



McCurdy Ministries Community Center is **Creating Hope & Empowering Lives**

“Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes.” Isaiah 54:2 (NIV)

McCurdy Ministries 2017–18 Annual Report



McCurdy Ministries Community Center is enlarging our tent and expanding the ways we make a difference!

*Preschoolers listen intently to their teacher.
(Photo by Rich Saxon)*

Part of our story as Christians is the story of the Hebrew people. Our story and the Hebrew story is one of wandering in the desert, searching for the holy in the midst of difficulty and finding God in the midst of all aspects of life. For these reasons our scripture for this year’s Annual Report is,

“Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch out the curtains of your dwellings, spare not, lengthen your cords and strengthen your pegs.” Isaiah 54:2

There are three important aspects to understanding this scripture from Isaiah. First, the Hebrew people lived in a desert that could be dangerous and fatal just as those of us in New Mexico live in a desert. Second, the desert was an isolated place without hotels so offering hospitality to the stranger was a holy task that often meant survival. Third, God’s tent, and therefore our tent, can always be expanded to care for another human being.

During seminary I remember the Rev. Dr. Tex Sample saying that “God pitches tent in our midst!” which is a way of reminding us that God is with us no matter where we go and what we do! Most importantly as Christians we are called to pitch tent, expand our tent and enlarge our tent so we can make room for God’s children in need. Today, in this time in our culture, we desperately need this reminder of what it means to be hospitable, to be open and to be accepting so that we can be the hands of Christ in this world.

McCurdy Ministries Community Center has accepted God’s challenge to pitch tent in the Española Valley for 106 years. In the last seven years we have explored what it means to enlarge our tent to include McCurdy

Charter School and enlarge it again to become a community center. The truth is, McCurdy has a tradition of expanding our tent! Every time our leaders saw a need in the community that interfered with a student's ability to get an education they stepped out on faith and started a medical clinic, a GED program, a collegiate nursing program, a hospital, a recreation program and a fire department. It is in our very DNA to expand our tent and expand the ways we act as the healing hands of Christ in the Española Valley.

Over the last year we have developed adult education partnerships with Northern New Mexico College and Rio Arriba Adult Literacy Program. We turned the high school into a welcoming space for adults wanting to improve their lives. We turned the old library into a Community Room and welcomed the community into that space for training events, social events and the community’s Martin Luther King Celebration. We moved Project Cariño into the portable buildings and greatly expanded the space, the staff and the programs we offer to the charter school and our community. We moved After School Care into the old elementary school which is now our Children’s Ministries Center in order to expand our programs.

We reached out to our supporters and donors from across the nation and launched Phase 1 of our Creating Hope, Empowering Lives Campaign to update the Adult Ministries Center. With the support of the New Mexico Annual Conference, this fall we are launching Phase 2 of our campaign to update the Children’s Ministries Center. We are pitching tent and expanding our tent and give thanks for your support every step of the way!

With hope! **Diana Loomis, MMCC Director of Development/Church Relations**

McCurdy Ministries Community Center creates hope and empowers the lives of children, youth, adults and families through education, life skills and faith based programming.

Contact us at McCurdy Ministries Community Center, 362A S. McCurdy Road, Española, NM 87532, 505-753-7221, www.mccurdy.org



McCurdy Ministries Community Center is working to create hope & empower lives



Architectural rendering of proposed renovations for the Children's Ministries Center. (FBT Architects)

Thanks to the New Mexico Conference for adopting the Children's Ministries Center

Churches, UMW units, Sunday School classes, pastors, individuals and leaders of the New Mexico Conference have long been supporters of McCurdy Ministries Community Center and the difference we make in the Española Valley. Last June after a year of dialog with the bishop, cabinet, Council on Finance and Administration and the Conference Ministry Team, the New Mexico Conference voted to support McCurdy Ministries Community Center's \$1.7 million campaign to update the elementary school into an energy efficient, handicapped accessible, low maintenance Children's Ministries Center. The 18 month conference campaign will fund Phase 2 of McCurdy's Creating Hope, Empowering Lives Campaign to update our campus for the 21st century.

