

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

September 2014

Second year of Camp Stars was a great success



Camp Stars kids along with their counselor are costumed and ready for their closing program which was presented to their families and McCurdy Ministries staff.

Camp Stars completed its second year on July 25 with 40 students from kindergarten to 6th grade, nine full time employees, lots of fun and great educational success. Camp Stars met on the McCurdy campus from 8 AM to 3 PM, Monday through Friday for six weeks of the summer with Rio Arriba County providing free breakfast and lunch for all participants 18 and under. To make the program a success our Camp Director Nila Montoya established educational partnerships with Rio Arriba County, Habitat for Humanities, Wells Fargo Bank, US Forest Service, Ghost Ranch Paleontology Museum, Los Alamos County Aquatic Center and Los Alamos Bradbury Science Museum. To help our Camp Stars students make a difference they participated in four service projects including Habitat for Humanity, Blue Star Mothers, Welcome Back Teacher Bags for elementary teachers and Heifer International.

These quotes from staff, students and parents best demonstrate the impact of Camp Stars. One of the teachers said, "The younger kids were so amazed at how big the mustard seed could grow. We talked about how our faith can and should also grow like a mustard seed." One of the students said, "Science was cool. I didn't know how science could be connected to God!" The parent of a student who never missed a day of camp said, "My daughter loved going to camp. She loved all the things you were doing. Even when she did not feel well, she did not want to miss." A couple of grandparents said, "We are so glad that someone is still willing to do something like this for our kids!"

Camp Stars was made possible by the Montei Foundation from Ohio for the last two years. McCurdy Ministries extends our sincere thanks to the Montei family for supporting, loving and educating our students!

Gala 18 theme will be "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 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.

Rev. Diana Loomis, Director of Development/Church Relations for McCurdy Ministries says, "The theme for this year will be '*Hand in Hand: making a difference*' which portrays the way McCurdy Ministries and McCurdy Charter School (MCS) are working together to make a difference for the students of the Espanola Valley. Most people don't realize between the student enrollment in MCS and McCurdy Ministries programs we touch 26% of the under 18 population of our valley every day."



A little competitive spice is being added to this year's event because each of the MCS athletic teams will be competing to earn their fair share of Gala profits. Each athlete and their families will earn a point for every ticket sold, every item donated to the auctions, every advertisement, every volunteer hour donated and double points will be awarded for every athletic volunteer who helps to clean up the Gala on Sunday, Feb. 8. The end result will be if the Girl's Volleyball Team earns 35% of the total points that team will receive 35% of the profits coming to MCS Athletics. The 2014 share of Gala profits going to MCS Athletics

is estimated to be over \$28,000. If a team earns 35% of the points then they would receive over \$9,800 for team expenses. On the other hand if a team earns 2% of the points, then the profits they would receive \$561.

Letters soliciting donations for the auctions, advertisements for the Gala Booklet and sponsorships have been mailed and personal contacts requesting your support are now being made so please support this important effort by donating, sponsoring and volunteering. For more information or to make a donation to the Gala please email gala@mccurdy.org or call Eufemia Romero at 753-7221, ext. 210.

Notes from the McCurdy Ministries executive director



Patricia Alvarado
Executive Director

The new school year has begun and all over campus is evidence of new hope and new adventures awaiting our children. As I drive to work, I see children making their way to school and I am reminded of a time, not too long ago, when my four children walked to school. We lived on campus and there were instances, when I would see my two youngest running as fast as they could, past my office, to make it into class before the late bell rang.

As parents, we are not given recipes for raising our children. Acknowledging that we do not know all or maybe any of the answers, is probably the best place to start in giving ourselves permission to make mistakes. Each and every child is unique and no matter how many times one has gone through the process of bringing a child to their first day of school, each time is indeed a new and different experience. The fact is that Our Father, being the wise and loving Father that he is, has given us a community of resources to turn to when we find ourselves at a loss for how to even begin to tackle a new and unfamiliar journey. We need to accept his gift of community and not be afraid to reach out and ask for help, contact our children's teachers to clarify when we do not understand and phone a friend or neighbor when we need a listening ear or a gentle shoulder. At the same time, we need to be willing to be that for others as well. As this publication goes out to you, I am asking that you remember our children and their parents, their teachers, their administrators, and the many people, behind the scenes, working diligently to ensure that they have a blessed and enriching school year.

