



The McCurdy Ministries Message

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Sharing God's love through education and mission

February 2013



Camp Stars to launch in June Helping kids reach for the stars!

Camp Stars, a summer educational enrichment camp combining the best of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education and Vacation Bible School for students who have completed kindergarten through eighth grade will launch on the McCurdy campus June 10. The camp is sponsored by McCurdy Ministries. Rev. Diana Loomis, McCurdy Ministries' director of development and church relations says,

“We wanted to start this program because we know that students who participate in a year round learning environment retain their learning better and start the next school year ahead of their classmates. We also wanted to provide a safe, fun environment for the summer and we thought McCurdy Ministries was perfectly positioned to combine the best of our educational efforts with the best of our Christian faith for the children and youth of the valley.” The scripture theme for the camp will be, *“When I look up at your skies, at what your fingers made—the moon and the stars that you set firmly in place—what are human beings that you think about them; what are human beings that you pay attention to them?”* Psalm 8:3–4

The first year there will be spots for 15 kindergarten, first and second grade students, 20 third and fourth grade students, 20 fifth and sixth grade students and 20 seventh and eighth grade students for a total of 75 students. Tuition for the first

child in any household will be \$60 per week, the second child will be \$50 and the third and any subsequent child will be \$40 and will include snacks, lunch and all field trip costs. For those demonstrating need, financial aid will be available. McCurdy Ministries has applied for a grant from the Los Alamos National Laboratory to help fund Camp Stars. Several other grants are being pursued to keep the cost of Camp Stars affordable to parents.

The camp will be open for six weeks starting June 10 and ending July 26. There will be a one week break for 4th of July week. The camp will run from 8 AM to 3 PM daily. An age appropriate learning center rotational model with five stations each day will be used with science, math, games, arts and crafts and story telling/drama/music stations. Technology and engineering will be woven through each rotation. A director and five certified teachers will be employed to run the program and McCurdy Charter School senior students and graduates attending college will be employed as camp counselors. There will be an open application process for the camp starting March 15, 2013, for McCurdy Charter School students and open to the entire community on April 1.

If you are interested in this program for your child please contact Eufemia Romero at 505-753-7221, ext. 210. If you would like to make a donation to support Camp Stars please enclose a check marked Camp Stars in the envelope provided or contact Rev. Diana Loomis at dloomis@mccurdy.org, call her at 505-753-7221, ext. 352 or write her at 261 S. McCurdy Road, Española, NM 87532. Finally, we ask all of our alumni, donors, volunteers and supporters to pray for the success of Camp Stars.

McCurdy Ministries plans a Rock-n-roll Easter Event

McCurdy Ministries is sponsoring a **Rock-n-Roll Easter Event** to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ for McCurdy Preschoolers and the kindergarten through sixth graders of McCurdy Charter School (MCS) as well as their families at 9 AM, Saturday, March 23, in the cafeteria. The morning will begin with a continental breakfast and will include singing and dancing to contemporary Christian music, games like Roll the Rock Away, prizes, resurrection arts and crafts, an Easter egg hunt and the sharing of the Easter story. Children will leave with their own “This Is Good News! A Child’s Activity Book for Easter” published by Abingdon Press to help them learn more about the good news of God’s love in Jesus Christ. Inserted in each book will be a listing of all the Holy Week church services in the Española Valley with a message urging each family to attend worship so that they might draw closer to God.

Individual donors, UMW units and local churches are invited to help fund this event by donating \$10 which will provide a craft project for 10 children; \$15 which will purchase 144 eggs and candy to fill the eggs; \$20 which will purchase 12 copies of the Easter Story or \$25 which will provide a continental breakfast to 10 participants. To make a donation to the Rock-n-Roll Easter Event please use the envelope provided in the newsletter and mark your check or envelope Easter Event. For more information call the McCurdy Ministries office at 753-7221, ext. 210.



A word from our executive director, Patricia Alvarado



Patricia Alvarado
Executive Director

We just held our 16th annual McCurdy Gala. The excitement of the preparation leading up to this event reminded me of the work that our Lord calls us to do. So many people with so many gifts, each important to the outcome of such a successful event, is evidence of God's love at work in our lives. Our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation goes to the folks who work all year round contacting our donors and supporters; those who give generously of their resources; those who work behind the scenes to plan all the details; those who attend to the physical plant; those whose creativity transforms Memorial Gym into the finest venue in town; those who prepare the delicious food; those who serve; and those who get up early on Sunday morning, attend worship, and then work for hours to take down, clean up and return Memorial Gym to its primary function, which is classroom and athletics use, the very next day.