The Children's Ministries Center is already the site for Camp Stars in the summer and After School Care during the school year. Until building renovations occur McCurdy cannot expand our preschool and childcare programs or completely use the building. Renovations will include installing new windows, metal roof, insulation, HVAC systems and exterior envelope to improve energy efficiency, renovating existing bathrooms and ramps to improve handicapped accessibility and rehabbing classrooms for preschool, after school and Camp Stars programming.

McCurdy is blessed with great leadership from New Mexico on our capital campaign National Steering Committee including Sid Strebeck, our campaign chairperson and the NM Conference lay leader and Randall Partin, the New Mexico conference provost. We thank District Superintendents Rev. Craig Cockrell, Rev. Ernie Vineyard and Rev. Eddie Rivera for their support. Thanks also to Rev. Joe Whitley and Rev. Pam Rowling for serving as co-chairs of the Albuquerque District, to Rev. Laird Cross and Rev. Layloni Drake for serving as co-chairs of the Clovis District, and to Rev. Robert Pelfrey and Rev. Ross Whitaker for serving as co-chairs of the El Paso District.



Preschooler with an answer to the question. (Photo by Rich Saxon)

Early childhood education provides building blocks for life

In the United States, educators stress the critical importance of early childhood education. Research shows that children who attend preschool, and therefore have an early childhood educational intervention in their lives, are far more likely to graduate from high school. Unfortunately, there are a limited number of classroom spots for preschoolers in Española, which is why it is so critical to keep McCurdy Ministries Community Center's preschool program strong. For the 2018-19 school year we are continuing our free morning and low cost, faith-based afternoon preschool programs. In the future, with the state's approval, we plan to expand to a free, all day four year old preschool. When building improvements have been made to the Children's Ministries Center, we will expand to two, all day four year old preschool classes.

We are grateful for an excellent, dedicated and faithful preschool staff that does an excellent job of preparing our students for kindergarten. It is not unusual for our teachers to get thank you letters from parents after their children have started kindergarten noting that their child is better prepared for school than most. As one of our parents told us *"This Pre-K program is excellent—my child has shown tremendous growth!"*

Project Cariño provides hope and help for our students

For 34 years Project Cariño has provided therapy free of charge to McCurdy students and their families. We employ three therapists, four master-level interns in clinical training and a therapy dog in training. During the 2017-18 school year our counselors and interns provided over 4,488 contact hours with students doing therapy, classroom presentations, crisis interventions and the Big Buddy/Little Buddy and Celebrate Survival Programs. Our counselors also led groups on anti-bullying, boys self-esteem and anxiety support. Student therapy includes play therapy for younger students, talk therapy for older students and family therapy when appropriate. The difference Project Cariño makes with our students is best demonstrated by testimony from a student receiving therapy *"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...Knowing that I have Project Cariño makes my life a lot easier."* A Big Buddy states, *"I have noticed the effect Project Cariño has had on my Little Buddy. The time spent coming to Project Cariño has made him smile and helped him get away from problems at home and at school."* We thank the Montei Foundation, the Northern New Mexico United Way, the Con Alma Foundation, the UMW National Office and all the individuals, churches and UMW units whose donations make this priceless ministry possible.



Project Cariño participants in the Celebrate Survival Retreat enjoy cake.



An ASC student searches for a book to read during After School Care. (Photo by Rich Saxon)

A time for safe fun

At McCurdy Ministries Community Center (MMCC), we understand that having a fun, educational and faith-based After School Care program is critical to the after school safety of our students. MMCC cares for 19 preschool to 6th grade students every school day through this faith-based program. At After School Care, students enjoy free play, snacks, homework help and educational games as well as faith-building art, crafts, drama and Bible study. A small tuition is charged to help support the program but families that qualify for free or reduced lunch are eligible for financial aid. One of our returning students, when asked about the first day back after summer vacation said *"This is my family, I missed you guys."* We are grateful to the donors and volunteers that support After School Care and help keep our students safe.



Volunteers enjoying work in the cafeteria.

