



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 2, Number 2

Sharing God's love through education and mission

November 2013

Giving Tuesday is a chance to double your giving

On December 3, 2013, McCurdy supporters have an opportunity to double their giving to our ministry! The United Methodist Advance and the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church is sponsoring **Giving Tuesday**. Giving Tuesday was started by the non-profit world in 2012 in response to our culture's emphasis on Black Friday and Cyber Monday. The idea is to support your favorite non-profit through the Advance on Dec. 3 with a gift, just as you would buy your family or friend a gift. Even better you could honor your loved one with a gift to McCurdy's Advance. Here is the best news of all: **on Giving Tuesday any donation made to McCurdy through the Advance will be matched 100% up to \$50,000 by GBGM**. Through Giving Tuesday you can make a difference for McCurdy and all your favorite United Methodist mission projects. If you give \$10 it will become a \$20 gift, if you give \$100 it will become a \$200 gift, if you give \$1,000 it will become a \$2,000 gift.

To qualify your gift must be made during the 24 hours of Dec. 3 and you must give your gift online through the United Methodist Advance. You can find the Advance website at www.umcmmission.org/give and you can find McCurdy's page on the Advance at www.umcmmission.org/Give-to-Mission/Search-for-Projects/Projects/581479. To benefit McCurdy please use our **Advance #581479**. On the Advance website you can always donate by using Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Discover. There is also a box to check if this gift is given in memory or in honor of a loved one.

McCurdy has made arrangements to receive the names and

addresses of those making donations to McCurdy through the Advance on Giving Tuesday by Dec. 9. In return we will mail all our Giving Tuesday donors a hand addressed Christmas card drawn by a McCurdy student by Dec. 10. If you make a gift in honor of a loved one we will mail you an additional card for you to send to the person honored by your donation.

Rev. Diana Loomis, McCurdy's director of development/church relations says, "I am very excited about **Giving Tuesday** and the difference it will make for many of our United Methodist National Mission Institutions around the world. In my 34 years as a United Methodist minister I have experienced great joy in giving out of gratitude for all God has given me. My personal plan on Dec. 3, is to give my tithe to McCurdy in celebration of the love, hope, joy and peace that McCurdy shares with students and families in our community. I invite you to join me in celebrating Giving Tuesday by a gift to McCurdy's Advance #581479. My personal goal is for McCurdy to receive \$50,000 of donations from our loyal supporters so our gifts will be doubled and become a \$100,000 donation in the new year."

Gifts given will go to McCurdy's general fund and will help keep important current ministries like McCurdy Preschool, Project Cariño, After School Care, Breakfast and Lunch Program, Camp Stars and Volunteers in Mission strong. For more information on Giving Tuesday or making any type of donation to McCurdy please 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.



UMC #GIVINGTUESDAY

**DOUBLE YOUR
IMPACT!
TUESDAY
DEC 3RD**

YOUR GIFT TO
MISSION THAT IS MADE
ONLINE THROUGH
THE ADVANCE ON
UMC #GIVINGTUESDAY
WILL BE MATCHED
**DOLLAR
FOR
DOLLAR!***



umcmmission.org/give
* Up to \$500,000. Some restrictions apply.



Make plans to attend **Gala 17!**

¡Adelante! Moving Forward with Vision

6 to 10 PM, Saturday, Feb. 8, 2014, in Memorial Gym

Plan to attend and support Gala 17 on Feb. 8. McCurdy Ministries and McCurdy Charter School will be looking to the future and moving forward with a new building and new programs. A catered meal, silent and live auction of over 350 items, entertainment and fellowship will be enjoyed by those in attendance. You can be a Gala Supporter, Alumni Supporter, Advertiser or Sponsor. You can also donate an auction item or purchase a ticket to attend. By supporting the Gala, you help McCurdy Ministries and McCurdy Charter School. The profits are divided with 15% going to McCurdy Ministries Foundation, 42.5% going to Project Cariño (mental health counseling program for MCS students) and 42.5% going to McCurdy Charter School Athletic Program. Volunteers are also welcome to help with the setup and tear down between Feb. 6-9. For information, write McCurdy Ministries Gala, 261 S. McCurdy Road, Española, NM 87532, contact Eufemia Romero at 505-753-7221, ext. 210, or email gala@mccurdy.org. Information is also on the web at www.mccurdy.org under Gala 17.

A word from our executive director, Patricia Alvarado



Patricia Alvarado
Executive Director

As the season of Thanksgiving and Christmas nears, I am filled with childhood aromas coming from my mother's kitchen, the smell of love, the sounds of laughter and anticipation, the wonder of the season about to unfold. I remember making construction paper chains to decorate the Christmas tree my Daddy and my brothers had gone to the mountains to cut down. Life was simple and even though we had a three room home at the time, the memories of feeling loved and secure are etched in my heart and mind. Preparing for the school Christmas play was always exciting and participating in our church choir with all the grown up girls was cherished. There was never a doubt that there was a loving God and his son who was remembered when we sat down to eat our meals and when we lay down to sleep at night.

