



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

November 2015

New Mexico donations bring joy to After School students



After School Care girl enjoys a new hoola hoop.

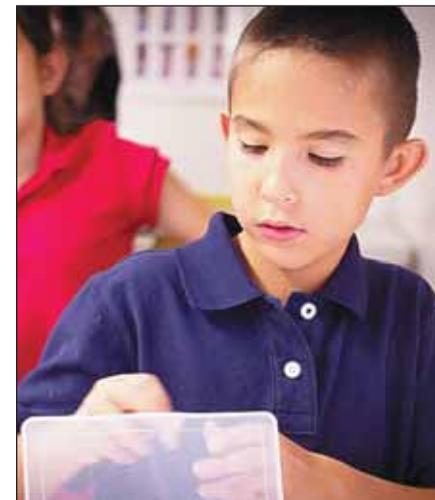
At the beginning of the 2014–15 school year McCurdy Ministries After School Care Program was completely out of balls, jump ropes, hoola hoops and fun individual equipment for our students to use on the playground during After School Care. The students were missing the fun that comes from playing four square, basketball and jump rope as well as the fun that

comes from creating projects crafts. They were limited to using the installed playground equipment which includes swings, slides and monkey bars. Then our After School Care staff received a call from the McCurdy Ministries business manager asking me to go over and pick up items donated for the children at the After School Care Program by New Mexico Conference churches and UMW units.

My assistants and I picked up the donated items, unloaded them and set them on a table in our kitchen area so that we could label everything and put it away. Then we waited to see our students reaction when they arrived. That day as the children walked into the After School Care building they were so excited to see all the new basketballs, jump ropes, hula hoops, jewelry making crafts, books, and school supplies that were donated. There were two girls in particular that had the best

reactions to it all. The first girl walked in and she saw all the donations and she just stopped in her tracks and her jaw literally dropped at the sight. The girl walking behind her was talking about her day and so at first she didn't notice anything, but then she wondered why the girl in front of her wasn't signing in. That is when she finally saw all the donated equipment and supplies on the table. The expression on her face was priceless!

That day when they saw all the new equipment for their free play time the children's eyes that day lit up like it was Christmas morning. It was awesome to witness! The students who range from preschool to 6th grade in age wanted to know where all the donations came from and we told them that United Methodists donated all the items on the table. The students were very appreciative. Every day they take excellent care of all their new equipment and give thanks for the United Methodists who blessed them with these gifts. We want to thank all our New Mexico Conference churches and UMW units for their generosity because they have given countless hours of exercise, fun, play and creative activities to our After School Care students. God bless you! **Flor Cordova, After School Care Supervisor**



After School Care boy enjoys a craft.

Activate love. Transform lives. Change the world on Giving Tuesday.

McCurdy Ministries will once again celebrate Giving Tuesday on Dec. 1, 2015 and we invite you to prayerfully consider supporting our ministries through the United Methodist Advance on that day. Last year Global Ministries held its second Giving Tuesday Campaign and over \$2.5 million was donated to 770 mission projects around the world! In 2014, McCurdy Ministries received 68 gifts totaling \$16,888 and \$8,540 in matching funds from Global Ministries for a total of \$25,428 on Giving Tuesday. On Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2015, we hope to greatly increase the amount donated because in addition to the match provided by Global Ministries an anonymous McCurdy Ministries donor has agreed to match the first \$5,000 donated to McCurdy on Dec. 1. This means a \$1,000 gift given at 12 AM Central Standard Time on the Advance website will be matched by Global Ministries and our anonymous donor which will increase the gift to \$3,000! To make a donation of any amount on Giving Tuesday go to the McCurdy page on the Global Ministries Advance website at <http://www.umcmmission.org/Give-to-Mission/Search-for-Projects/Projects/581479> or go to www.umcmmission.org/give and search for **McCurdy Ministries** or **Advance Number 581479**.