This energy is evidence of God's love, caring and faithfulness and is contagious. No matter how tired people are from preparation, the evening brings a total transformation of the physical space. God's love radiates through people's eyes and their welcoming spirit. The McCurdy Gala is an important annual

fundraiser and is an opportunity to fellowship, to give and to obey our Lord's call to support our children and their families. When you receive this publication, work will have already begun in preparation for next year's Gala.

Here is an update on McCurdy Ministries new programs and services: The new two story McCurdy Charter School (MCS) building which will house grades K-12 will be completed and ready for occupancy in late December 2013. The opening of the new MCS building will release space in McCracken, Cole and the portable classrooms so McCurdy Ministries can expand our ministries to the students and families of MCS and the broader community. Grants have been written, some awarded, some pending, to fund a state of the art computer lab, to launch Camp Stars and to help fund a Teen Center Ministry.

Planning for Camp Stars is underway to provide STEM instruction and VBS activities for 75 MCS students in completed K-8th grades starting June 2013. An "Easter Rock-n-roll" event is planned for McCurdy Preschool and MCS K-6 grade children and their families at 9 AM, Saturday, March 23, in the cafeteria. Many exciting things are happening, and all of these require support and prayers from you. Once again I thank you for the many ways in which you have been and continue to be faithful to God's calling to care for our children.

Yours in Christ, Patricia A. Alvarado

Save the date for

Gala 17, 6 to 10 PM, Saturday, Feb. 8, 2014, in Memorial Gym



Gala 16 Hope for the Valley: Planting seeds for the future



Gala 16 a great success

Gala 16 was a success with over 350 persons attending Saturday, Feb. 9. Approximately \$60,000 was raised of which \$9,000 will be donated to the McCurdy Foundation, \$25,500 will be donated to the McCurdy Charter School (MCS) athletic program and \$25,500 will be donated to McCurdy Ministries' Project Cariño. A total of 155 volunteers worked to make the Gala possible, including 28 Volunteers in Mission from around the country, 92 parents and staff from MCS and McCurdy Ministries and 35 students from MCS. McCurdy Ministries and MCS families worked over 300 volunteer hours which will count toward their required community service donation. We are grateful to our Gala 16 co-chairs Helen Finch and Martha and David Milhouse for their leadership!

Left: Gala co-chairs David & Martha Milhouse & Helen Finch hold their recognition plaques. Left & above: Nila Montoya, former McCurdy teacher, and Candida Martinez 2007 McCurdy graduate converse. Above: Volunteers go to great heights to decorate the gym. Above right: Gala attendees view the Silent Auction art section.

Ways to support the work of McCurdy Ministries

McCurdy Ministries needs your support to continue our ministries. We make God's difference through McCurdy Preschool, Project Cariño, Breakfast & Lunch Program, Before & After School Program, Student Athletics, Volunteers in Mission and our Student Enrichment Program (including devotional ministries). We are also the landlord for McCurdy Charter School and your donations of time, talent and funds help us keep our aging buildings and 44 acres in shape for 520 students. In Española the need is great because the U.S. Census Bureau 2010 statistics say 25% of adults over 25 have not graduated from high school, the per capita income is \$19,703 and over 25% of the population lives below the poverty line. Here are several 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 the school to earn income during your life and bless the school 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 scholarship in the McCurdy Foundation. If you purchase a new car donate your old one to McCurdy for a tax deduction. **Invite the McCurdy church relations team to your church program, dinner or worship event.** Donate to McCurdy through Advance #581479 for the general fund and Advance #581325 to support our missionary, Dee Dee Heffner. **Pray for the school daily!** For more information contact Rev. Diana Loomis, McCurdy 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

Project Cariño continues the work of supporting social and emotional development of McCurdy Charter School (MCS) and McCurdy Preschool students. Project Cariño has received a total of 49 referrals from MCS, and has taken on 24 active student cases, providing weekly individual therapy sessions, and 16 active parent/guardians cases as well, providing parenting coaching and support, for a total of 40 active cases. Because Project Cariño's work is done by one therapist, time is divided between administrative and direct services, and consequently, several referrals are made to off campus therapists. Some cases are on a wait list, at parent request, until an opening becomes available. A periodic check-in occurs to ensure situations continue to be stable enough to endure the wait.

