



# 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 2014

## McCurdy Ministries tries creative new approach to preschool



Preschoolers have fun with Play Doh.

Last spring McCurdy Ministries made a decision to try a new approach to our preschool program. We applied to the New Mexico Children, Youth and Families Department to open a free morning Pre-K Program for up to 20 four year olds the fall of 2014 and received a three year \$60,000 per year grant to fund the program for three years and \$15,000 in startup funds. In addition, we planned a low cost faith based afternoon preschool which is

subsidized with scholarship funds to provide opportunities for children to experience a Christian preschool regardless of their family's financial status. Sandra Archuleta, McCurdy Ministries preschool director, is in charge of both programs.

With the consistent nurturing and attention our three preschool staff members give the 18 children participating in the morning Pre-K Program, they are flourishing. Each child has undergone developmental screening as well as health screenings and all of the families have had a home visit from at least two staff members which helps to build trust and better insight in serving the child and collaborating with the family. During the home visits, many parents expressed

their appreciation for the manner in which their child is being nurtured and guided in their learning. They said their child comes home happy and sharing the songs and the stories they have learned at school as well as talking about their friends and what fun they had.

We appreciate the people who work tirelessly behind the scenes at the state and local level and our own staff who believe in the importance of partnering with parents to give children the opportunity to develop, grow, and prepare for kindergarten. This preparation gives these students an advantage as they go through their elementary schooling. Research shows participation in early childhood education is the number one indicator whether a child will graduate from high school.

Eight children are participating in the afternoon faith based program, which continues the traditional learning of preschool and offers Bible study, Bible related arts and crafts as well as an afternoon snack. The children are encouraged to pray before each snack and often remember the prayer, sharing it with their family and friends. Recently we have had several parents of morning Pre-K students share that their child would like to participate in the afternoon program because these children have a snack and "get to pray to thank Jesus for the meal they share with their friends." The combination of these two programs is helping McCurdy to reach more preschoolers and their families and in turn make a profound difference in the lives of our youngest students. McCurdy's morning and afternoon pre-school programs are critical in a community where there are preschool placements for 39% of the four year old preschool population.

## Multiply the impact of your gift on Giving Tuesday

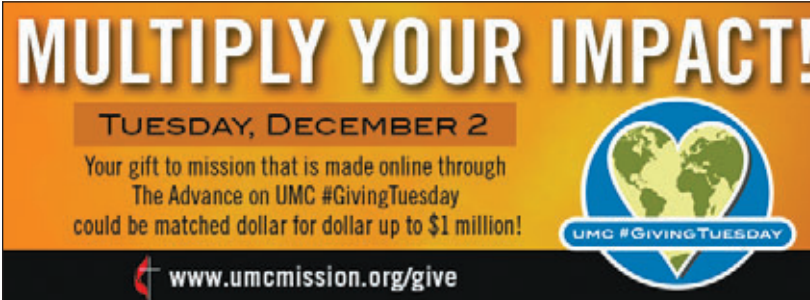
McCurdy Ministries is once again celebrating **Giving Tuesday** on Dec. 2, 2014. **Giving Tuesday** was started three years ago as a charitable response to the spending sprees of Black Friday, Small Business Saturday and Cyber Monday. **Giving Tuesday** is a day for Americans to look beyond the commercial to the holy by making a donation to a favorite charity. Last year Global Ministries launched its first **Giving Tuesday Campaign** and received over \$6,500,000 from 16,300 donors to support our agencies doing mission all around the world. On Dec. 3, 2013, McCurdy received \$31,524 through the Advance and we hope to double that amount on Dec. 2, 2014. We know we can achieve this goal because McCurdy has the most generous donors! To make a donation go to the McCurdy website on the Global Ministries Advance website at <http://www.umcmission.org/Give-to-Mission/Search-for-Projects/Projects/581479> or go to [www.umcmission.org/give](http://www.umcmission.org/give) and search for McCurdy Ministries or Advance Number 581479. The important news for our donors to note is that **donations to McCurdy from \$1 to \$2,500 made online in the first minutes of Dec. 2 or Dec. 1 depending on your time zone may be matched by Global Ministries dollar for dollar up to \$25,000 per mission agency.** (In 2013 the GBGM match ran out by 12:03 AM EST so we want to make it clear **WHEN** donors can first make their donation and encourage you to make your donation as early as possible to help insure McCurdy receives matching dollars from Global Ministries. Those living in the Eastern Time Zone can donate starting at midnight Dec. 2. Those living in the Central Time Zone can donate starting