McCurdy volunteers bring hope and joy

Our United Methodists who come to McCurdy Ministries Community Center (MMCC) as local volunteers, long term volunteers or on Volunteer in Mission teams are truly the backbone of our ministry. Our volunteers, working alongside our staff, make a huge difference in support of our maintenance, program and administrative needs. Some of the activities volunteers participated in this past year included: classroom assistance, program help, painting, serving meals in the cafeteria, installing a new fence, refinishing floors, replacing windows, installing new toilets, restoring a mural, tilling the ground around the playground, demolishing small buildings, building flowerboxes and administrative support. We have tasks for every ability, energy level and interest and as we update our campus, our volunteers will be even more critical to our ministries. Most importantly we deeply appreciate the love of Christ our volunteers share with our students, staff and community every day. As one of our long term volunteers, Pat Alexander from St. Paul, MN said *"I started volunteering five months a year at MMCC in 2012. The length of the stay increased my ability to foster meaningful and lasting relationships with staff, other volunteers and people in the local community. There is a real sense of 'coming home' whenever I return to volunteer. No matter how long or short the stay—the welcome mat is always out."* We are grateful for and thank all of our volunteers who work hard and support all aspects of our ministries.

Summer learning and VBS fun

The "summer slide" is the well documented loss of learning that occurs over the summer break if a student doesn't participate in a summer learning program. Camp Stars, McCurdy Ministries Community Center's summer educational enrichment camp was created to combat the "summer slide." Completing its fifth year, Camp Stars is a six week, 35 hour per week camp which includes STEM education (science, technology, engineering and math) and faith sharing through Vacation Bible School that offers fun and service. This year 34 campers from kindergarten to 6th grade participated in Camp Stars which included science experiments, math exercises, field trips, service projects, art, drama, crafts and singing, all while learning more about God, Jesus and our Christian faith. One parent said about their child's experience with Camp Stars, *"Thank you for doing a great job of combining learning, Bible study and fun!"* A camper said *"I enjoyed this summer with all the new kids I met. I'm looking forward to coming again next summer."* We thank the Montei Foundation making Camp Stars possible by being our major Camp Stars donor for the fifth summer! We also thank the Rio Arriba County Summer Food Program for providing breakfast and lunch for our Camp Stars participants.



Camp Stars students celebrate in the halls of the Children's Ministries Center.

A time to feed hungry students

McCurdy Ministries Community Center (MMCC) is the vendor for the McCurdy Charter School Breakfast and Lunch Program; we also feed our preschoolers every school day. Although the majority of meal costs are reimbursed by the USDA, MMCC financially supports this program because federal reimbursements are not enough to feed our children healthy meals. During the 2017-18 school year we provided 55,538 meals to our preschool and K-12 students. Research shows that hungry children don't learn and unfortunately many of our children don't get regular meals at home, so we truly understand how critical this aspect of our ministry is to our students. We take Jesus' command to "Feed my sheep" seriously. Our Breakfast and Lunch Program reflects the importance of Jesus' command.



Preschoolers in line for lunch. (Photo by Rich Saxon)



McCurdy Ministries Community Center

362A S. McCurdy Rd., Española, NM 87532, www.mccurdy.org. For more information contact Rev. Diana Loomis, director of development, 505-753-7221, ext. 352, dloomis@mccurdy.org.



Creating Hope & Empowering Lives

“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.” Jeremiah 29:11



Mellie Perkins Society recognizes our donors who provide hope through empowering McCurdy programming

The dream to start McCurdy began 106 years ago when children in Velarde, NM, asked a visitor, Mellie Perkins, a United Brethren deaconess 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, convincing the United Brethren Mission Society to buy an abandoned school building in Velarde and starting a school. What many McCurdy donors do not know is Mellie not only started the school, she also started Velarde UMC and acted as a nurse for the community. McCurdy Ministries Community Center’s (MMCC) actions to expand our ministries to children, youth, adults and the family harkens back to the days of our founding by Mellie Perkins. We continue to see emerging needs of our community and find creative ways to meet those needs.

During our 2017–18 fiscal year we were blessed by estate gifts, individual donations, grants, church and church organization donations and we saw an increase in individuals who donated through their IRAs. The advantage in donating to MMCC through an IRA is that the donation can be made directly to McCurdy and will be acknowledged as a tax deductible donation without increasing the donor’s yearly income.

Our greatest current need is support for the McCurdy Ministries Community Center General Fund which supplies lifeblood to all our ministries. We are grateful for all gifts designated for our specific ministries, however it is also important to know the vast majority of our staff salaries, utilities, maintenance, insurance and program expenses are paid by our General Fund.