As much as possible, without violating confidential information, MCS Teachers are given suggestions on how to help individual students in the classroom setting. Presentations in various classrooms continue, helping students at the various levels with anti-bullying information and assistance. In addition, MCS relies on Project Cariño to present information and trainings for faculty and staff on anti-bullying programming and mental health issues including grief and depression.

This spring the "Annual Meeting of the Club No Once Wants to Be In" called Celebrate Survival will be held. Celebrate Survival is a therapeutic group that meets annually in support of students who have lost parent(s) and/or siblings to death. For one afternoon, these students come together in support of each other, and are led through a series of activities and rituals that honor those who have passed, and celebrate the survival of those live on in life. Project Cariño will conduct two or three meetings in order to insure that all students who qualify are served.

Next year, a student social worker will help Project Cariño by coordinating the Big Buddy Program through which high school students are matched with elementary school students for mentoring. Big Buddy-Little Buddy pairs will meet weekly for approximately 45 minutes under the supervision of the student social worker. The Project Cariño Director will be supervising the student social worker.

Project Cariño is very busy providing valuable information and supports for McCurdy Charter staff and students during this defining year; and while the work load is big for this program, it is exciting and gratifying to have the opportunity and ability to be in service to the youth of the Española Valley.



*Amanda Gonzales
Project Cariño director*

Search for new deaconess to become McCurdy Ministries program director has begun

For more than 100 years, deaconesses and home missionaries from the United Brethren, Evangelical United Brethren, and United Methodist traditions have been important staff members at McCurdy. It was a United Brethren deaconess, Mellie Perkins, who answered God's call to start a school in Velarde in 1912 and who opened a second school at Santa Cruz in 1915 on what is now McCurdy's campus. Many other deaconesses and home missionaries followed as teachers, administrators, support staff, doctors, nurses, and medical technicians.

As we follow God's leading for new ministries, that tradition will continue. The United Methodist Deaconess movement is celebrating 125 years of service in 2013, and McCurdy Ministries is accepting applications for a deaconess who will be the director of program ministries. She will lead in establishing new outreach initiatives such as the new computer lab for people without access to technology, a teen center, adult basic education, and parenting classes. In addition, deaconesses are available for covenant relationships with churches. As Dee Dee Heffner retires, she is encouraging her covenant churches to continue a strong partnership with the new deaconess including prayer, financial support and covenant relationships. Details will follow about her Advance number. Please pray that the deaconess God calls will come to McCurdy Ministries.

You are cordially invited to a
dinner and program
celebrating 39 years of ministry

given for

Dee Dee Heffner

McCurdy United Methodist Home Missionary

at 5:30 PM, Saturday, May 25

in McCracken Gym

Dee Dee is retiring on May 31 and we are celebrating her years of faith, love and devotion to McCurdy.

The cost of the dinner will be \$10 per person. To make your prepaid reservation or for more information

please email Eufemia Romero at eromero@mccurdy.org,

call her at 505-753-7221, ext. 210 or write her at

261 S. McCurdy Road, Española, NM 87532.

Missionary message from Dee Dee Heffner

Long-time McCurdy home missionary (and my friend, mentor, and role model) Irene Cole, who went to be with the Lord in 2011, told the story of her coming to northern New Mexico from verdant West Virginia in 1944. A recent graduate of Otterbein College, Irene traveled alone across the country by train to Lamy, NM. She went by van the eight miles from Lamy to Santa Fe and on a folding canvas camp stool in the back of a mail truck the last 25 miles to Santa Cruz. It was a challenging, sometimes frightening, journey. Wearing her suit, heels, hat, and gloves, suitcase in hand, Irene walked the last quarter of mile down the dusty, unpaved road from the Santa Cruz Plaza to the McCurdy campus. Irene was wondering where—and why—God had called her. Then she saw the green lawns and trees of McCurdy, and Irene felt that she had come to an oasis in the desert. In her fifty years of work here, Irene affirmed that McCurdy School has been an educational and spiritual oasis since 1912 for children, youth, and families in the Española Valley.

