adults with children or grandchildren in school by providing mental health services including parenting and grand parenting support groups and a state of the art computer lab with an educational technologist as a site for GED, ESL and computer technology training. The program located in the high school will be called the Irene Cole Adult Ministries Center.

Create an Art, Drama and Music Ministry for all ages with emphasis on Northern New Mexico's culture and history. The old chapel, which is on the National Registry of Historical Buildings, houses 10 looms for weaving and the basement houses a potter's wheel and kiln. We are working on a partnership with the Española Fiber Arts Center to teach weaving to adults and youth. Decades of costumes, backdrops and props are also stored in McCracken and the Heffner Drama, Music and Art funds will be used to provide art, drama and music opportunities for children, youth and adults through our ministries and cooperating non-profits.

Strengthen our Individual and Volunteer in Mission Ministries by providing opportunities for mission, spiritual, art and cultural experiences. Increase our Volunteers in Mission teams by promoting our program throughout the United Methodist Church. Our volunteers are excellent ambassadors for McCurdy Ministries and are essential to our future health so promotion of our Individual Volunteer and Volunteer in Mission programs across the United Methodist Church is essential. During the winter we are planning a Spiritual/Art/Cultural Retreat Program planned and staffed by McCurdy employees. In addition, we will be making our retreat center available to local church, Emmaus and UMW groups for spiritual retreats.

Designate Bachman Hall as a Nonprofit Hub, obtain grants for refurbishment as needed and provide office space for nonprofits and agencies consistent with McCurdy Ministries' mission. One of McCurdy's Ministries abundant resources is buildings and land. Turning Bachman Hall into a Nonprofit Hub for programs consistent with our mission to serve the children, youth and families of the Española Valley is a worthy goal.

Our donors, alumni, volunteers, supporters and community members are welcome to give feedback on this long range strategic plan to Rev. Diana Loomis by emailing dloomis@mccurdy.org or by calling 505-753-7221.

Thanks to the New Mexico Conference for your generous gifts last June!



At the 2015 New Mexico Annual Conference a \$6,000 special offering was given by 20+ churches and many individuals to support McCurdy Ministries. In addition, churches collected and donated school supplies, balls, hoola hoops, tissues and many more items that were used in Camp Stars this summer. Extra school supplies were set aside for After School Care, preschool and Project Cariño this fall.

Muchas gracias!

A McCurdy graduate and student enjoy the hoola hoops after helping to take up the offering at conference.

Notes from the McCurdy Ministries executive director



Patricia Alvarado
Executive Director

In our last publication, I shared that God blessed me with a beautiful sunrise as I began my day. This time, I wanted to share that God recently blessed me with an amazing sunset. After a very busy week including a funeral earlier Friday, I was able to share in a friend's birthday event. She had some of her guests gathering in her patio area as well as inside her home. It was the time of day when the sun sets and night falls. As I sat in the patio, I looked at the sky, saw the beautiful hues of rose, blue and gray, and off in the distance I saw the most beautiful and brightest moon peeking through branches of a tree in her front yard. The breeze was cool and the crisp evening air gently revived my waning spirit after the day's events. Our Father has such a gentle

way of reminding us whether it is at day's beginning or day's end, that he is always there to lift us, to surround us with his gentle comforting spirit, and to keep us grounded despite life's circumstances. Going from a sad experience of losing a loved one to celebrating another's life still going strong, while the bright, beautiful moon shined amidst the darkness, was a powerful message that I took to heart. I was at peace and appreciated the blessings he bestows on all his children even in the face of tragedy.

At McCurdy Ministries, we experience many hectic moments during the course of any day. Our volunteers and staff work diligently to be God's hands and feet when "little eyes are watching and little ears are listening." It is precious to experience so many being volunteers and staff acting as their "brother's keeper." A few examples include Kent and Myrtle Matheny who did an excellent job as dorm hosts this summer welcoming and hosting volunteers from all over the country. Johnnie, Ella and Mabel and the "Los Alamos ladies" who help process the Box Tops for Education and Campbell Soup labels every week.

The Rio Arriba County Summer Food Program allowed us to be a site for their free summer breakfast and lunch program and provided more than 2100 meals over a 6 week period. These meals were at no cost to our agency or to our families. As a

collaborative partner with the county, we helped to ensure the children of our community received healthy breakfasts and lunches throughout the summer.

