

The McCurdy Ministries Community Center Message

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

Vol. 6, #2

A faith-based Community Center ministry empowering children, youth, adults and families in the Española Valley to succeed in school and in life

November 2017

Announcing \$31,000 of match for *Giving Tuesday this November*



PHOTO BY RICH SAXON

Donations to Giving Tuesday are all about making smiles happen

McCurdy Ministries Community Center (MMCC) is blessed to announce several anonymous donors have contributed over \$31,000 of match for **Giving Tuesday** on Nov. 28, 2017. **Your donation to the MMCC General Fund will be matched dollar for dollar as long as the match lasts.** We are making it easier for you to make a donation to McCurdy during our Giving Tuesday Event. Your gift up to \$2,500 will be matched if you give in one of these three ways:

1. Mail a gift to MMCC postmarked between Nov. 1 and Nov. 28. The check MUST be marked "Giving Tuesday" to count toward the match.

2. From Nov. 1 through Nov. 28, you can go to our website at www.mccurdy.org/give.html to make a donation. Again your donation MUST be marked "Giving Tuesday" to qualify for the match.

On Nov. 28, 2016, you can go to www.umcmmission.org/give.html to give to McCurdy through the United Methodist Advance. Only gifts given on Nov. 28 through this option will be applied to the match if it is still available.

Your support of MMCC is especially important as we make the transition to a

Community Center and greatly expand the ways that we impact the Española Valley. MMCC is seeking to continue our mental health, breakfast and lunch, after school, preschool, summer camp and volunteer programs while we expand our programs in the areas of adult education, nonprofit collaboration and faith based ministries. Rev. Diana Loomis, McCurdy director of development/church relations says, "We are hearing excitement about our transition to a Community Center from our mayor, city and county officials, our alumni and even the every day citizen we meet at the market. We truly believe the work we do over the next three to five years will make a hundred years of difference in our community. We also know we cannot do what God is calling us to do without the support of our faithful, supportive donors."

Since 2012, on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving nonprofits like MMCC have joined together to give our donors a chance to give back to our communities in gratitude to God for all we have been given. We call that day **Giving Tuesday**. Last year McCurdy raised \$62,355 on Giving Tuesday. Please note **Giving Tuesday** is a fundraiser for the MMCC General Fund and gifts cannot be designated for another McCurdy cause. Our theme for **Giving Tuesday** is "Give light. Give love. Give life." Please call Rev. Diana Loomis at 505-753-7221, ext. 352 or email her at dloomis@mccurdy.org if you want to make a matching donation or have any questions about McCurdy's 2017 Giving Tuesday Event.



Adult education and Project Cariño building updates

After thousands of hours of volunteer and maintenance staff labor over the last five months we are grateful that the rehab of the Project Cariño space, the Childcare House and Phase 1 of Cole Adult Education building are complete. These facilities are now being used on a daily basis for Project Cariño, Adult Education, Childcare and Community Outreach programming.

The rehab of the portable classrooms included installing four office/therapy rooms for our counselors, a kitchenette and a meeting space in the east portable and installing a living room, craft area, dining room and kitchen area in the west portable. The Project Cariño Big Buddy/Little Buddy program is gearing up and our participants are very excited about spending time in their expansive new space. Cole Building updates include turning the library into a Community Room and McCurdy History Gallery, adding a west wing handicapped accessible bathroom and ramp, refreshing two west wing classes, installing a new computer lab, updating a literacy coaching class, rehabbing the main entry and refreshing hallways. We are grateful to the Estate of Irene Cole, McCurdy missionary, whose donation made rehabbing parts of the building possible, and to the UMW National Office whose donation of a Prayer and Self Denial Grant made possible the update of the computer lab and the installation of smart TVs in the Community Room. The old Project Cariño house was refreshed and set up as the Childcare House including cribs, changing tables, play spaces and rest spaces.

The Phase 2 update of the Cole Building will include a new energy efficient building envelope, a complete handicap accessible update, new electrical, plumbing, HVAC systems, warm up kitchen, dining space and refreshed administrative offices. Completion of Phase 2 will be dependent on a successful Creating Hope, Empowering Lives Capital Funds campaign.



McCurdy's new associate director of development, Amanda Mountain, tries out the new Adult Education Computer Lab. A UMW grant paid for new computers for the lab.



Notes from the MMCC executive director

I was recently asked, “You have been at McCurdy Ministries Community Center for **HOW** many years? What keeps you here?”

