



The McCurdy Ministries Message

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

Vol. 5, # 4

Helping students and families in the Española Valley succeed in school and in life

Sept. 2016

Plans moving forward for McCurdy Ministries Community Center

From our beginning McCurdy has not only been a school, but a force for good in the broader Española Valley community. Our missionaries and staff consistently provided an excellent education for students, while starting the first medical clinic, the first collegiate nursing program, the first hospital (which is now Presbyterian Hospital), the first GED program, the first fire department and the first community recreation program in the Española Valley. By securing financing, donating property and thousands of hours of staff expertise McCurdy Ministries has been an integral part of McCurdy Charter School establishing its own 11 acre campus west of the irrigation ditch on our campus.

Now we are planning McCurdy Ministries' future. The last two years the McCurdy Ministries board and staff have been asking the question, "What is God calling McCurdy Ministries to do in this time and place?" In answer to that question we have committed to repurpose our buildings, expand our ministries and cooperate with other nonprofits, agencies, service providers and the two local United Methodist Churches to expand the impact we have on our community. Patricia Alvarado, McCurdy Ministries executive director, who first worked as a teacher, principal and superintendent at the mission school, says, "As finances declined over our last years, we focused all our resources on educating our students. There weren't enough funds for GED, healthcare, recreation and other programs. Now we can focus on what keeps students and families from succeeding. By becoming a

community center we can help the whole family."

Ms. Alvarado and Rev. Diana Loomis, director of development/church relations, have been networking with the Santa Fe Community Foundation, United Way of Northern New Mexico, the LANL Foundation, the Rio Arriba County Health Council and Economic Development Office, the North Central New Mexico Economic Development District, the Texas Methodist Foundation, the New Mexico Annual Conference, government offices, nonprofits, service providers and community leaders to find ways to cooperate to make the community center vital.

The architectural firm McCurdy Ministries hired to design the new charter school building, FBT Architects, has agreed to develop a new master plan for McCurdy Ministries 29 acre campus pro bono. We are very grateful for their generosity! Their principal architect, Sanjay Engineer says, FBT Architects is excited to collaborate "with McCurdy Ministries on their development goal of becoming a community center." FBT will have the master plan completed in October.

Rev. Loomis says, "As we have developed our Community Center plans we are not focusing on hand outs or even hand ups for those in need. We are focusing on providing hope for those in need in our community by empowering them to change their own lives using the resources we provide. We are also working on an exciting partnership with Valley View and Santa Cruz United Methodist Churches to collaborate in sharing our faith in Jesus Christ in this community."

The Community Center plans involve turning the high school into Cole Adult Ministries Center which will host GED, ESL, literacy, computer literacy, citizenship, education classes for adults and quality childcare all in the same building. McCracken Gym will become McCracken Teen Center and discussions with the YMCA Teen Center to open a program in the building have begun. We also hope to once again make the gym a center for community arts and drama. Bachman Hall will become a Nonprofit Hub that will house local nonprofits, service providers and agencies that are consistent with our purpose to help students and their families succeed in school and in life. The elementary school will become Hovermale Children's Ministries Center and our preschool, after school care and Camp Stars ministries will be expanded. Pilling Retreat Center will house our Volunteers in Mission all year round and from October through April we will offer spiritual, Rio Grande weaving, financial planning and a variety of retreat ministries. In addition, initial discussions with First Born, the Española Fiber Arts Center, the YMCA Teen have been held to discuss cooperative programs we might plan together as our community center plans unfold.

McCurdy Ministries is networking to expand our potential. If our donors and alumni have a desire to financially support this project or help us network with nonprofits or agencies that can help us accomplish our goals please be in touch with Rev. Loomis by calling her at 505-753-7221, ext. 352 or by emailing her at dloomis@mccurdy.org.

All McCurdy supporters
are invited to a

Donor
APPRECIATION

DINNER



The McCurdy Ministries Board and Staff invites all our donors and their spouses to be our guests for a **Donor Appreciation Dinner**, at 6 PM, Saturday, Feb. 25, in McCracken Gym. Please be our guests for a fiesta and dinner so we can celebrate our gratitude for your support! We will also update our supporters on our exciting plans to become a Community Center and expand the ways that we "help students and their families in the Española Valley succeed in school and in life." The dinner will be served by our Project Cariño Big Buddies and Peacekeepers and the students will talk about the ways that Project Cariño has impacted their lives. The catered meal will include beverages, salad, vegetables, rice or potato, salmon or steak and dessert. After dinner there will be time to discuss McCurdy Ministries' future plans and answer questions. Throughout the night there will be opportunities to fellowship with our donors, our staff, our volunteers and most importantly our students. Donors who live within two hours of our campus will be sent personal invitations to attend the dinner but we would love for our donors from near and far to come and stay on campus so we can personally thank you for your support! If you would like to make a reservation call Eufemia Romero at 505-753-7221, ext. 210 or email her at eromero@mccurdy.org.