at 11 PM, Dec. 1. Those living in the Mountain Time Zone can donate starting at 10 PM, Dec. 1 and those living in the Pacific Time Zone can donate starting at 9 PM, Dec. 1. 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](mailto:dloomis@mccurdy.org).

And of course 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, volunteers hours and prayer. Recently, a younger student experienced several deaths in a short period of time. The student was shell shocked by these events but our Project Cariño counselors and our therapy dog, Compa, were there for that student. Compa, sat and loved on the student until the student was able to talk and then our counselor listened, helped the student talk about these experiences and feelings and helped the student begin to put the world back together again. That student knows the our counselors are available right on campus when needed.

Each and every school day Project Cariño acts as a safety net on our campus for students who have gone through trauma. The work of Project Cariño is just one of the ways that McCurdy Ministries acts as the hands of Christ in Española. For more information on all the

ways McCurdy makes God's difference please turn to the inside pages of this McCurdy Message for McCurdy's first Annual Report which summarizes every aspect of our ministries.



**MULTIPLY YOUR IMPACT!**  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2  
Your gift to mission that is made online through  
The Advance on UMC #GivingTuesday  
could be matched dollar for dollar up to \$1 million!  
www.umcmission.org/give

## Notes from the McCurdy Ministries executive director



Patricia Alvarado  
Executive Director

During this season of giving thanks, it appears that truly “giving thanks” is all but forgotten as preparations for Christmas are already underway. For some, making plans for travel or for hosting guests begins to overshadow the season of Thanksgiving and the great opportunity we have in reflecting over this past year’s journey. I can’t even begin to imagine the hardships the people who celebrated the first Thanksgiving must have endured. Yet, they made the time to join with the people that helped them survive those hardships. They sat down and shared the harvest and the bounty that was made possible only because of God’s blessings, the willingness of some to extend a helping hand and the willingness of others to accept that help.

Our gracious Father has given us much in the way of possibilities, opportunities, and bounty. He has given us each other to share in the gifts, the talents, the kindness and compassion, and the ability to trust in him when all seems futile. He knows, “the plans he has for us, to prosper us, not to harm us.” We tend to get caught up in the business at hand, whether that is in raising our children and all the time involved in making sure that our children do not want. We sometimes turn our

talents into competition, believing we need to outdo our coworker or neighbor, instead of sharing our talents so that our strength multiplies instead of being depleted by envy or discontent.

An attitude of gratitude is sometimes difficult to maintain, especially when we seem to be challenged by economic circumstances, family illness, or dreams that have been shattered. Yet it is this thing called gratitude, that when cultivated and passed along by a simple gesture of saying, “Thank you” to a fellow worker, a neighbor or a family member that will lead to possibilities of compassion, kindness, giving and selfless love that doesn’t expect anything in return because we know that what we do is for the honor and glory of our Father.

I invite you to make time during this busy season to sit and reflect, to thank someone for a kindness which demonstrates the real meaning of Thanksgiving and of Christmas, to share with others the love and mercy that our Father has given us and to make God’s love known to others. Not by what we buy and give, but by our loving caring actions which help to open other’s hearts to receive the baby Jesus as the only Christmas present we need.

May our Father bless you and sustain you, especially during this season of Thanksgiving and in preparation for the gift of the Christ Child.

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 24% 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 day. 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 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](mailto:dloomis@mccurdy.org) or write her at 261 S. McCurdy Road, Española, NM 87532.

You are invited to read McCurdy Ministries first Annual Report found on pages three to six of this newsletter for a summary of McCurdy Ministries programs and finances for the 2013–14 fiscal year which ended July 31, 2014.