McCurdy Ministries has been working diligently to create plans for state approval of the new building project that will give McCurdy Charter School (MCS) space that will meet the NM Conditional Weighted Index and will be able to house MCS's 584 student capacity. We are looking at a two-story building that will house K-6 grades on the first floor and 7-12 grades on the second floor. Included in the project will be upgrades to Memorial Gymnasium and Pringle Student Center which will allow MCS to have all their operations on the west side of the irrigation ditch that runs through campus. This will leave McCurdy Ministries to run its operations on the east side of the ditch, giving a clear physical boundary for students and school officials to better secure the school campus.

I sincerely thank the McCurdy Ministries staff, volunteers, including our board members, and our community partners for their commitment to God's ministries and their efforts for our children. Each day is filled with clear evidence that we have a gracious and loving God. Just today, I heard from one of the MCS teachers who mentioned MCS had hosted a jamboree for volleyball this past weekend and said the students from the other schools were in awe of the beauty and serenity of our campus. She also mentioned how proud the MCS staff and students were to be a part of McCurdy when they heard the other schools' students complimenting their campus. The beauty of our campus is made possible because of the work of our maintenance staff assisted by hundreds of volunteers from around the country. They work together to cut the weeds, plant the beautiful flowers, mow the lawns, construct "peace gardens" and make our campus a welcoming and peaceful place to be. I continue to pray that our Father will sustain you and bless you in all that you do. *Patricia A. Alvarado*



Rev. Diana Loomis,
director of development/
church relations

Sharing hope in the Española Valley

Please consider these creative ways to support McCurdy Ministries

Today I had a conversation with Tom Hofmann who is a McCurdy Ministries regional board member and the chairperson of our Development Committee. Tom was talking about his work at a large nonprofit in Ohio. Tom heads the nonprofit's foundation. They recently had a planning meeting where each program area was sharing the difference they make in the lives of their clients.

When the time came for Tom's group to describe the difference they make, he said, "We share hope." Tom went on to tell me, "Diana, that is what we do at McCurdy. We share hope with the children and youth of the Española Valley." All I could think was, "You are right Tom!" McCurdy has been sharing hope for 102 years.

It all started when a few children in Velarde, NM, asked a visiting stranger, Mellie Perkins, who later became McCurdy's founder, "Will you come be our teacher?" What an audacious, full of hope question that was! Mellie responded by learning Spanish, coming back to the valley, starting a school, transforming lives and sharing a hope that has transformed lives generation after generation. Today McCurdy Ministries shares hope through Project Cariño, the Big Buddy/Little Buddy program, After School Care, the Breakfast and Lunch program, the Peer Conflict Mediation program, McCurdy Preschool, Volunteers in Mission, Camp Stars and by being the landlord for McCurdy Charter School. Every difference we make is made possible by faith in God and a supporter, a volunteer, a donor, a missionary, a teacher who knows that hope transforms lives.

Recently, one of our donors who lives thousands of miles away called to say, "I love what you do at McCurdy. I was only there once many years ago but you make such a difference for the children that I am making McCurdy the beneficiary of my IRA. I trust you all will know how to use these funds to help the children of the valley." It is concrete expressions of hope such as this that has kept McCurdy financially strong for 102 years.

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

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

In Española the need is great. U.S. Census Bureau 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 a local store is the number one purveyor of Anheuser Busch products west of the Mississippi River. McCurdy Ministries needs your support to continue our ministries. Your donations of time, talent and funds help us keep our aging buildings and 44 acres in shape for 550 MCS students and for McCurdy Ministries programs. Here are ways to support our ministry: **Donate and encourage others to donate regularly to McCurdy.** Make a donation of cash, stocks, land or an appreciated asset. **Send us Campbell's Labels for McCurdy Ministries and Box Tops for Education for McCurdy Charter School.** Donate a gift annuity to earn income during your life and bless McCurdy with a donation after your death. **Organize a Volunteers in Mission Team from your church and come enjoy Northern New Mexico.** Remember McCurdy Ministries in your will. **Set up an endowed fund in the McCurdy Foundation.** If you purchase a new car, donate your old one to McCurdy for a tax deduction. **Make McCurdy a beneficiary of a life insurance policy.** Remember McCurdy in your estate trust. **Invite the McCurdy church relations team to your church program, dinner or worship event.** Donate to McCurdy through Advance #581479. **Pray for McCurdy daily!** *Diana L. Loomis*

For information on the Mellie Perkins Society or on making any donation to McCurdy Ministries please contact Rev. Diana Loomis at 505-753-7221, ext. 352, email her at dloomis@mccurdy.org or write her at 261 S. McCurdy Road, Española, NM 87532.