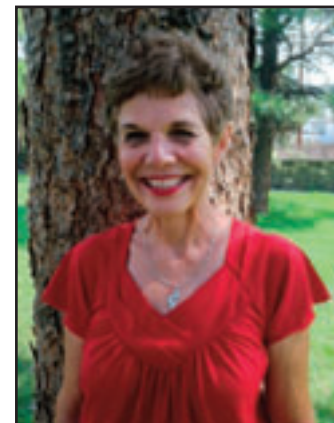
This campus continues to be an oasis. At McCurdy Charter School (MCS), the 520 students K-12 are in a safe environment designed to focus on academic excellence and achievement, character development, and service to others. I had the opportunity to work with the senior Advanced Placement English class to help prepare 22 students for college work and for the national exam in May. I am also grateful to guide the MCS leadership as they maintain the high standards of AdvancED accreditation, continuing that tradition begun by McCurdy in 1955. McCurdy Preschool and Project Cariño, both offered by McCurdy Ministries, contribute significantly to the peaceful environment.

As I approach retirement at the end of May, how thankful I am that God called me to this oasis in the desert! It has been an extraordinary privilege to teach English and drama for more than 33 years to the hundreds of students who have touched my life. This year I am blessed beyond measure to be a part of the McCurdy Ministries team. I am also thankful for the faithful partnership of churches and individuals from around the United States and for gifts of prayer, monetary resources and time.

God's word to us through Jeremiah is particularly appropriate: **"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope."** Jer. 29:11 (NRSV) In the midst of change—the closing of McCurdy School and establishment of McCurdy Ministries and McCurdy Charter School, the razing of older buildings and the construction of a new facility—we know that God's plans for McCurdy are for a future with hope. That hope ensures that our campus of green lawns and trees will also remain an educational and spiritual oasis.

You can support Dee Dee by mailing a donation directly to McCurdy Ministries or through Advance Number 581325. The Advance link is

<http://www.umcmission.org/Explore-Our-Work/Missionaries-in-Service/Missionary-Profiles/Heffner-Carolyn-Dee-Dee>



*Dee Dee Heffner
McCurdy Ministries missionary*

McCurdy Charter School news



Our first semester was filled with successful activities for students, parents, and staff. The student population grew from 508 to 520 students and included a full range of classes on campus as well as online and dual credit opportunities for students in grades 11 and 12. Students are involved in service learning projects in the Espanola community and beyond our valley such as Heifer International. The elementary Teacher and Parent group provided the school with enriching events such as Fall Festival, staff luncheons, the Holiday Store, and selling hot chocolate at the Espanola Light Parade. Volunteers from McCurdy Ministries have proven to be vital to our school by providing tutoring, donations of clothing, coordinating of Gala 16, donations of instructional materials, and the incredible production of the Winter Concert. The secondary Student Senate organized a campus clean-up day, farolito decorations, a blood-drive and food-drive. And true to tradition, the Bobcat athletic teams had very successful fall seasons with our basketball teams continuing this momentum with an outstanding performance thus far.

MCS has secured additional resources for students through federal grants such as a Title I \$106,000 grant that will target students who need support in the areas of math and/or reading and a Title II \$25,000 grant that must be used on teacher and administrator professional development aligned to student achievement. Federal funds are very restricted and cannot be used for the general operations of the school.

We look forward to an exciting second semester which will bring graduation of the Class of 2013, senior presentations on service learning projects, and planning for the move to the new building in the 2013–14 school year. We are extremely thankful for the support of the McCurdy Ministries and its volunteers and contributors. McCurdy Charter School staff is dedicated to ensuring that the resources provided to the school through the ministries serve our students in the best possible way. *Janette Archuleta, Director MCS*

Stambach book for sale

Thanks to those who have purchased my books. I have gotten feedback from some of you which I love! You might buy one as a gift for anyone with a McCurdy connection. The books are \$44 plus postage if ordered from me and \$50 from McCurdy. Send your order with \$50 to Vickie Luviano, 261 S. McCurdy Road, Española, NM 87532 or with \$44 to Ruth Stambach, 4154 Goldfinch Court, Lebanon, OH 45036. Thanks again for your purchases. *Ruth Stambach*

Alumni cookbook for sale

The McCurdy Classes of 1958 and 1959 present a cookbook featuring one hundred years of McCurdy recipes which is available for \$15 with \$5 shipping and handling. To buy one make your check out to Bobcats 12 and send it to Milt Denny, 800 Pearl St. #411, Denver, CO 80203 or you can purchase the book at the McCurdy Gift Shop.