The important news for our donors is that donations to McCurdy from \$1 to \$2,500 made online in the last minutes of Nov. 30 or the first minutes of Dec. 1,

depending on your time zone, may be matched by Global Ministries dollar for dollar up to \$25,000 per mission agency. **In addition our anonymous McCurdy donor will match the first \$5,000 donated to McCurdy through the Advance!** We encourage you to make your donation right at the start of Giving Tuesday to insure McCurdy receives matching dollars from Global Ministries. Those living in the Eastern Time Zone can donate starting at 1 AM, Dec. 1. Those living in the Central Time Zone can donate starting at 12 AM, Dec. 1. Those living in the Mountain Time Zone can donate starting at 11 PM, Nov. 30 and those living in the Pacific Time Zone can donate starting at 10 PM, Nov. 30. If you have questions about Giving Tuesday please do not hesitate to call our Director of Development/Church Relations, Rev. Diana Loomis, at 505-753-7221, ext. 352, or email her at dloomis@mccurdy.org.

The reason for supporting McCurdy Ministries on Giving Tuesday or any time of year is the difference we make for the children of the Española Valley. We are able to make that difference because you support us with donations, volunteer hours and prayer. For a summary of all the ways McCurdy makes God's difference in Española please turn to the inside pages of this *McCurdy Message* for McCurdy's 2015 Annual Report which summarizes all aspects of our ministries.



When Methodists are United, we turn our love into action by giving through The Advance.

ACTIVATE LOVE. TRANSFORM LIVES. CHANGE THE WORLD.

www.umcmmission.org/give

Notes from the McCurdy Ministries executive director



Patricia Alvarado
Executive Director

Life is always full of surprises. Some surprises we can enjoy and build upon. Others are unexpected and may upset our very core existence and faith journey. We are told, and I believe, that Our Father, has created us able to deal with all life has to offer—joyful surprises and dreaded emergencies. Our God loves us so much that he allows us to be free to choose our paths in life and we are free to choose him.

I believe God's timing is the best timing and that he does not plan for our suffering. Perhaps God allows our suffering and uses it to help us grow stronger in our faith journey. Our Father is a loving and merciful Father and has already proven his love for us by giving us his only son to redeem us if we choose to receive his gift.

In our work, career or calling we have many demands placed on us. We have goals to complete, events to plan, relationships to nurture, and unforeseen life circumstances that can serve to derail us from our planned day, week or year. "The best laid plans..." as the saying goes or the "road paved with best intentions..." can

fall through the proverbial "cracks" as we deal with daily life. The message, in all of this, my dear friends, is that Our Father knows us better than we know ourselves. He knows our heart, our intentions and motives, the desires of our heart. In the midst of all we experience, it is easy to forget to be grateful for his gifts to us, especially in times of trial and challenges.

During this Thanksgiving and upcoming Advent seasons, I invite you to join me in opening our hearts, minds, and souls to receive the gift of the baby Jesus; that child who was born in a humble setting and throughout his human life, humbled himself to accept and carry out God's will in a manner that did not judge, did not place conditions, did not condemn; but rather opened his arms and heart to enfold all to his flock, to act as a servant, to love unconditionally, and in so doing gave us the most important role in our lives "to love one another, as I have loved you."

I thank you for your support of McCurdy Ministries through your prayers, resources, hands and feet that carry you out to do God's work on behalf of the children of the Española Valley. I pray that you will have a most blessed and thank-filled Thanksgiving, a most beautiful, love-filled Christmas season and the best and most purpose-filled year ahead. Yours in Christ, *Patricia A. Alvarado*

Sharing Hope in Española!

Please consider these creative ways to support McCurdy Ministries

In Española the need is great. U.S. Census Bureau 2010 statistics say 25% of adults over 25 have not graduated from high school and 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 and one local drug store is the number one purveyor of Anheuser Busch products west of the Mississippi River. McCurdy Ministries is a sign of hope in the midst of great need. Together McCurdy Ministries and McCurdy Charter School reach 26% of the under 18 population of Española every school day. Through Project Cariño, the Pre-K Program, the Preschool Program, After School Care and the Breakfast and Lunch Program McCurdy Ministries touches the lives of more than 500 students. Most importantly our ministries happen because of your support. Your donations of prayer, time, talent and funds help us keep our aging buildings and 44 acres 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 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 at 505-753-7221, ext. 352, email her at dloomis@mccurdy.org or write her at 362A S. McCurdy Road, Española, NM 87532.