I reminisce to share the basis for my message in this newsletter. Our children today face a harsher reality. Even in homes where love abounds and resources are not lacking, they are surrounded by media projecting humanity's darkest side. They face a world of cynicism and self-gratification. For children who live in homes already wrought with economic hardships, substance abuse or a number of

other challenges; they are growing up with a spirit that may be deplete of anticipation, wonder or hope.

I invite and encourage you to do as Christ has said, "Let the little children come to me." We are told to lay down our lives for our fellow man and to love one another as Christ has loved us. We are called to join our resources, our faith, and our passion for doing our Father's work to make it possible for the children to come to him. When a community comes together and pledges to make it a priority to love and nurture its children, to respect and care for its elderly, and to encourage each other by acknowledging the fact that our God made each and every one of us in his image, yet unique by bestowing upon us his gifts; then and only then can we overcome and turn around a society that has become self-serving.

I ask you to keep McCurdy Ministries in your prayers and support as we trust our future to God. We are stepping out in bold faith and hope knowing that God is calling us to defy economic challenges, to overcome cynicism, and to fill the void of hopelessness and desperation with love and joy. The simple everyday experiences of faith we provide for the children of our community overcome despair and point to our Father's unconditional love and shown to us through the most precious gift, his son. May our Father continue to sustain you and bless you through this season of love and joy. *Patricia A. Alvarado*

McCurdy Ministries is visioning for the future

The McCurdy Ministries staff and board not only work on the day to day McCurdy business, they are constantly asking the question, "What is God calling us to do in the valley?" In the past this question resulted in the development of McCurdy Charter School (MCS) and McCurdy Ministries, in the planning of a new building for MCS, the revamping of the After School Care, the expansion of Project Cariño and the launch of Camp Stars. Currently, the McCurdy staff with the approval of the McCurdy board is developing two new program emphases for the fall of the 2014–15 school year.

First, we plan to launch Wednesday Comunidad which will be a mid-week ministry for children, youth and adults. Wednesday Comunidad (which is Spanish for community) is our attempt to impact the issues that students and their families struggle with because all too often these issues keep students from succeeding in school. The Comunidad will begin at 5:30 PM on Wednesdays and run 10 weeks from early September through November and February to May. The activities will start with a dinner for all ages followed by an inspirational time. The dinner will be provided free of charge to families whose children qualify for free or reduced lunch. After the inspirational time the infants and toddlers will go to a professionally staffed nursery, children and youth will participate in fun faith based programming and adults will have the opportunity to participate in several adult learning opportunities including a Parents of Young Children Support Group led by our Project Cariño staff, a Financial Planning Class, an Introduction to Rio Grande Weaving and Art Journaling class. The Española Fiber Arts Center will be staffing the weaving class, McCurdy's looms located in the old chapel will be used and we will be continuing a long tradition of teaching weaving at McCurdy. In fact, a number of students in the past have paid their way through college by selling their weaving. Prosperity Works, an Albuquerque non-profit, will be

reinforcing the Financial Planning classes with Individual Development Accounts (IDA) for participants who want to save to buy a new house, go to school, start a business or expand their business. Every dollar saved for these purposes is matched through a Federal program. High school students will also be able to participate in the Financial Planning and Weaving classes. The hope is Comunidad will help us develop relationships with adults that will lead to McCurdy providing GED, ESL and literacy classes to help those adults improve their lives and strengthen their families.

Our second area of planning is our Early Childhood Program. When the new charter school building is completed McCurdy Ministries will take over the current elementary building and move McCurdy Preschool, After School Care and Camp Stars programs to that building. Our hope is to expand the preschool to morning and afternoon three year old classes and all day four year old classes. Locating the preschool in this new building will mean the size of our classes can increase because the quality of the classrooms will improve. In addition, we are pursuing federal and state grants to open a free preschool and we are working with other early childhood programs in the area to expand the support we can provide for families of young children. The motivation behind these program expansions is the knowledge early childhood education is the number one indicator whether a child will graduate from high school.

McCurdy Ministries mission is "to surround the students, families of McCurdy Charter School and the larger community with Christian ministry to help students, families and the community succeed in school and in life." We believe these visions for ministry will help us succeed in our mission. We ask you to keep these efforts and all of our ministries in your prayer as we seek to make God's difference in the Española Valley.

Have you remembered McCurdy in your will?

Keep reading for a number of 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 over 25% of the population lives below the poverty line. McCurdy Ministries needs your support to continue our ministries. We make God's difference through McCurdy Preschool, Project Cariño, After School Care, 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 and Project Cariño. 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. 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 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.