We thank all of our VIM teams who have come over the course of the summer for giving of their time to clean, repair and build items needed for our programs; for planting flower gardens for Project Cariño; for weeding 44 acres of growth because we have been blessed with rain; and for bringing supplies for our students. Just as important has been the humble way you have been examples for our staff and children who watch everything you do and hear everything you say. We thank all the people who attended the New Mexico Annual Conference and generously donated school supplies and monies to help support our ministries.

We thank the San Martin de Porres Soup Kitchen for allowing our 2015 Camp Stars children to serve and thus experience a powerful, insightful and fulfilling day at the Soup Kitchen. It was really meaningful to them and a very eye-opening experience. They were all very excited that they participated and were able to do for others. Our group was so moved and touched and felt so fulfilled afterwards that many of them want to return on their own and continue to help.

Please know that every gift of time, talents, resources, and prayer are appreciated and each time you remember us, you too are like a bright moon beam in the midst of the darkness, helping to light the way for children to come to Christ. May God continue to bless and sustain you. *Patricia A. Alvarado*

Important announcement:

McCurdy Ministries' address is changing

Please note McCurdy Ministries has been notified by the City of Española and the U.S. Post Office that our address has changed effective immediately for 911 purposes. Please make a note of our new mailing and physical address which is:

362A South McCurdy Road, Española, NM 87532

Hope is what fuels God's ministries in the Española Valley!

Please consider these creative ways to fuel the difference that McCurdy makes



Mellie Perkins, United Brethren
deaconess & McCurdy founder

Recently, one of our donors who lives thousands of miles away called to say, "I love what you do at McCurdy. I was only there once many years ago but you make such a difference for the children that I am making McCurdy the beneficiary of my IRA. I trust you all will know how to use these funds to help the children of the valley." It is concrete expressions of hope such as this that has kept McCurdy financially strong for 103 years.

The McCurdy Ministries Board of Directors knows that hope is what fuels our tanks and keeps our ministries going. To make this hope come to fruition for the coming generations of students and their families the board has established the **Mellie Perkins Society** to recognize our donors who

make McCurdy a part of their estate plans. If you have remembered McCurdy in your will, made McCurdy a beneficiary of an insurance policy, a bank account or an IRA, set up a gift annuity or endowment with McCurdy as beneficiary or remembered McCurdy through your trust we invite you to be a member of the **Mellie Perkins Society**. Perhaps you have developed another plan to remember McCurdy Ministries through your estate. Please write, email or call me to let me know your intention and I will send you a Bequest Information Form to fill out and return to me to inform McCurdy of your intention. Each year in the November *McCurdy Message* we list members of the **Mellie Perkins Society** in our Annual Report and lift up our supporters who so believe in hope they want to pass that hope along to the next generation.

In Española the need is great. U.S. Census Bureau 2013 statistics say more than 25% of adults over 25 have not graduated from high school and more than

28% of the population lives below the poverty line. In addition, Rio Arriba County has the highest death by heroin overdose rate in the United States. McCurdy Ministries needs your support to continue our ministries. Your donations of time, talent and funds help us keep our aging buildings and 40 acres in shape for 540 MCS students and for McCurdy Ministries programs.

Here are 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. **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! *Diana L. Loomis, director of development/church relations*

For information on joining the Mellie Perkins Society BEFORE the November 15, 2015 Annual Report or on making ANY donation to McCurdy Ministries please contact:

Rev. Diana Loomis at 505-753-7221, ext. 352, email her at dloomis@mccurdy.org or write her at 362A S. McCurdy Road, Española, NM 87532.



Amanda Trujillo Gonzales,
Project Cariño Director

Project Cariño news and updates

It's the start of a brand new year at Project Cariño and we are busy getting the place ready for the support we will provide for 540 McCurdy Charter School and the 18 McCurdy Ministries' Preschool students. This summer we had much help from a Volunteer in Mission (VIM) team from Desert Spring UMC in Las Vegas, NV, with additional help from some California members of their team. Michelle, Compa and I are humbled and proud at the same time to have their support. The church

and members in turn, help us support the students that we serve, and their families. This "parallel process" does much to boost our emotional stamina so that students have the very best Project Cariño has to offer, and for this we are eternally grateful. Not only has this team come to McCurdy Ministries and McCurdy Charter School to beautify and render the grounds safe from weeds and debris and the critters that hide there. They have also provided important therapeutic tools that help Project Cariño's ministry to be powerful and effective including emotion management and regulation resources, tools that help students and families feel secure in the fact that their work is kept in the strictest confidence, and most importantly, their prayers to help Michelle, Compa and I to minister to this family here at McCurdy.