I came to McCurdy in the fall of 1989 as a sixth grade teacher. When I first arrived, a beautiful lady by the name of Irene Cole was my group leader at our initial staff retreat. She made a lasting impression on me, always making me feel welcome and, in her humble manner, always important. She made time to greet me and compliment me in ways that were very personal. I never forgot her welcoming spirit and strive to be that person to others.

Within two weeks of being here, I was asked to teach social studies, math, and science at the Middle School level and did so for eight years. In 1997, I became the McCurdy High School Principal and did that until 2007. I stepped away for almost one year during this time to be a mentor teacher for a northern NM initiative called the Math and Science Academy. This involved mentoring middle school teachers at the middle school level in different school districts to incorporate STEM throughout the curriculum. In 2007, I stepped away again for about three and a half years to direct the first replication of a program called First Born, a home-based parenting program for first time parents. In this position, I truly got to know our community and engage with people in their homes, as well as agencies providing services in Rio Arriba County. It was this experience and the training opportunities I received that strengthened my resolve

to be part of community wide efforts to support families and leverage the resources to do so.

I returned to McCurdy in 2010 as superintendent for two years. In 2012, McCurdy closed its doors as a private faith-based K–12 institution and became McCurdy Ministries. McCurdy still provided services to students, but took on a new role as landlord of McCurdy Charter School (MCS) who rented our buildings for five years. As Executive Director of McCurdy Ministries, I was responsible for overseeing and supervising the staff that ran Project Cariño, the preschool, After School Care, the Breakfast and Lunch Program for MCS, Camp Stars and the Volunteers in Mission program.

Being a single parent and raising four children while working at McCurdy, all of whom graduated from the school, I experienced the nurturing and loving community of staff, teachers and volunteers who helped me raise my children. I am committed to paying it forward which is why I am still in ministry at McCurdy and even more committed to our future in the valley. I firmly believe this sacred ground, now known as McCurdy Ministries Community Center, can continue to provide this same support to other families in the community at large. Expanding our reach and mission while collaborating with community partners can only strengthen our resolve to be God’s hands and feet to welcome his children with open arms and make a difference in their lives.

It is my blessing to be a part of this new Community Center model which we lift up to God daily; that his will be done, in his time, and for his honor and glory. I thank you for your continued support and prayers. I pray that God will bestow blessings upon you and your family during this season of Thanksgiving and the upcoming Advent Season! **Patricia A. Alvarado, Executive Director**

Project Cariño starts the new school year in new spaces



Amanda Gonzales
Project Cariño director

Much happened at Project Cariño since the start of the school year in late August! We moved the program from a small house to the former fourth and fifth grade portable classroom buildings across campus so that we are physically closer to the students at McCurdy Charter School. We are now set up in new office spaces and have the benefit of a large common room for group counseling and advocacy, as well as service learning programs. These changes could not have happened without the hard work, dedication and prayer of our Volunteer in Mission teams, our Individual Volunteers and the McCurdy Ministries Community Center staff. Volunteers and staff worked to

remodel both portables which included taking down the wall that separated the two classrooms in each building. In the office building, four offices were created along with meeting and kitchen areas; and in the common building, a huge space was created that will enable the Buddy Program participants and coordinator to have visual contact throughout the building. The common building is set up with kitchen and living room areas as well as an activity center where students can read, play games or create art work while they create and maintain mentorship relationships together. Next semester we also hope to facilitate support groups for students. Our discussions this year have identified various issues to address including grief, children of divorce, anxiety, anger management, and self-esteem. We are pleased with and grateful for our new spaces and thank everyone who worked on the buildings or donated funds to make this move possible!

Project Cariño is also blessed to have three social work student interns working with us to complete their field practicum experiences for the entire 2017–18 school year. Montana Marquez-DeYapp is a bachelor level intern from New Mexico Highlands University in Las Vegas, NM. She is coordinating our Buddy Program, working hard to interview and become better acquainted with students so she makes matches between Big Buddies and Little Buddies that are conducive to positive, supportive mentoring relationships. Through the course of the year, matches consisting of high school and elementary school students will meet every week to help each other learn valuable lessons including developing healthy relationships, social skills, positively managing social situations, and tolerance through the acceptance of others who are different. Montana will foster a parallel process where the support and guidance she offers the Big Buddies will be used by the Big Buddies to positively impact the lives of the Little Buddies.