Project Cariño news & updates



*Amanda Gonzales
Project Cariño director*

To date Project Cariño has received 30 referrals from McCurdy Charter School and I am working with 25 students and their families in an effort to support families in growing their children's emotional and social development. The focus of therapy has been dealing with domestic violence, anxiety disorders, grief and loss, social and emotional development, transitions, substance abuse, incarcerated parents, divorce, emotional trauma, and behavioral issues including impulsive behavior and bullying (both victim and perpetrator are provided service in separate sessions). McCurdy Charter School, parents, and teachers have also called on Project Cariño for assistance with student assessment, school safety plans, and student awareness programs including substance abuse, dating violence, bullying and cancer.

Last year I completed 10 months of intensive training with the Child Trauma Institute in San Francisco. This training will prove beneficial for the children on my caseload who have witnessed domestic violence resulting in the death of a parent, child abuse resulting in the death of an infant family member, substance abuse resulting in the death of a family member where the elementary student was the person who discovered the deceased family member. Without this specialized intervention, these small children are at great risk for developing serious emotional disturbances. My training helps me support these young clients to emotional healing. While these experiences will never go away, students are helped to establish skills to live in healthier and more successful ways. Their parents and caregivers are a big part of the intervention. They are informed of the ways that trauma impacts these little lives, and they are supported toward becoming healthy "emotional shields" for their children.

In addition to therapeutic services, I supervise the work of Stacie Waters, Student Intern from NM Highlands University, as she coordinates the Big Buddy Program. Project Cariño will be hiring an additional therapist this month who will also carry a full caseload of students referred for therapeutic assistance, and will coordinate our Peer Mediator Program.

Amanda Gonzales

Thanks to the individuals and churches who donated \$16,846 toward the \$26,931 roof replacement expense. The roof is up and working well!

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

The last few months have been busy! I spend most afternoons assisting with the After School Care (ASC). We have two wonderful staff persons running the program—Abel and Erica Espinoza. Erica is an artist, so she and I have been introducing the children to crochet, watercolor and paper weaving. We hope to introduce pastels and paper clay soon. The students enjoy paper weaving so much that they began making placemats for the local soup kitchen. They've made about 20 so far, and the stack keeps growing.

Several of our VIM groups have been very active with ASC. A group from First UMC of Birmingham, Michigan and Desert Spring UMC in Las Vegas, Nevada, came to us with a different craft project prepared for each day. They also bought several board games and a Bingo cage for the students. The big hit, however, was the Rainbow Looms. You may be familiar with the colorful bracelets many kids are making out of small rubber bands. Now the trend has now come to Española. The kids can't get enough of the looms, and have made many bracelets to give away to their friends at school. When I met with the guidance counselor at the high school, she saw one I was wearing and asked about it. I told her about the looms, and she said, "So that's where those are coming from!" The next VIM group to arrive at McCurdy—from New World UMC in Arlington, Texas—saw how popular the looms are. When they returned home, they shipped two more looms as well as more rubber bands than we could dream of counting. The students are so grateful that when they are not using the looms, doing homework or other crafts, they make

McCurdy Ministries will have a booth at the **UMW Assembly**

in Louisville, KY, April 25–27, 2014

Staffed by McCurdy Executive Director Patricia Alvarado,
Director of Development/Church Relations Rev. Diana Loomis,
Program Director Deaconess Stephanie Suggs
and McCurdy Board President Marilyn Peabody.

While at the Assembly we invite you to come visit us, learn more about McCurdy and take home a gift made by our students.

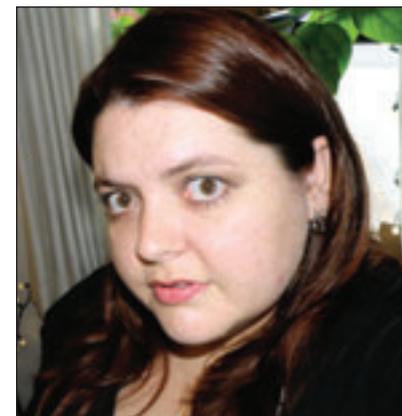
Save the date for the semi-annual McCurdy Alumni, Staff & Volunteers Reunion July 19 & 20, 2014

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

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 next 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.



thank you cards for our generous VIM groups.