You are invited to read *McCurdy Ministries 2015 Annual Report* on pages three to six of this newsletter for a glimpse at the ways we act as the hands of Christ in the Española Valley and a summary of McCurdy Ministries programs and finances for the 2014-15 fiscal year which ended July 31, 2015.

Healthy minds, Healthy bodies, Healthy Valley!



Save the date for the McCurdy

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 and live auction at a cost of \$35 for each ticket! We have reduced the cost to make the Gala more affordable for our community.

Donations are needed

United Methodist Churches, alumni and families of current students are invited to make a donation to the silent or live auction. Most importantly donors can sponsor the event or buy an advertisement for the Gala Program. Donors from across the country have helped make the Gala, which has raised over \$995,000 over the last 18 years, a powerful force for good in the Española Valley. For more information or to make a donation to the Gala please email gala@mccurdy.org or call Eufemia Romero at 505-753-7221, ext. 210.

Volunteers are needed

McCurdy Ministries does not have the staff to accomplish transforming the gym into a place for 400 people to eat dinner, enjoy fellowship and join in the auctions. We need an army of volunteers! Students, their families and some MCS staff volunteer but the backbone of the Gala staff has always been United Methodist volunteers who come from around the U.S. for up to two weeks to help us set up and tear down this important event. The dates volunteers are most needed are Feb 4, 5 and 6 for set up with the Gala which occurs 6 to 10 PM, Feb. 6. At 9 AM, Feb.7, the Gala volunteers join in a worship service led by Rev. Diana Loomis. After worship volunteers will go to the gym for tear down. The day will end with a Volunteer Super Bowl Party. On Feb. 8, all volunteers are invited to Diana's home for dinner.

The Gala is a time of fellowship for all our volunteers so please consider this invitation to come to McCurdy to help make the Gala a success. If you can come for a two week period your room is gratis. Room charges for those staying less than two weeks are \$30 per night and many meals are free. To volunteer email gala@mccurdy.org or call Eufemia Romero at 505-753-7221, ext. 210.

Project Cariño news and updates



Community Partner



Amanda Trujillo Gonzales,
Project Cariño Director

Michelle Esquire, our second therapist, Compa, our therapy dog, and I are honored and humbled as we continue to provide social and emotional support for students and families of McCurdy Charter School (MCS). This fall season has already brought a couple of snow showers, and we anticipate having a great snow season this year! While some of us enjoy the snow and feel uplifted by its arrival, others of us approach the season with dread and sadness at having the “dark” months upon us already. We have seen a slight spike in services over the past week, as students and families struggle to acclimate to the time change and temperature change.

Individual therapy

Our caseloads are very close to the maximum number of cases we can carry, however, we continue to work to provide, individual and family sessions and also to be available to offer crisis intervention for students. When our work becomes very busy, we are inspired by the feedback we receive from our clients. Recently, a high school student helped us know how important our presence and work are for him. He has been working out some emotional issues this year, and has shared the fact that he is not able to trust anyone, not even his parents, when it comes to getting emotional support. He has come to Project Cariño every week since school started to work on his self-confidence and to get help making big decisions. After a recent successful session he proclaimed, “Miss, I can’t trust anyone except you and I won’t let anyone help me except you.” This is a start for this student, a violation of expectation if you will, about this student’s perception of the adults and friends in his life. He now knows some people are trustworthy and can be helpful. He spoke recently about dropping out of school because he is having a very hard time keeping his grades up, but after a session at Project Cariño, he now sees the light at the end of the tunnel, and knows that by taking one assignment at a time, one class at a time, and with a lot of focused attention and work, he can bring his grades up

and can pass to the next grade next year. He has not dropped out of school, and he continues to work hard in school and to attend sessions at Project Cariño.