Our master level interns, Jacqueline Fernandez and Marcos Castellano, come to us from New Mexico State University in Albuquerque, NM. Their work with

Project Cariño is to learn and practice mental health clinical intervention for referred students and their families. Currently they each carry five cases and are already a great asset to our program and to McCurdy Charter School! They are engaging with students, parents, teachers and administrators as they make individual assessments and create treatment strategies that employ cognitive behavioral and person/child centered therapy. For the younger students who are not yet able to achieve catharsis through talk therapy, our interns are learning to use Child-Centered Play Therapy where symbolic play is used by the student to work through difficult emotional issues, including trauma. Interpretation of this symbolism is achieved by teaming with parents.

In addition, we hired a school psychologist, William Clapp, to work on a part-time basis with Project Cariño, in order to provide services for students referred to the program. William worked in various school districts around New Mexico with students through special education and other support services. His knowledge, skills and expertise help Project Cariño provide exemplary services to our students, and his support and guidance for staff is beyond helpful!

So far this year, Project Cariño has received 30 referrals for therapy or requests for clinical services from students school personnel and parents. Issues they present with include depression and anxiety, behavioral issues, anger management, changing families due to divorce, separation or deportation, grief and domestic violence. This month two students have volunteered testimonials to the support they received from our program:

A high school student says, **“Project Cariño is a place where I feel comfortable and supported, a place where I don’t feel alone. Everyone at Project Cariño is there to help and support you with as much as they can. Knowing that I have Project Cariño makes my life a lot easier. It gives me more strength knowing that even if I don’t have the best day, I have a place to go to and someone to talk to. Project Cariño is my safe haven.”**

An elementary student says, **“Project Cariño helps me when I have something to say, or I need to cry, or I just need someone to listen and talk to. Project Cariño really, really, really helps me!”**

As we start a new school year it is especially important to thank all our donors including individuals, UMW units and churches who support Project Cariño and make this life changing program a reality. We also want to recognize and thank the foundations who support our program including the Con Alma Foundation in Santa Fe and the Montei Foundation in Columbus, OH. Finally, we thank the Northern New Mexico United Way for their ongoing support of Project Cariño. We are proud to be a United Way Community Partner. **Amanda Trujillo Gonzales**



Preschool News*Preschool News*Preschool News

For our November Bible lesson, I wanted the children to become more familiar with the Bible. I began by showing the children a telephone book, asking them what it was and why someone would find it useful. It was not surprising that many of them did not know the answers. I then showed the children a recipe book and asked the same questions. The children's responses were better but many still did not know what it was, why or how to use it. I then displayed a children's book. Every child knew what it was, and that they liked listening to stories. Finally I showed the children a Bible and before I could ask what it was, all of them said in unison, "BIBLE! It's A BIBLE!" I asked them how they knew it was a Bible and many of them replied they knew it was a Bible because it had a cross on the front. I then asked the children the same questions of what it contained, why and how someone would use it. Some of the children said it was a book that Jesus wrote about his friends, while others said it was a prayer book, and one child said it was God's story book for everybody. I explained to the children that the Bible is God's word and that it is the most important book of all and loved by many people. I explained further that in the Bible, we find a set of instructions to live our lives in community with others.

A few days later on the way to the cafeteria, a girl said to another child, "I have something in my shoe and it's bothering me, what should I do?" A boy answered, saying, "I don't know. Maybe you should check the Bible. It might say what to do." The children in our preschool teach me something about my faith every day, and can teach us all something if we pay attention. Upon reflecting on this innocent exchange I witnessed between two of our youngest students, I was reminded of Jesus' response to the disciples' when they ask in Matthew 18:1-5, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" In response, Jesus calls a child to him and places the child among the disciples saying, "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me." The young boy's solution to the rock in the young student's shoe may seem simple, but actually contains

a profound, humble statement about our faith in Christ's teachings. What would the world be like if we all were to look to the Bible for guidance when we have questions in life? Just imagine the loving community that would be formed!

The children in our preschool give me hope for the world today and well into the future. It is a hope we will all look to the Bible for instructions to live our lives as individuals and for ways to be in community with others, helping one another and loving one another as Christ loved us. **Sandra Archuleta, preschool director and head teacher**



PHOTO BY RICH SAXON

McCurdy Preschool Director Sandra Archuleta talks with a preschooler.