In addition to working with ASC, I have been planning the Nov. 16 Thanks Fest with Carol Mead, a UMW member from Los Alamos First UMC. I met with the MCS high school seniors and their parents to discuss how I can assist students with college application and scholarship essays. In addition, we launched a middle school creative writing group on Nov. 6. We also continue making plans for Wednesday Comunidad, which we intend to launch the Fall of 2014. In anticipation of that launch, I am prepping a 10-week art journaling class and a 10-week papermaking class for the following semester. *Stephanie Suggs*

You can support Stephanie's work as program director through the McCurdy Ministries General Fund Advance Number which is 581479. Please designate your donations to Suggs Salary Support. You can find the Advance link at www.umcmision.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



The first quarter of this school year flew by for McCurdy Charter School (MCS)! Our students and staff were busy with exciting activities such as Fall Fest, homecoming, service learning projects, Spelling Bees and field trips. All this along with the typical schedule of core subjects (math, science, language arts, social studies), bolstered through our Paideia methodology and Core Knowledge curriculum, and enriched through Spanish, art, health and physical education classes. This makes for school days filled with challenges and rewards.

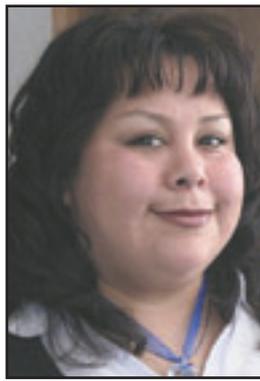
Our school has experienced rapid growth and development since we opened in August of 2012. The staff, families, parent groups and Governance Board have worked hard to ensure MCS provides a quality education to the incredible youth of our valley. We are striving to improve our school, our classroom instruction, our opportunities for students and our processes that support learning.

MCS has set goals within its charter that will support this improvement. The goals for McCurdy Charter School are:

- 1: MCS will use the AdvanceEd rubric for the five standards (purpose and direction, governance and leadership, teaching and assessing for learning, resources and support systems, using results for continuous improvement) to progress towards a highly functional rating in each standard.
- 2: To improve a student's family involvement, the average attendance by parents and families will increase by 10% per year at MCS sponsored activities, as documented by attendance records and photographs.
- 3: To improve community engagement, MCS will recruit three organizations that support community, per semester, to conduct presentations, classes, workshops or fairs for students, families and the community.
- 4: Students will improve math performance as measured and defined by the MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) assessment.
- 5: Students will improve reading performance as measured and defined by the MAP assessment.
- 6: Students will demonstrate growth in written English proficiency as evaluated by the Six Traits Writing rubric.
- 7: Each academic year, each student will complete 20 hours of service learning, culminating in an activity or event that reflects what was learned and accomplished.

We are very committed to the academic achievement and pre-collegiate aspects of MCS. Please expect more information on our progress through this newsletter and our soon-to-be redesigned website. Our website address is <http://www.mccurdycharterschool.org>.

Janette Archuleta, McCurdy Charter School director



*Stacie Waters
Project Cariño Intern*

Big Buddy/Little Buddy program re-launched

In scripture the question, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" is asked referring to Jesus. This same question is posed about Española yet, McCurdy has produced excellent faculty, teachers and students for 101 years. For me, living in Española has been a challenge. I lost both my parents to alcohol by the time I reached 21. I was left to raise my 4-year-old brother who was diagnosed with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. Through the power of Christ's love my life was transformed. He was the strength I needed to continue, and the hope I needed to breathe again. I give back to the community because, not only do I believe in this small town, but I believe this town needs the same hope I received.

Currently, I am blessed to join Project Cariño as a Master level student intern. I coordinate the Big Buddy/Little Buddy Mentorship program. I am pursuing my dream to give back and make a difference in Española. I have matched 21 high school students with 21 elementary students, am mentoring a group of 8th grade students to be future Bigs, and have a small committee of 9th graders to help with the scheduling of meetings, parties and the end of the year fieldtrip. It is a joy interacting with students and helping them to find purpose through serving. So can anything good come out of Española? The answer is yes! Thank you for all your support, kindness and generosity. *Stacie Waters, MSW student intern*



Preschoolers and parents enjoy a rest after they participated in the McCurdy Preschool Juvenile Diabetes Walk.

Notes from McCurdy Preschool

The preschool class has participated in two community service awareness projects this fall. The first was wearing pink T-shirts every Wednesday throughout the month of October to show our support for Breast Cancer research and awareness. The second was our second annual "mini-walk" to cure type one diabetes at the Football field on Oct. 30. Our goal was to raise \$100 and we raised \$111! The children all felt very proud to help out with these projects and to help make people healthier. *Sandra Archuleta, McCurdy Preschool director*

After School Care fun and games in the sun!



McCurdy Ministries' After School Care Program is a safe setting for preschoolers to 12th graders from 3 to 5:30 PM every school day. The program is at capacity in our current setting with 30 students. Each day After School Care participants have the opportunity to enjoy free play on the play ground equipment and the basketball court, craft projects, Tae Kwon Do classes and a bank of computers for homework, educational games and fun. We look forward to moving this program into the elementary school so that we can provide educational opportunities, fun and support to even more McCurdy Ministries and Charter School students.