*Gala 18 theme is:*  
**“Hand in hand: making a difference”**

Plans are being made for Gala 18 which will be held from 6 to 10 PM, Saturday, Feb. 7, 2015, in Memorial Gym on the McCurdy campus. Come enjoy a steak or salmon dinner, entertainment, fellowship as well as silent and live auctions. The cost will be \$60 per ticket and \$35 of each ticket purchased is a tax deductible donation. Gala 18 will once again benefit Project Cariño, McCurdy Ministries’ mental health counseling program provided free of charge to McCurdy Charter School students and families, McCurdy Charter School Athletics and the McCurdy Ministries Foundation with 85% of the proceeds of the Gala going to programs that directly benefit MCS students.

### Donations are needed

United Methodist Churches, alumni and families of current students are invited to make a donation for the silent or live auction. Most importantly donors can sponsor the event or buy an advertisement for the Gala Program. It is donors from across the country that have helped make the Gala a powerful force for good in the Española Valley supporting the McCurdy Ministries counseling program and McCurdy Charter School athletics. For more information or to make a donation to the Gala please email [gala@mccurdy.org](mailto:gala@mccurdy.org) or call Eufemia Romero at 505-753-7221, ext. 210.

### Volunteers are needed

McCurdy Ministries has a staff of 21 so to accomplish the task of 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 needed are Feb 5, 6 and 7 for set up with the Gala occurring 6 to 10 PM, Feb. 7, and for tear down on Feb. 8. At 9 AM, Feb. 8, the Gala volunteers join in a worship service led by Rev. Diana Loomis. After worship volunteers will go to the gym for tear down. Then on Feb. 9, 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 most meals are free. To volunteer email [gala@mccurdy.org](mailto:gala@mccurdy.org) or call Eufemia Romero at 505-753-7221, ext. 210

# Project Cariño news & updates



*Amanda Trujillo Gonzales  
Project Cariño Director*

Project Cariño recently received donations from the Volunteers in Mission Team from Desert Springs UMC in Las Vegas, Nevada. While these VIMers were at McCurdy this summer, they visited with Project Cariño staff and learned many times the odds are stacked high against our students, with high substance abuse and violence rates in our community that students must deal with daily. Students see these social ills in their nuclear and extended families, in their neighborhoods, and the community at large. They see and hear things that even adults would struggle with. Julie Eggleston, team leader and McCurdy graduate, said they were moved by the stories of student struggles and wanted to donate several

tools needed by Project Cariño in order to emotionally support our students and their families so they can grow and develop positive self-esteem, positive peer relationships, negotiations skills, anger management skills, and catharsis for the emotional traumas they have experienced. In so doing, a new path toward healing is discovered and life trajectories are altered.

The needs of our students have doubled and tripled as student numbers have grown, and often we don't have enough tools, money and staff to meet these growing needs. When donations are made by the many church groups who support the work of Project Cariño, our staff is revitalized and encouraged to continue to "pick up our cross" and to help others carry theirs. We thank all the individuals, church groups, foundations and Northern New Mexico United Way for donating to Project Cariño. Most importantly we are grateful for the prayer that is offered up for the spiritual and emotional energy we need to continue our ministry with our students.

## The Buddy Program

Applications from high school students to be Big Buddies and referrals from teachers at the elementary school for potential Little Buddies have been received. Information is being gathered by, Carmen Gallegos and Roberta Paez, our bachelor-level social work interns from NM Highlands University, to help them match high school Bigs with elementary school Littles, so that their mentoring relationships will be gratifying and meaningful for each of the Buddies. Twelve pairs of Buddies (24 students) will be introduced in the very near future! Bigs and

Littles will then start weekly visits at the elementary school which will continue through to the end of the school year. During the visits, friendships will be developed and ALL of the Buddies will learn how to deal with everyday social issues and to build a healthy self-esteem.

## Peer Mediation

Plans are being made to receive applications from McCurdy Charter School fifth to twelfth graders who are interested in learning how to help their peers resolve conflict in healthy and peaceful ways. Mediation trainers will come in from Albuquerque's Outcomes, Inc. to train our student mediators over the course of two days. They will be supervised by Pete Thorson, our masters level MSW intern, as they receive mediation requests from the school and every Wednesday and Thursday for the rest of the school year, mediators will assist students in conflict to find ways they can get along on campus without resorting to violence.