With the retirement of David Milhouse, Martha Milhouse and Helen Finch and a declining number of volunteers as well as financial support for the Gala, the McCurdy Ministries board determined that changes needed to be made to the Gala. The McCurdy Ministries **Donor Appreciation Dinner** was created in response to this need for change. We invite our Gala volunteers to return to McCurdy Ministries the week before the dinner to help prepare for the dinner, learn about McCurdy Ministries future plans for ministry on our campus, fellowship and worship together and help us share our news with our donors. If you would like to volunteer to help the week of the dinner please email Rev. Diana Loomis at dloomis@mccurdy.org.

Notes from the McCurdy Ministries executive director



Patricia Alvarado
Executive Director

“To every thing, there is a Season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven...” I was reminded of this scripture as I thanked God for His perfect timing and His purpose in allowing the McCurdy Charter School Ground Breaking to unfold on Sept. 9. That day I talked to the children who grace us with their presence on the McCurdy Campus. They are our most precious gift and we appreciate the people of our valley and throughout the United States who support and celebrate our children. I also shared even though the groundbreaking was physical evidence of a new beginning; this beginning had not just happened. Once McCurdy Schools of Northern New Mexico closed its doors and became McCurdy Ministries, the board and staff began

working tirelessly for the new McCurdy Charter School building to become a reality. The groundbreaking was a culmination of a six year journey to build a new school building which involved partnering with McCurdy Charter School, Charter School Development Corporation, Clearing House CDFI and New Mexico Finance Authority. The result will be a new, separate school campus for the children who attend MCS and the McCurdy reputation of excellence, academic achievement, service learning, social, and athletic opportunities for the youth in our valley will continue. The best news of all is that MCS will be our neighbor and we will cooperate for the betterment of our children!

A healthy community does not merely happen. It requires many people, working hand in hand to help give our children, youth, and families a safe place to grow, experience, learn and love, in ways that leads to strong, confident, minds and

McCurdy Ministries' volunteers express joy over our future plans all summer long!

Once plans and financing for the McCurdy Charter School (MCS) campus and building were finalized last June, McCurdy Ministries staff began sharing our plans to become a Community Center and expand our ministries to the Española Valley with our volunteers. Alice Maxie team leader from Tarrytown UMC in Austin said, “It is like McCurdy has been circling the airport for four years and now you are finally going to land!” Rev. Amy Tate-Almy, one of the City Pointe UMC team from the Fort Worth area said, “I was very excited to hear about the future plans of McCurdy Ministries. We have seen the need in this beautiful community. As a UMC Deacon and financial counselor, I am especially passionate about fair lending practices and financial education. I see this as one of MANY ways a Community Center could benefit the parents and neighbors of McCurdy. I think a community center could offer a well-rounded variety of ministries and community support from nutrition and community gardens to finance education and micro-lending to spiritual enrichment and counseling!”

In late August, the team from Reynoldsburg UMC in Ohio arrived and team member, Carla Chambers-Lynde said, “We knew we would miss the official Ground Breaking by just a couple of weeks but wanted to still try and be part of it, so we staged a “mock” Ground Breaking. We ordered hard hats and even found ones that said “I Work for God” on them! We each put a scripture on a rock then asked if we could dig a hole in the ground.” The group put the rocks in the hole, prayed for our students and celebrated, all before the land was even sold! Carla said the activity was based on “the scripture about building your foundation on The Rock.” They kept the activity a surprise for their team which included McCurdy Ministries’ board member Tom Hofmann, who along with the entire ministries board worked hundreds of long hours to make the new building a possibility.

Thank you to ALL our WONDERFUL volunteers who have prayed for us and supported us through six long years of transition and hard work. We thank God for you because you have blessed us and our community!



Dale & Carla Chambers-Lynde in their “I work for God” hard hats.

bodies. Then as they grow into adults they are able to contribute to healthy home environments and a healthy extended community. The experiences students share while they are in school help build resiliency, life-skills, and knowledge which help them face the challenges of their daily lives. Therefore, it is imperative the children of this valley have a strong choice for their education. We thank our supporters, near and far, who daily commit themselves to improving the lives of children. We especially thank all of the people that have worked behind the scenes to make the groundbreaking and the new building a reality for MCS.