Maintenance team news

The McCurdy Ministries maintenance crew has been hard at work emptying Bachman, Blake and Herrick. These buildings will be demolished this summer in preparation for the building of a new two story building to house McCurdy Charter School's (MCS) K–12 grades. They recently relocated the Historical Room to the Mel-lie Perkins Teacherage and all McCurdy School Archives have been relocated to a secure location. Our maintenance staff works on a daily basis to ensure our facilities are ready for the 520 MCS students, 45 MCS teachers and staff as well as our 20 McCurdy Ministries staff and hundreds of volunteers. Last fall upgrades to our IT infrastructure were made to improve McCurdy Ministries and MCS internet and phone service. Upgrades were also made to our fire alarm and security systems. We are grateful for the hard work of Robert DeVargas, maintenance manager and as well as the work of his staff David Burhans, Juan Quintanilla and Elena Medina. Next time you are on campus be sure to thank them for their hard work!

A word from our Volunteer Manager, Vickie Luviano

Greetings from the volunteer corner of McCurdy Ministries! This year will be an exciting year at McCurdy. We have many work teams scheduled, and are answering calls daily to see if we can accommodate others. The **Safe Sanctuary Link** on our website is working. Remember that all volunteers age 19 or older must be Safe Sanctuary trained and certified. While June, July and most of August 2013, are already booked we accept teams year-round. We currently need teams the week of **May 19–25, 2013**. We are celebrating the retirement of our missionary, Dee Dee Heffner, that week and need help to prepare for Dee Dee's celebration and beautifying the campus. We also need teams, **May 26–June 1, 2013**, to prepare for McCurdy Charter School's (MCS) first graduation. In addition, our two portable buildings need to be cleaned and prepared for the launch of Camp Stars (see page one for more information) the first week of June. **We will also need individual long and short-term VIMS for the 2013–14 school year.** Summer is great but all seasons are wonderful in northern New Mexico. **We will have a critical need for teams Dec. 26, 2013–Jan. 10, 2014, to help move classes and supplies into the new MCS building.** This work will be very physical so please keep this in mind when composing your team. Contact Vickie Luviano, volunteer manager, for more info at vickie@mccurdy.org.



MCS students write prayers for the victims of Newtown

After the shootings of 26 students, teachers and administrators at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, CT, one of Zalda Jaramillo's 5th grade students wore a green and white ribbon to school. When Ms. Jaramillo asked about the ribbon, the student replied it was for the victims at Newtown and then questions started pouring from her whole MCS class. Ms. Jaramillo took the class out to the playground to a map of the United States (pictured above) created by United Methodist volunteers so she could show them where Newtown is located. One of the kids asked to borrow a piece of chalk to write a message to the children because "they knew the kids were in heaven." Soon all of the 5th graders were writing chalk prayers on the map. One of the prayers said, "Dear God, please take care of these little angels in heaven. The hurt hasn't stopped so please take care of the parents and brothers and sisters." Another wrote, "God bless Connecticut." Ms. Jaramillo said, "Out of the mouths of babes came comfort." The whole experience allowed the 5th graders to express their fears for their own safety. Then Ms. Jaramillo had the students practice lockdown drills so they would know what to do to feel safe in a crisis and she reassured them that they would "lean on each other to get through this." *Editor's note: This experience reminds us that whether McCurdy is a private mission school or a public school God is still at work through our students and staff.*

Campbell's Labels update

Thank you for supporting McCurdy Ministries by sending us your Campbell's Labels! **Please note the McCurdy Ministries Preschool and Before & After School Programs still qualify for this program.** We continue to collect, clip and process those UPCs and lids, and we have increased our balance at Campbell's to **1,179,898 points!** Our goal is to get a new van. The vans currently cost **1.6 million points**, so we're getting closer with each submission of UPCs. Thank you for your faithful support of McCurdy Ministries through the Campbell's Labels For Education Program for more than 20 years!

Box Tops for Education

McCurdy Ministries now collects Box Tops for Education for the benefit of McCurdy Charter School. McCurdy Ministries will coordinate the program, help volunteers to cut, sort, and send out our Box Tops and the proceeds will be used for supplies and equipment for McCurdy Charter School children. We pray our churches, alumni, donors, and volunteers will continue to support this mission that serves the **children, youth, and families** of the Española Valley.