*Amanda Trujillo Gonzales
Project Cariño Director*

Project Cariño news & updates

Notes from Amanda

Project Cariño has been busy preparing for the start of therapeutic services for the new school year, planning, Project Cariño programs, attending meetings with McCurdy Charter staff and parents as well as providing crisis intervention services during the month of August.

Late in August, we confirmed that we will have three interns from Highlands University for the 2014–15 school year including Pete Thorson, Carmen Gallegos

and Roberta Paez. They will start their year-long practicum experiences on Sept. 3. This is the first year that we have so many students choose Project Cariño for their field learning experiences and we are pleased!! With our students' help, we can continue to expand our service learning programs by building on the work that was done last year.

Our master-level social work intern, Pete Thorson, comes to us with experience in therapeutic work at various school settings where he has been employed in the past. We plan to have him coordinate our Peer Mediator Program and continue to support training for our students not only in Peer Mediation but also in Restorative Justice in collaboration with MCS staff and administration. In addition, he will have a small clinical caseload of students he will work with individually, and receive intensive supervision from me.

We will also have two bachelor-level interns working with us this school year, who will co-coordinate the Big Buddy/Little Buddy Program continuing the work started by last year's intern. As much as possible, the buddy relationships that were started last year will continue. Our interns will continue to work with MCS staff to help them understand how to support the buddy relationships.

Finally, I wanted to point you to the last page of the newsletter which includes a photo collage of The Buddy Program field trip to Ghost Ranch in Abiquiu, NM last spring. The group learned about dinosaurs, particularly those whose fossils have been found on the ranch and tin smithing which is a traditional Northern New Mexico craft. They completed a tin project and made molds of fossils to bring home. The photos demonstrate the joy, the fun and the support the buddies bring to their relationships. What you can't see is the difference the buddy relationships make in the educational process every day. *Amanda Trujillo Gonzales*

Notes from Michelle Esquibel

With the addition of a second therapist to Project Cariño last January, Project Cariño was able to revive the Peer Mediator Program. This program was established to create a culture of safety at McCurdy Charter School (MCS), as well as build on the communication and peace-making skills of the students and staff. With two full-time therapists as well as bachelor and master's level interns staffing Project Cariño, this valuable program is back and attracting many quality students.

How does it work? We have so many compassionate and capable students on our campus that want to serve as Peace-Makers! It is difficult to choose the 15 elementary, middle and high school students that will serve during the school year. Applicants complete a questionnaire that gives us insight into their communication skills and desire to be helpers. We also obtain references and interview each applicant. Once accepted the students are trained in age-appropriate mediation and conflict resolution interventions. Once trained the student mediators are ready for action at school. Fellow students and staff can request a student mediator's assistance in resolving a wide range of conflicts including bullying.

Students have shared they feel safer at school because they know they can easily get help with a problem. They like relating to a student mediator close to their age because he or she can check in frequently and help the mediation contract be observed. In addition, families have expressed pride in the difference student mediators make because they have experienced a positive shift in family dynamics as the mediators practice their skills at home. Other families have appreciated the mediation process helping to reduce or eliminate a bullying situation or save a friendship at school that was on the brink.

Teachers and staff notice a reduction in violence and an increase in empathy among the students. One teacher said, "There is a ripple effect after every mediation. As each conflict is resolved and a new and healthier pattern of behavior takes over, more students begin to catch on and treat each other differently, even if they were not involved directly with the mediation!"

Michelle Esquibel



*Michelle Esquibel,
Project Cariño Counselor*



Box Tops & Campbell's labels make a big difference!

A note to all our faithful supporters of the **Campbell's Labels & Box Tops for Education Programs**...First, thank you so much for your support of McCurdy through these programs. On Aug. 18, I called the

Campbell's Labels program, and let them know that we need a new van. The woman who answered said, "Ok, let me check your balance." Then, she came back on the line, and was very excited. She said, "I have *never* seen so many points in an account since I've worked here! This is so exciting!" I told her we wanted to wait until the new 2015 model is available, but we were giving notification that we're ready to ask for one. So you know what an undertaking this is, it costs **1.6 million Campbell's points** for a new van!

Recently we received a note in an envelope that contained just a couple of UPCs. The woman who sent them apologized for sending so few. Please, don't

apologize for sending what you have. I'll tell you the same thing I told her—every drop fills the bucket, and we couldn't fill the bucket without your drops! So, keep clipping and sending them in.

I wanted to remind you that we also collect, process and submit Box Tops for Education for McCurdy Charter School. Please address your envelopes as follows: **McCurdy Ministries, 261 S. McCurdy Road, Espanola, NM 87532**. The reason we want you to continue sending them to McCurdy Ministries is because when we receive them, we then send a thank you note and we enter your gift into our database to keep you on our mailing list. If they are addressed to the charter school, they don't get delivered to us, and we can't acknowledge your gift.