Creating Hope, Empowering Lives Capital Campaign update our campus



The McCurdy Ministries Community Center staff and capital consultant are working hard to prepare for a national capital campaign to raise the funds necessary to update the McCurdy campus for our expanded Community Center ministries. We have developed a new master plan for our campus, a giving packet of information on our plans, filmed a video promoting our ministries and are now recruiting a National Steering Committee to lead our efforts from New Mexico to Ohio to Colorado to Pennsylvania to Michigan to Kansas to Texas and all over the country.

We have recently recruited Sid Strebeck, a successful businessman from Clovis, NM, a generous Christian man and the New Mexico Annual Conference lay leader to be the chairperson of our National Steering Committee. Over the next month we will be asking local leaders, alumni, former staff, board members and United Methodist leaders from all over the country to serve on this committee.

Many persons have been asking what they can do to support our campaign while we are in the planning phases. Sid has asked our supporters to pray the following prayer daily as we plan to answer McCurdy's call to be the hands of Christ in the Española Valley.

The Sowers Creed

Today I sow for a Great Awakening. Today, I stake everything on the promise of the Word of God. I depend entirely on the power of the Holy Spirit. I have the same mind in me that was in Christ Jesus. Because Jesus is good news and Jesus is in me I am good news. Today, I will sow the extravagance of the Gospel everywhere I go and into everyone I meet. Today I will love others as Jesus has loved me. Today I will remember that the tiniest seeds become the tallest trees; that the seeds sown today become the shade of tomorrow; that the faith of right now becomes the future of the everlasting Kingdom. Today I sow for a Great Awakening.

Amen.



Bridget Cabrera

Volunteers in Mission News

Greetings! My name is Bridget Cabrera and I am very excited to serve as your new Volunteer Manager. Our volunteers play a big role at McCurdy Ministries Community Center (MMCC). Whether you volunteer as part of a work team, as an individual volunteer or as a NOMAD, we thank God for your commitment to the

people of the Española Valley and MMCC. Your participation in our ministries leaves a lasting imprint in our community and your experiences here leave a lasting imprint on your hearts which is why you keep coming back to McCurdy year after year.

McCurdy Ministries Community Center is already scheduling individual volunteers and Volunteers in Mission (VIM) teams for the 2018 calendar year. If you want to come do God's work while volunteering at McCurdy during a particular time of year please contact Eufemia Romero right away to reserve your spot! Remember if you want to reserve a particular week it is first come first serve.

With McCurdy's transition to a Community Center we will have extra construction, building demolition and program development needs. Your help is critical! 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.

I look forward to getting to know our VIM Team Leaders and volunteers as I step into this new role and begin to get settled, and am excited to work together to plan your volunteer experience here at McCurdy Ministries Community Center. Please do not hesitate to contact me at volunteer@mccurdy.org or 505-753-7221, Ext. 268 if you have questions about planning a trip to MMCC. If you are ready to schedule a trip to McCurdy please contact Eufemia Romero, our volunteer registrar to schedule a VIM team or to volunteer as an individual, at eromero@mccurdy.org or 505-753-7221, Ext. 210.



Amanda Mountain

Welcome to Amanda Mountain our associate director of development

Hello! My name is Amanda Mountain and I am the new Associate Director of Development for McCurdy Ministries Community Center. I first visited McCurdy at age 7 when my grandma, Alma Mountain, served as missionary at the school. She worked as a dorm mother, and started the craft store and the Campbell's soup label collection campaign. I remember listening to her stories of the lives that were empowered through the ministries at McCurdy,

and I believe this is where the seed of my calling to serve was planted. I am now a Deaconess in the United Methodist Church and am thrilled to continue the family legacy set forth by my grandmother to serve at McCurdy.

As associate director of development, I will be researching, writing and applying for grants on behalf of McCurdy that will enable us to continue existing programs, fund new ones, and move us forward with our long range strategic plan and goals. I will also be assisting Director of Development/Church Relations, Diana Loomis with tasks related to the development office.

Many of the grants I will be applying to will be from private family foundations in addition to corporate and government grant programs. As supporters of McCurdy Ministries Community Center, you can aid me in this process. If you have a connection or knowledge of private family foundations that support the types of programs McCurdy is currently engaged in, or hopes to create, please do not hesitate to contact me at amountain@mccurdy.org. I know firsthand the legacy one individual can have on the rest of a family's lives. My grandmother believed in the ministry of McCurdy from the first time she heard about it in 1969. It was evident at the services celebrating her life this past August, when every person who spoke at the service mentioned her telling stories of McCurdy, and suggesting they too support the ministries happening on our campus. Please keep your ears open for potential funding avenues that will help McCurdy continue its legacy of creating hope and empowering lives in the Española Valley for the next 105 years and don't hesitate to contact me to talk about potential funders.