Big Buddy/Little Buddy Program

In addition to our individual sessions, our service learning programs are also off to a great start! Our student intern this year from NM Highlands University, Sarah McNeil, is busy interviewing, training and matching high school students with elementary students and supporting the Big Buddy/Little Buddy mentoring relationships that will blossom through the year. We are happy as well that several of these mentoring relationships are continuing from last year, and even the year before that! The commitment our Bigs have for their Littles and their relationships is inspiring for the rest of us here at Project Cariño! We have a great bunch of students enrolled in the program this year, with 16 pairs and 32 individuals working toward providing and receiving positive mentorship benefitting both Bigs and Littles.

Restorative Justice Program

This year, Michelle is working with MCS administration and staff to incorporate a Restorative Justice Program at the school, sponsored and supported by Project Cariño. Restorative Justice is a spin-off of the Peer Mediator Program, and it offers so much more including building community and responding to student misbehavior and bullying in ways that repair harm and restore relationships between those involved. Once the program is underway students develop a strong sense of security at school, therefore learning becomes the major focus and the educational process becomes more efficient and effective. This is how the Restorative Justice Program works: when an offense has been committed, students who are impacted (perpetrator, victim and bystanders) define the impact of the offense with staff support and then decide what steps must be taken in order to make things as right as possible for everyone. Michelle will provide updates later in the school year as the Restorative Justice Program has been defined and enacted.

Amanda Trujillo Gonzales

Volunteers in Mission needs



Ohio volunteers enjoy a unique devotional spot.

Our McCurdy volunteers who come from all over the country are the mainstay of McCurdy’s mission in Española. Last fiscal year our 25 VIM teams donated prayers, support and labor valued at over \$158,000!

Volunteers are needed for indoor and outdoor work, for tutoring and volunteering in the classroom, for landscaping and maintenance work, for helping out with Camp Stars and After School

Care and for doing administrative tasks also. There are volunteer tasks for every skill and interest. Many volunteers who have served faithfully for a long time think we don’t have a need for volunteers since the mission school closed. This is NOT

true. The mission continues, and as we move to become a Community Center serving Española Valley children and families through our adult, youth and children’s ministries we still need YOU to come and serve as the hands and feet of Christ on our campus.

Bill Mueller, a Volunteer in Missions team leader from Mentor United Methodist Church in Ohio describes his team’s time at McCurdy saying, “*This mission trip exceeded all my expectations! We worked hard, played hard, prayed hard, people prayed hard for us, we praised God with ease, we showed love to the community, and the community showed love to us. A highlight of each day was evening devotions. We often found a place with a spectacular view of nature for this spiritual time. Every devotional time was different and we often spend more time on them than planned but nobody minded. After all, we were there to serve the Lord.*” From Bill’s sharing you can see there is always plenty to do on our 44 acre campus and there is always opportunity to enjoy some of the most beautiful scenery in North America!

We invite you to consider being the hands of Christ at McCurdy for a week or longer term. For more information download the VIM Team Leader Packet or the Individual VIM Handbook & Application at www.mccurdy.org. You can also contact Vickie Luviano: vickie@mccurdy.org (505)753-7221 or (505)927-3683 for more information. *Vickie Luviano, volunteer manager*



McCurdy’s Box Tops and Campbell’s Labels news

Through your support of the McCurdy Ministries and McCurdy Charter School Box Tops for Education and Campbell’s Labels programs since July 31, McCurdy Ministries volunteers have clipped, counted and packaged a total of **107,645 Campbell’s UPCs**. We currently have 396,019 points in our account, thanks to every one of you who faithfully send in those UPCs, V-8 caps and bonus certificates! Since July 31, McCurdy Ministries volunteers have also clipped, counted and packaged **58,745 Box Tops for Education** for McCurdy Charter School. Proceeds from Campbell’s Labels support McCurdy Ministries programming and Box Tops proceeds support MCS class field trips, annuals, parties and supplies which students and their families cannot afford.