As the MCS construction is completed and occupancy takes place, McCurdy Ministries will repurpose the east side of campus to a Community Center that will serve MCS but will also expand services to the community at large. For more information on our plans see page one. Conversations with local agencies that provide support services to families have begun and our hope is to build partnerships that will pool our resources and better impact the families of our valley.

I leave you with a quote that speaks to what has happened for the past 104 years in this beautiful valley and will continue as McCurdy Charter School and McCurdy Ministries work together to celebrate children. *“There is faith in their eyes; love in their touch; and hope in their attitude. We thank you for the fact that we thrill with them at life’s joys, bow with them in worship; and hold them in tragedy. We believe in children, the fragile dream of yesterday, life’s radiant reality today, and vibrant substance of tomorrow. We believe in children, for wherever we go, we find yesterday’s children who were nurtured in love, truth and beauty at work trying to make this world a better place for everyone.”* (Anonymous) I continue to pray God’s blessings in your life. *Patricia A. Alvarado*



Volunteers from Reynoldsburg UMC held a ceremonial Ground Breaking for the new building by digging a hole, putting in rocks with Bible verses and praying over the site for the new charter school before the land was sold.

Camp Stars News

This summer marked the fourth summer for Camp Stars, McCurdy Ministries’ summer educational enrichment camp that combines the best of STEM education and Vacation Bible School fun. Camp Stars started June 13, with 31 students in grades kindergarten to 6th. The camp lasted for six weeks from 8 AM to 3:30 PM Monday through Friday. The VBS theme for this year was, “Catch the wave of God’s amazing love.” Activity stations included science/engineering, arts/crafts/drama, social emotional/ recreation/ music and math/technology. In addition, there were opening and closing sessions as well as breakfast and lunch.

The goal of Camp Stars is to improve students STEM skills, teach them about God’s love and give them an opportunity to make a difference for someone else. Their service projects included writing letters to U.S. service persons serving overseas, serving lunch at the San Martin de Pores Soup Kitchen, collecting towels and rugs to donate to local veterinarians for their animal patients and collecting supplies for the animals at the Española Animal Humane Society.

Jesse Gallegos McCurdy graduate who was camp counselor for the second summer said, “One of the service projects was at the Soup Kitchen. We talked to them about how we must be especially respectful when we get there to help serve food. When we got to the Soup Kitchen, the children were real excited to help in any way. They worked much harder than I expected them to and treated the people that were eating there with nothing but the utmost respect. Over 60 people were served that day. The children received so much praise and thanks from the staff at the Soup Kitchen.”

Special thanks to the Montei Foundation for being the major supporter for Camp Stars for the fourth summer in a row!

Please use our new address which is 362A South McCurdy Road, Española, NM 87532 to mail us

Project Cariño news



With a heavy heart I announce the departure of co-worker and friend, Michelle Esquibel and her therapy dog, Compa, from Project Cariño. They have moved to Albuquerque to do work with refugee populations needing their help. They leave behind an unrivaled legacy! We, students and staff, all miss them and wish them well.

I am happy to report Teresa Chavez, LISW, has accepted the position Michelle vacated, and will begin serving the social and emotional needs of MCS students and their families in early October. She grew up in the Española Valley, graduated from Española High School, received her bachelor and master degrees in Social Work from NM Highlands University and has been practicing in the Española Valley for the past 14 years. Teresa served as a School Social Worker for 12 years within the Special Education department at Española High School. Teresa is passionate about working with families in the Española Valley and we are lucky to have her come on board at Project Cariño!!

In addition to Teresa and me, we will be joined this year by Sally VanCuren, a Master of Social Work Intern from NM Highlands University. She will learn about the work of our school-based mental health program and do some counseling and therapeutic services under my supervision. She will also assist Amanda and Teresa with the Big Buddy Program.

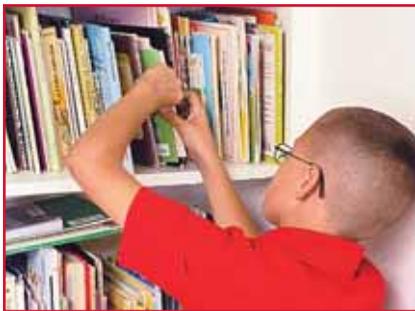
Student referrals to Project Cariño for counseling have already started. Having so many this early in the school year is testament to the work we have done to help students and their families in the past. What is different this year is the number of referrals coming in from students, for themselves and for their peers. Project Cariño is a place where students know they will receive help with emotional and social difficulties. They know they can trust our staff and our work. Thankfully, Project Cariño is becoming known as a place of solace and support.