One student has already been to Project Cariño for emotional support for a tough transition back into school from summer vacation. He has difficulty in social relationships and situations, often misreading non-verbal cues from others as threats he must defend against. Coming to Project Cariño helps him to

conceptualize other possibilities and see the potential for a peaceful and safe existence while he is at school. During his visit on the first day of school, he came to his safe sanctuary and saw the beautiful plants, flowers and landscaping that the Desert Spring work team completed in June and commented on how beautiful



Project Cariño has become. He especially liked the likeness of Compa that Diana Record painted on a boulder right next to the front door. He verbalized the feeling of peace he feels here, because Project Cariño is a safe, peaceful, and BEAUTIFUL place to come and let his soul rest!! *Amanda Trujillo Gonzales*

Volunteer and artist, Diana Record, poses with Compa and his "angel" likeness painted on a rock.



Desert Spring UMC volunteers clean up and beautify the Project Cariño front and back yards. Projects included landscaping, removing tree stumps and creating a calm oasis.

McCurdy preschool news

McCurdy Schools of Northern NM PreK

Our new school year will begin Sept. 8, 2015. We expect eighteen new students who will be age 4 by Sept. 1. The morning program is a New Mexico PreK program which is offered to students free of charge and will run from 8 AM to noon. Children will also be offered lunch free of charge. The McCurdy Ministries staff has undergone training by the New Mexico Children Youth and Family Department, NM PreK and are Safe Sanctuary certified by McCurdy Ministries. In addition, they have ongoing training throughout the year to meet the standards from CYFD licensing.

This year, standards for the children have been increased and the essential indicators that will be observed, assessed, and documented are: physical development; health, and well-being; literacy; numeracy; aesthetic creativity; scientific conceptual understandings; self, family and community; and approaches to learning.



McCurdy Ministries Preschool

The afternoon extended care preschool currently has eight students and has room for 10 more. This preschool is a faith based program and students learn in a creative and nurturing setting about Christ and his love for them.

Our open house was on Aug. 19 and 18 families attended and learned about our programs. At the end of the evening, the children were able to pick up a backpack which was a gift donated for their use. The children were excited as they got to go up and choose their own backpack.

Home visits were conducted so families, children and staff were able to get better acquainted which helps to build a strong relationship foundation for the learning that occurs the rest of the year.

We ask for your prayers and support for these two programs as our staff helps the children form a very valuable foundation for the rest of their school career.

Healthy minds
Healthy bodies,
Healthy Valley!



Save the date for the
McCurdy Ministries
Gala 19
benefiting Project Cariño & McCurdy
Charter School athletics,
6 to 10 PM, Saturday, Feb. 6,
in Memorial Gym

The Gala includes appetizers, steak or salmon dinner and dessert, entertainment, silent auction and live auction at a cost of \$35! We have reduced the cost by \$25 to make the Gala more accessible to our community. For more information call 505-753-7221, ext. 210, or email gala@mccurdy.org.

McCurdy Charter School news



Year number four has begun, with a smooth beginning. Most teachers have returned to our school and we welcome the few new ones to our campus. The first two days before students arrived were spent with professional development activities and our group of teachers and staff was able to reconvene and re-establish connections, while brushing up on skills and strategies.

Our current enrollment remains the same as last year, right around 540 students, with most grades reaching their enrollment limits. We are so pleased to welcome our students back, our seniors will have spent all their high school years with us. Very exciting! Thank you to the parents and families for continuing to believe in our mission and vision.

The year's plans are already underway, so mark your calendars for Homecoming (September 12), Open House (September 15), Fall Fest, Winter programs and of course the Gala. (For more information on the Gala see page 3 of this newsletter.) We have a full calendar for sports, field trips, visitors and volunteers, community service and celebrations. We look forward to another successful, productive year. *Kiva Duckworth-Moulton, elementary principal*



From left to right three generations of family: Samantha Brookman, Teresa Burciaga, Kylie Brookman, Tina Brookman and Pastor La Too Tangulu.

California & Nevada volunteers

Make a difference together!

McCurdy Ministries receives volunteers from all over the country. For the last several years we have been blessed with a large Volunteer in Mission group organized by Julie Eggleston, from Desert Spring UMC in Las Vegas. Julie, invited a childhood friend Teresa Burciaga, from First UMC in Sanger, CA, to join the group. At first Teresa was too overwhelmed to join the trip. Life was especially hard for her then. Teresa's sister was in hospice and her mother had been diagnosed with dementia. But through a dream Teresa was encouraged to come to McCurdy. Teresa said, "I needed uplifting. I needed to regroup and energize because of all the problems I was facing so I told Julie that I'd join the trip to McCurdy."