## Anti-bullying Intervention

Pete Thorson, with support from Carmen and Roberta, are co-facilitating a six-week group experience for sixth grade girls who have been involved in bullying, either as the perpetrators, the victims or bystanders. This is the first group experience for most of the students and they are very engaged! They talk about the wonderful feeling of safety they experience while they are together. These feelings are interesting, because they are classmates! Our hope is that these girls will be able to establish different, positive and supportive relationships with each other that will help them choose not to bully and to stand up for those who are bullied.

## Counseling and Therapeutic Services

Our licensed mental health therapists, Amanda Trujillo-Gonzales, LISW and Michelle Esquibel, LMHC, provide individual therapy for students referred to Project Cariño by teachers, principals, parents and students themselves. Some of the issues being addressed include violence, witnesses to domestic violence, substance abuse by students and/or families, grief, divorce, and emotional trauma. Project Cariño is a busy and bustling place this year, with five professionals and professionals in training as well as Compa, our therapy dog, providing important and necessary services for the students and families of McCurdy Charter School.

*Amanda Trujillo Gonzales, Project Cariño Director*

## Volunteers in Mission needs

If summer camp, Vacation Bible School and an opportunity to make an educational and faith difference in a child's life interest you, then we invite you to consider being a volunteer teacher for McCurdy Ministries Camp Stars Program next summer. Camp Stars is a six week summer program that combines the best of STEM education (science, technology, engineering and math) with the best of VBS for students entering kindergarten to sixth grade. The student's minds and hearts are challenged daily, by combining educational and faith learning. The program runs six weeks with two sessions of three weeks starting the second week of June and a one week break for the July 4 holiday between sessions. If you can commit to the entire program, your housing will be provided, as well as some meals. Husband and wife teams are encouraged to apply!

We also have volunteer openings for a dorm host and for a VIM team maintenance coordinator from mid-May to Labor Day. The dorm host is a hospitality position and the host assists Vickie Luviano, volunteer manager, in checking in VIM groups as they arrive, ensures the dorm is in good condition and assists volunteer teams with any issues that arise. This position is perfect for a volunteer who loves meeting people from around the country, has the gift for hospitality and enjoys sharing God's love. The VIM team maintenance coordinator

helps to organize the work that VIM teams do ensuring needed supplies are on campus, projects for each team are lined up and coordinates all maintenance issues with the maintenance director and the teams. Individuals who enjoy coordinating maintenance and grounds projects, love working with people, like organizational tasks and love the Lord are urged to consider this position. Housing as well as some meals will be provided for both positions.

Persons who sign up for these summer volunteer opportunities will be blessed by spending the summer in Northern New Mexico's moderate climate surrounded by the mountains. Cultural, scientific and outdoor activities are numerous and volunteers will normally have weekends, evenings and two afternoons off every week to enjoy Northern New Mexico.

McCurdy Ministries is still in need of volunteers during the school year to help with After School Care. If you enjoy sharing the Word of God with the children, are patient and think this would be a good fit for you, please contact Vickie Luviano, Director of Volunteers. This need is best filled by volunteers who can stay longer than one month so we can offer consistency in the program. After School Care is a Christ-based program and runs from 2:30-5:30 every afternoon. We do have other work in other areas of our operation to fill in the rest of your day.



## McCurdy's Box Tops and Campbell's Labels news

When Diana Loomis travels to United Methodist Churches around the country to tell the McCurdy story she always gets the question, "Are you still collecting Campbell's Labels and Box Tops for Education?" She enthusiastically answers, "Yes, we are and your donations of labels make a huge difference!" The latest list of Campbell's Labels products can be found on the McCurdy website by pasting the following link into your web browser: <http://mccurdy.org/documents/EligibleProducts2014-2015.pdf>. The good news is we recently submitted over 48,000 points to Campbell's which enters us in a contest for \$1,000,000 of cash awards. Please mail your Box Tops or Campbell's Labels to McCurdy Ministries at 261 S. McCurdy Road, Española, NM 87532.