Amanda Trujillo-Gonzales, Project Cariño Director

McCurdy Preschool news

The McCurdy Ministries NM PreK Program started Sept. 6, with 17 students. Before school started families and students attended a PreK Parent's Night to prepare for the school year. That night packets were given out explaining the different procedures and guidelines for NM PreK. Parent Night allows parents to meet each other and staff, ask questions, and learn more about the role that PreK plays in a child's readiness for kindergarten. In addition, each preschooler was given a backpack for school donated by our generous Volunteer in Mission Team from Grace United Methodist Church in Buena Vista, CO.

To prepare both parents and students for the start of school our preschool staff made home visits to each student's home between August 16 to 24. Families were introduced to the early learning guidelines as set forth by New Mexico PreK which is free and sponsored by the Children, Youth and Family Department. Several parent surveys were conducted, which included a cultural home survey called "Getting to know your Child," completion of items for each child's file and a parent survey which asks what parents expect to have their child experience this year. *Sandra Archuleta, McCurdy Preschool Director*



After School Care student searches for a book to read.

After School Care news

After School Care currently has 23 students from preschool to 6th grade. It is so rewarding and encouraging to hear positive feedback from the parents of the children who attend our program. One kindergartener has had some difficulty with the transition. That child's mother told me her child really enjoys

and looks forward to attending After School Care. She said if it weren't for After School Care her child's day would be a lot harder. She thanked us for being there for her child, and told my staff and I, we are awesome! She also said she likes that we have Bible Study and her child goes home talking about what we did, how we look things up together in the Bible and discuss them. It is God's blessing to be able to make a difference not only in the lives of the children we serve in After School Care Program, but also in bringing families closer together in sharing God's word. *Flor Cordova, After School Care Supervisor*



Ohio volunteers prepare the preschool playground for the start of school.

Volunteers in Mission News

This summer McCurdy Ministries hosted 27 Volunteers in Mission teams, with 307 participants serving as the hands of Christ on our campus. Together, these volunteers, worked **9,210 hours!** Pipes were dug up, fences were mended, storage closets built, weeding, planting, landscaping, painting and cleaning classrooms was done. Thousands of Campbell's UPCs and Box Tops for Education were also prepared.

Next summer more volunteers than ever will be needed as McCurdy Ministries turns our buildings into a Community Center. We will paint, strip and wax floors, make upgrades and structural changes to prepare our buildings for their new uses. The list of work will be long and we will need many volunteers over the summer of 2017 and beyond to help us get started with these tasks. **WE NEED YOU!**

The number of volunteer teams has declined since the mission school closed in May of 2012. Many volunteers mistakenly thought we were becoming a public school. McCurdy Ministries is still a United Methodist National Mission Institution working as the hands of Christ in the Valley and needs VIM Teams to accomplish our ministries. See the article on page one which outlines our plans to become a Community Center. Also, the McCurdy Ministries Individual Volunteer Program needs volunteers all year long on our campus. Volunteers who are interested in maintenance, yard work, program, administrative tasks and helping in charter school classrooms are welcome. Individual volunteers who stay a minimum of two weeks are provided housing at no cost.

For information on bringing a team or becoming an individual volunteer at McCurdy go to our website at www.mccurdy.org and click on VIM tab at the top of the page to locate the VIM Team Handbook or the Individual Volunteer Handbook. To schedule a team to McCurdy contact *Eufemia Romero* at eromero@mccurdy.org to volunteer as an individual contact *Vickie Luviano* at vickie@mccurdy.org. You can call Eufemia or Vickie at 505-753-7221 or call Vickie on her cell at 505-927-3683. *Vickie Luviano, volunteer manager*

Box Tops, Campbell's Labels & Tyson updates



McCurdy Ministries now participates in the **TYSON PROJECT A+** program. On Tyson frozen products, you will find Project A+ labels to cut out and mail to us. With each label submitted we earn 24¢.

Please keep submitting the UPCs and bonus **LABELS FOR EDUCATION FROM CAMPBELL'S LABELS!** In August we submitted 28,000 into our 'bank' at Campbell's. Our total is now 599,901. We appreciate these donations since our goal is to get one more van before Campbell's phases out this program by the end of 2017. It is important that UPCs you send have the Labels for Education wording or logo on the UPC to be valid.