For Teresa that trip was about reconnecting with God. It was about needing to give back and it was about doing hard work so that the issues occupying her mind would drain away. When Teresa returned home she was filled with new energy and inspiration. She sat down and wrote out a coloring book titled, "McCurdy VIM: a Journey to Serve" and showed it to her grandchildren. Her grandchildren were so excited about the book they volunteered to edit it, to choose Bible passages and art for each page and to test the coloring book out. Not surprisingly when the book was completed Teresa and her family dedicated it to Julie, her friend and team leader.

Then the VIM Team from Desert Springs got excited about the coloring book. They printed enough copies to bring to McCurdy last June so our students could enjoy Teresa's story "A Journey to Serve." The best news about last June's trip was that three generations of her family, her daughter, Tina Brookman, and her granddaughter's Samantha and Kylie Brookman, came to McCurdy with Teresa to enjoy making God's difference together. The best news of all is that we have the story to share about Teresa's experience at McCurdy!

For the third summer

Camp Stars was a great success

Our third summer of Camp Stars has ended and the Vacation Bible School curriculum, *God's Love in Action—G Force*, was fantastic! The Camp Stars Bible verse was, "*In God we live, move and exist.*" *Acts 17:28*. Through the daily sessions, the children experienced and lived out God's love daily in their lives. In addition, to learning about living out God's love they also learned science, technology, engineering and math and the relationship these academic studies have to our faith.

Zelda Jaramillo, who was the Camp Stars science teacher and is also a McCurdy Charter School fifth grade teacher, says, "I really liked working on the Observation Unit July 15–19. It gave us the opportunity to walk around campus and use all of our senses. The children noticed, heard, felt, and smelled things on campus they just had not paid attention to before the unit." The students said, "I didn't know that was there." "I never heard that peacock before." "I can smell the food in the cafeteria." Mrs. Jaramillo continued, "It was great to see them write so diligently in their notebooks. I have had the opportunity to pray, share

Camp Stars boys enjoy a geology presentation given by Patrick Rowe from the Los Alamos Rock Club. These students are taking studying rocks and mineral very seriously!



prayer and share God's message! Totally Awesome!" For her one thing that stood out was when a student said, "Mrs. Jaramillo I love science! I can't wait to be in fifth grade!"

Not only are there teachers involved in Camp Stars there are summer counselors who are attending high school or college. This summer McCurdy graduate and UNM junior Jessie Gallegos was a Camp Stars counselor who had a big impact on his students. Jessie shared, "One of the kids from my group had missed a few days because he and his family had gone on vacation. The morning that he and his family got back, his grandmother had told me that he had missed the camp dearly and even asked if they could return back from their vacation a little early so he could attend the program. I took that as a huge compliment on the program's behalf. Many parents had told me that they love what their kids are learning about in their workshops, especially in the math and science departments. I must admit, the way that the curriculum is in this program is beyond awesome!" Jessie continued, "As the six weeks comes to a close, it is sad because I will not get to see all of the amazing kids that I have come to know, but it is more than comforting to know that all of these kids have grown tremendously and have strengthened their relationships with



Two Camp Stars students work together to prepare bread to serve at the local soup kitchen.

God. As a first-time camp counselor, I must say that it is so rewarding to see how the kids have gone from being shy and timid to blossoming into the mature, opinionated, and smart Christians that they have become. I am glad to say that I have had the privilege of being a part of Camp Stars this year, and having the opportunity to help shape the kid's minds and behaviors. Like many of the kids that were involved in the program this summer, I, too, plan on returning next year. Here is to a great six weeks and another great year that Camp Stars is in operation. Thanks be to God!

As always we appreciate our Camp Stars staff especially our director Sandra Archuleta, but a special thank you must be shared with the Montei Foundation of Columbus, OH, for the third summer in a row they donated a \$25,000 grant that helped to subsidize Camp Stars and made the tuition very affordable for all the families who participated.

Is God calling you to make a difference at McCurdy?

Then contact Eufemia Romero to schedule a VIM group at 505-753-7221, ext. 210, or email her at eromero@mccurdy.org or Vickie Luviano to volunteer as an individual at 505-753-7221, ext. 268 or email her at vickie@mccurdy.org. McCurdy welcomes individual volunteers and group volunteers all year long. Acting as the hands of Christ by working with our students, families, community and staff is a wonderful way to serve God.