## McCurdy Charter School news



As we move into the festivities that November and December bring, it is appropriate to reflect on the many gifts and opportunities available to our students. We recognize the first two years of the charter school have brought challenges, but through this we humbly acknowledge our school has provided over 500 students a safe and enriching educational experience. We also value the impact our school has had in providing our community with many family oriented activities, such as Literacy Night, Math Night, Fall Festival, athletic events, Veterans Day Celebration, college awareness events and many others.

We are extremely thankful that we have been able to serve our large student body. McCurdy Charter School is the third largest charter school in New Mexico, and the only one that has kindergarten through 12th grade. There is only one other New Mexico charter school that offers a K–12 program and the enrollment for that school is 190. We offer the federal meal program which is not typical for a charter school but very beneficial to our families as it provides the opportunity to receive meals at a free or reduced rate. Another program uncommon to charter schools is our comprehensive athletic department. We recognize the athletic program offers our students another opportunity to be connected to the school community and to practice a healthy lifestyle, leadership and self-discipline.

It is also important to acknowledge the positive strides of our service learning program. Last year as part of our high school service learning class, a few students collaborated together to organize an Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Drive. Their goal was to involve elementary students in serving other children around the world. By participating in this project, students were able to learn to give to others in need and learn to care more for others. The number of Christmas shoeboxes collected far exceeded our students' expectations. Our school will again, this year, participate in this very worthwhile service. We are thankful for the students that organize this project and for their example of service-to-others which is a heartwarming inspiration.

Additionally, our school sincerely appreciates Project Cariño and its wonderful counselors. It is impossible for our school to afford more than one counselor and Project Cariño counselors provide our students and families with very valuable services that we would not otherwise have. It is common for a school counselor's time to be taken up by the testing and scheduling requirements of a high school. With the support of the Project Cariño counselors, our elementary students and families have access to quality therapeutic counseling. This type of care is critical to the success of our students, both academically and socially. We genuinely value Project Cariño and hope this program will continue to be supported through donations and other fundraising efforts.

Of course, we are immensely grateful for the volunteers that help our school in so many different ways. Some of our volunteers travel great distances to spend a week or two assisting our school, while other volunteers are family members that give of their time every week or for special events. We are sincerely thankful to all these individuals for sharing their time, talent, and resources to serve the students of this valley. Along with volunteering at the school, these individuals serve as role models for our students and staff. They impart the spirit of selflessness to our students in a very real way. Our school and the programs we provide our students are testimony to the dedication of our staff, parents, and partners. Together, we will continue to positively influence the lives of our young people through a nurturing environment and a quality education.

*Janette Archuleta, McCurdy Charter School Director*

## After School Care news

McCurdy Ministries After School Care currently cares for 28 students from preschool to 8th grade and we recently gained a high school student assistant for the program. This program involves recreation, snack, homework assistance, games and faith based activities including Bible study and crafts. Currently, they divide grades preschool to second grade and third to seventh grade into two Bible study groups. Both groups are assigned a story to read with work sheets or coloring pages pertaining to the story. One day the younger group was having a hard time staying on task. One of the fifth grade students took it upon herself to read that group the story of Jonah. Throughout the story the group gave her their undivided attention because she related to them at their level. Best of all one of the older kids—who they look up to—was helping them with their lesson. The older student helped the smaller children by encouraging their learning and by demonstrating what it means to serve. Students helping students with the encouragement of faithful adults is part of what After School Care is about.



## Thanks Fest 2014 volunteers help students give thanks

On Nov. 13 volunteers from First UMC in Los Alamos, St. John's UMC in Santa Fe and Valley View UMC in Española joined with McCurdy Ministries volunteers as well as ministries and charter school staff to help students enjoy their second annual Thanks Fest. First UMC Los Alamos donated cookies for a Cookie Walk and turkeys for a turkey give away. Students also joined in crafts to take home and created a "Thank You Card for God."

*Pictured from left going clockwise: 1. Young boy enjoys carrying the turkey he won. 2. Students write thank you messages to God with staff watching. 3. A First UMC volunteer helps parents and students make a napkin turkey. 4. Young boy enjoys his after school snack. 5. Young girl making her "Thanks Basket."*