Through the combined efforts of McCurdy Ministries and McCurdy Charter School volunteers we have been able to help raise **\$66,666** to help charter school programs through **BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION** since 2012! As with the Campbell's UPCs, we appreciate when you trim and peel extra cardboard from the Box Tops, **and check the expiration date!** We cannot submit expired Box Tops.

For information contact Vickie Luviano by email at Vickie@mccurdy.org or call her at (505) 753-7221, ext. 268. Please Mail your labels to McCurdy Ministries new address at 362A S. McCurdy Road, Española, NM 87532.



McCurdy Charter School news

The hustle and bustle of a new school year is upon us! We are pleased to have 94% of our students and 94% of our staff returning. As our school matures, it is evident our student and staff have a deepening bond. It is encouraging to witness the respect the students have for the adults on campus and the admiration our staff communicates for our incredible students. At the beginning of my time at the charter school, I was impressed by the common thread throughout the charter to surround our students with support to help them thrive. It is evident that our students feel safe and cared for, which in turn allows them to explore, express themselves, and focus on their learning.

This school year has also brought new and returning United Methodist volunteers to campus. Through our partnership with McCurdy Ministries, we have already had volunteers from Reynoldsburg, Ohio, who tutored first and fourth grade students and assisted their teachers. This help is much appreciated!! In October, Claremore, Oklahoma volunteers will tutor, assist teachers and provide professional development for teachers. The volunteer program is critical to our school as it allows our children to see service in action. The commitment of these United Methodists volunteers from all over the United States is impressive.

This school year, we are looking forward to a new partnership with Otterbein University in Ohio, with the placement of two student teachers for the spring semester. Marlene Deringer, emeritus professor of education at Otterbein, has been instrumental in bringing this opportunity for Otterbein's student teachers to our school. We are hopeful this is the beginning of a fruitful relationship.

The final exciting topic is the charter school ground breaking. The formal ground breaking for our two story 38,000 square foot classroom building occurred on Sept. 9, with students, staff, families, community members, and finance partners in attendance. All were cheering loudly! Our school is immensely thankful for McCurdy Ministries support and donations. In October, our school is submitting its application for five year renewal of its charter, with the requirement that we will be housed in state approved buildings. The application to operate for the next five years would have been severely challenged had the location and funding for the new school not been secured. For this, our school is tremendously appreciative of our partnership with McCurdy Ministries. On countless occasions, they have demonstrated their steadfastness to the education of the children of our beautiful valley and their promise to McCurdy Charter School. Mil gracias. *Janette Archuleta, director of McCurdy Charter School*

Photos from the McCurdy Charter School Ground Breaking Celebration. Below: Fifth graders share signs they made saying, "Thank you McCurdy Ministries!" and "From the ground up, honoring the past and building the FUTURE!" Above: MCS ROTC cadets bear the colors while a senior and kindergartner share in pledging allegiance to the United States flag and the salute to the New Mexico flag. Top: The secondary and primary principals join with a kindergartner to break ground for the new building with the McCurdy Ministries executive director and board president looking on.



McCurdy
is about

the children
of the
Española
Valley



From the moment a few Velarde children asked United Brethren Deaconess and McCurdy founder, Mellie Perkins, if she would be their teacher, McCurdy has been about the children of the Española Valley. Over McCurdy's 104 year history whenever change was necessary to insure the well being of the children, we changed to meet those needs including helping to open McCurdy Charter School (MCS) in August of 2012. The Ground Breaking celebrated the new MCS 11 acre campus west of the McCurdy Ministries property and the new two story 38,000 square foot classroom building being built on that property. This venture was made possible, with the approval of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church, in part because McCurdy Ministries sold 11 acres of property and buildings to the project and then donated the proceeds of the sale plus an additional \$250,000 for a total of \$1,100,000 back to the charter school build project. In addition, McCurdy Ministries spent \$300,000 of rent monies to pay costs associated with the project that were not reimbursed. The McCurdy Ministries Board led by president and McCurdy alum, Marilyn Peabody, spent thousands of hours in meetings making decisions and working on the MCS Build project. The McCurdy Ministries staff led by executive director, Patricia Alvarado, worked thousands of hours helping to make the dream of a new school, a new building and a new campus a reality including helping to secure New Market Tax Credit financing for the project which will save MCS \$2,700,000 over the next seven years. ***The good news is BOTH McCurdy Charter School AND McCurdy Ministries are working for the good of the children of the Española Valley!***