Please look in future newsletters for pictures of the new van that you helped us get. We have acquired several vehicles over the years with YOUR help through this program! *Vickie Luviano, volunteer manager*



*After School Care kids enjoy the slide on the
McCurdy playground*

After School Care volunteers are needed all year

McCurdy Ministries is in need of volunteers during the school year to help with After School Care from 2:30 to 5:30 PM each school day. If you enjoy sharing your Christian faith with children, are patient and think this would be a good fit for you, please contact Vickie Luviano, volunteer manager. Please note all volunteers on our campus must complete our Safe Sanctuary training.

Working with After School Care is best filled by volunteers who can stay longer than one month so we can offer consistency in the program. Local volunteers who are willing to commit to volunteering regularly may

be considered also. After School Care is a faith based program for McCurdy Charter School and McCurdy Ministries students from preschool to 8th grade. It runs from 2:30–5:30 every school day.

For long term volunteers staying on our campus we do have other work for you to fill in the rest of your day. Thank you for hearing the need and answering the call. You can contact me by e-mail at vickie@mccurdy.org or by phone 505-753-7221, ext. 268 or 505-927-3683. Be blessed, and continue to be a blessing! *Vickie Luviano, volunteer manager*

McCurdy Charter School news



McCurdy Charter School (MCS) was proud to open its doors Aug. 13, 2014 for our third year with 545 students. Our charter is founded on academic excellence, character development, and service to others. As we begin this school year, we reflect on how we are meeting our mission, as well as how we can broaden our influence in our beautiful valley and state.

Our staff is committed to providing every student with a quality education experience focused on national standards, high expectations and good work habits. We are working to increase opportunities for students to participate in dual credit courses at local colleges. These courses allow students to earn high school and college credits simultaneously. More of our students will graduate from MCS ready to begin sophomore level college coursework.

Our service learning projects are making a difference in New Mexico and around the world. Our first graders raise funds for Heifer International and learn the benefits of providing many families with nourishment from the purchase of fowl versus providing one family with a cow or goat. They realized their decision how to spend their funds is very important. Other students have adopted service learning projects that directly benefit our campus. Beautification of the gardens around McCracken Gym and the weekly campus clean-up is appreciated by students, staff and community. I am often reminded by my colleagues that the McCurdy campus is known as one of the most beautiful school campuses in New Mexico.

Thank you for supporting our school through your support of McCurdy Ministries. We look forward to another successful school year and greatly appreciate McCurdy Ministries as we partner together to be a source of hope for our youth and community. *Janette Archuleta*



Ministries buddy outing to Ghost Ranch

Last May our McCurdy Ministries Big Buddy/Little Buddy participants headed north to Ghost Ranch in Abiquiu for an all day outing to have fun, learn a little and celebrate the end of the school year. These photos taken by Kiva Moulton-Duckworth, MCS elementary principal, visually demonstrate the difference this program makes when someone older cares about you and when someone younger looks up to you. A buddy who makes time for you during the school day can have a tremendous effect on self esteem, confidence and educational success. McCurdy Ministries is grateful to Stacie Waters, last year's MSW student intern, who set up the buddies program and arranged this trip.



Clockwise from left: 1. Student enjoys working on a tin craft project. 2. Big and Little Buddies work side by side creating molds of fossils found on Ghost Ranch 3. The joy of having a friend care shows on the face of this Little Buddy. 4. Big and Little Buddies along with their adult chaperones have fun while hiking to a fossil site on Ghost Ranch. 5. The joy of being a buddy shows on this student's beautiful face. 6. These rock formations demonstrate the beauty of the landscape the Big and Little Buddies enjoyed on their outing. Thanks to Kiva Duckworth-Moulton for these beautiful photographs!

Is God calling you to make a difference by volunteering at McCurdy?

Then contact Eufemia Romero to schedule a VIM group at 505-753-7221, ext. 210, or email her at eromero@mccurdy.org or Vickie Luviano to volunteer as an individual at 505-753-7221, ext. 268 or email her at vickie@mccurdy.org. McCurdy welcomes individual volunteers and group volunteers all year long. Acting as the hands of Christ by working with our students, families, community and staff is a wonderful way to serve God. For more information on our VIM program go to <http://www.mccurdy.org/volunteer.html> and for our VIM Team Leader Packet go to <http://www.mccurdy.org/documents/VIM%20Team%20Leader%20Packet.pdf>.