Most Box Tops and Campbell’s Labels we receive do not come from our local community they come from our generous supporters from around the United States. As of November McCurdy Charter School ranks **#5 in the country** out of 94,804 participating schools and **#1 in New Mexico**. Since the charter school opened you have helped them earn **\$51,355.00!** By supporting McCurdy Ministries and McCurdy Charter School you make good things happen and we **THANK YOU!** May God richly bless all your efforts on our behalf! *Vickie Luviano, volunteer manager*

Please mail your Box Tops or Campbell’s Labels to McCurdy Ministries at 362A S. McCurdy Road, Española, NM 87532.

McCurdy Charter School news



With our fourth year is in full swing, our school reflects on the many ways it has demonstrated its commitment to being a quality educational institution for Española. Here are a few of our accomplishments.

On June 25, 2015, MCS received accreditation by the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement, the Northwest Accreditation Commission, and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement.

MCS is the largest of all Kindergarten to 12th grade charter schools in New Mexico and 4th largest of all 99 New Mexico charter schools.

Enrollment continues to be at 90% capacity since opening in August of 2012.

92% of the student body returns each year.

The retention rate for staff is 89% with all but one instructional position (3%) filled by appropriately licensed individuals.

The graduation rate for 2014 was 82% which is higher than the New Mexico average of 68%.

75% of grade level cohorts are increasing in the number of students at or above proficiency in reading.

67% of grade level cohorts are increasing in the number of students at or above proficiency in math.

MCS had attendance rates of 92%, 93% and 95% for the first three years of operation.

There are 90 additional hours of instruction time beyond the New Mexico requirement.

The curriculum utilizes Core Knowledge and Paideia which are aligned to New Mexico Common Core State Standards.

The graduation requirement of 26 credit hours is above the State required 24 credits.

Elective offerings at the high school emphasize science skills and career development.

Of reported results, 88% of 2015 graduates are enrolled in colleges or community colleges.

Students participate in service learning projects involving St. Elizabeth Shelter, Animal Shelter, Soup Kitchen, Heifer International, Health in Harmony, Ronald McDonald House, and Hunger Action.

MCS has high participation in LANL Education

Programs/Competitions: Electric Car Challenge, RoboRAVE, Science Bowl and Future City—Best Irrigation Infrastructure Award.

Parents and families fulfill volunteer hours at school or community agencies/events.

79% of parents/families attended the Open House and/or Parent Conferences in 2014–2015.

The school has developed partnerships with approximately 40 community agencies and individuals who provide various types of educational support.

Janette Archuleta, McCurdy Charter School Director

During this season of gratitude we thank our donors for making this JOY possible!



McCurdy Preschool news

Things at the McCurdy Ministries Pre-K and Preschool programs are moving along smoothly. The children have all adjusted to each other and to their new environment. Unfortunately this time of the year brings many illnesses causing the children to miss out on school. This is something that is a great drama for not only the sick child, but for their family at home, and their classmates at school. When someone is out of school, the children always want to know, “Why? If the answer is because they are sick, or not well, they immediately want to make them a card to “Help them feel better.”

Having a sick child is not easy for mom and dad at home either, because every time a child returns back to school, parents always tell us that their child missed coming to school and in some cases even gets upset with parents for keeping them home. One mother told me that her son said “I just have to get to school today, because I am the bell ringer, and without me, the kids are not going to know when it is time to change centers, or go to lunch.! I am an important part of my class.”

The children at home worry about their friends at school while the children at school worry about their friends at home. Another family whose son was sick was scheduled to bring snack on a day that he was ill. Well... THAT child made sure that his parents came in to bring the snack for his friends, because he was worried that they wouldn't get one. This is **LOVE, CARING and COMPASSION** at its finest! *Sandra Archuleta, preschool director*



Left: Preschoolers prepare for their family style lunch. Below left: A preschooler plays hopscotch on the preschool playground. Below right: A preschool boy gets help with tying his shoe from his teacher. Bottom left: A preschool girl enjoys running on the preschool playground.



Important announcement:

McCurdy Ministries' address has changed

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