Please support McCurdy Ministries Community Center!

McCurdy Ministries Community Center touches the lives of more than 550 students every school day and with our expansion into Adult Education with childcare we will impact even more lives every day. Your donations of prayer, time, talent and funds literally help us save lives, support their education and create a safe place for all the persons under our care. Here are ways you can support our ministry: Donate cash, stocks, land or an appreciated asset. 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. Remember McCurdy in your will and become a part of the Mellie Perkins Society. Set up an endowed fund in the McCurdy Foundation. Make McCurdy a beneficiary of a life insurance policy. 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 Community Center** please call Diana Loomis at 505-753-7221, ext. 352, write her at 362A S. McCurdy Road, Española, NM 87532 or email her at dloomis@mccurdy.org.

Attention all persons, lay and clergy, who work full time for the United Methodist Church:

You are invited to McCurdy Ministries for a free spiritual retreat!

Last spring the McCurdy Ministries board instituted a policy allowing persons who work full time for the United Methodist Church, whether they are lay or clergy, to come to the McCurdy Ministries campus in beautiful Northern New Mexico for up to seven nights for a spiritual retreat in our retreat center at no charge. This includes board but not meals. We provide kitchens that can be used in the retreat center and there are wonderful restaurants in the area. The only charge is to allow our staff to give you a tour of campus and an introduction to our ministries. Our desire is to support you while providing a chance for you to reconnect with God, plan for your ministry, be still, renew and enjoy life.

If you have questions about this opportunity please be in touch with Rev. Diana Loomis, director of development and church relations, at dloomis@mccurdy.org or Amanda Mountain at amountain@mccurdy.org or call them at 505-753,7221.



After School Care students and staff member enjoy observing nature together.

After School Care News

"In everything give thanks." 1 Thessalonians 5:18

This Bible verse is one we all hold close to our hearts at After-School Care. As we continue this beautiful new school year with eleven boys and seven girls we feel so blessed to become a part of their lives. Our After-School Care providers are Angela Ortiz and Angel Ortiz. Throughout the year we are given the opportunity to work with many great volunteers like Arbie and Russ Mathias and Lena Davidson. We appreciate our volunteers and thank them very much for all they have done.

At After-School Care we love to have our students engaged in completing their homework and having fun while doing so. We provide many arts and crafts activities to help them become creative thinkers and let their minds explore. The students here are kind and respectful and the parents are very supportive. Our students enjoy being helpful and encouraging one another. They love their interactions with our individual volunteers. One day Russ, was showing a student how to fix the holes in a basketball. Ross told the student, "We have to place the ball in a sink with water so that the ball can float in the water and we can see air bubbles where the holes are." The student said, "I didn't know I could do that, that's pretty neat!" The kids were so grateful that Arbie took the time to show them how to make a turkey. A student told her, "Thank you! I couldn't do this without your help!"

We are very thankful to have these students in our After-School Care Program. As we teach the students about the Lord, we find ourselves being taught by them as well. *Angela Ortiz, After School Care provider*

Box Tops, Campbell's Labels & Tyson updates

The Campbell's Labels for Education Program changed their minds! After advertising the final deadline for submitting your Campbell's UPCs and V8 lids as July 30, they have now extended the deadline to Dec. 31, 2017, **which means the deadline for having your Campbell's Labels to McCurdy is Dec. 10, 2017**, so we have adequate time to count, package and mail them before Dec. 31. Campbell's will not accept any submissions after Dec. 31, 2017. McCurdy Ministries wants to thank ALL of you from across the United States who have supported the Campbell's program!

We have begun collecting Tyson Project A+ labels as a way to raise funds at McCurdy Ministries Community Center and we recently sent in our first submission of their labels which earned us \$29. Thank you to all our supporters who have started saving, cutting and submitting those Tyson Project A+ labels. Each label is worth a whopping 24 cents which compares to 10 cents per Box Top received.

Thank you for your support of McCurdy Charter School by collecting Box Tops for Education. Since we began these efforts in 2012, because of your generosity, we have helped the school earn over \$80,000.

Please continue to send in your Box Tops and Tyson Project A+ labels to McCurdy Ministries, 362-A S. McCurdy Road, Española, NM 87532. Thank you! For more information on our labels programs please email Eufemia Romero at eromero@mccurdy.org.