Recently, estate gifts have increased dramatically. These gifts made it possible to make improvements to the Adult Ministries Center, the Children’s Ministries Center and the Project Cariño buildings. It is blessings such as these that inspired

the McCurdy Ministries Board to start 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, remembered McCurdy through your trust or made a donation to the McCurdy Foundation, we invite you to be a member of the Mellie Perkins Society. Please contact Rev. Diana Loomis, director of development/church relations, at 505-753-7221, ext. 352, or email her at dloomis@mccurdy.org to let her know your intention and she will send you a Bequest Information Form to fill out and return to McCurdy. We list the members of the Mellie Perkins Society in our Annual Report in thanksgiving for the ways each donor has blessed God’s ministry at McCurdy.

Our gratitude to the following persons who remembered McCurdy Ministries Community Center in their estates during the 2017–18 fiscal year:

Bernice Boilesen Estate, Wayne and Vera Eby Trust, Fern Heim Estate, Ruby Hale Estate, Doris Knoespel Estate, William and Mary Hartman Trust, Mary Moon Estate, Robert Seitz Memorial Trust and the Wilken Estate Trust.

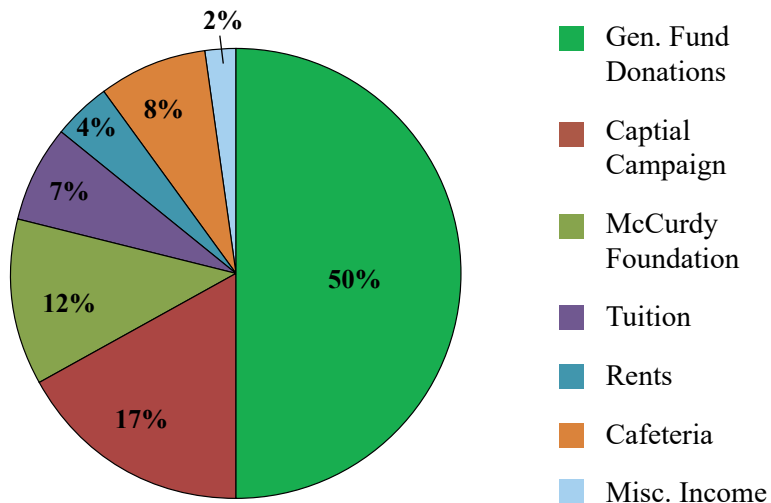
Our gratitude to the following persons who have informed us McCurdy has been remembered in their estate plans:

Pat Alexander, Marijean Backman Ambrose, Rev. Chuck Chipman, Rev. Sanford and Mrs. Mary Ellen Coon, Tom and Sandy Hofmann, Betty Letzig, Rev. Diana Loomis, Holly Ludlam, Virginia McQuiston, William and Carol Mead, Virgil and Irma Jean Sancken

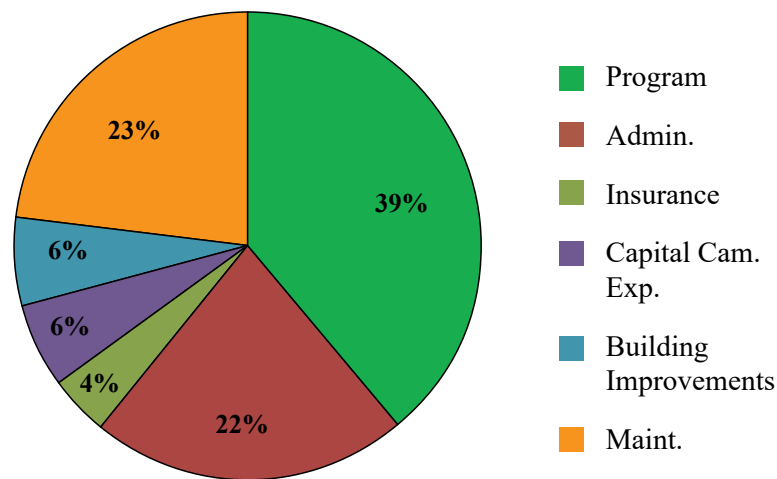
McCurdy Ministries 2017–18 finances at a glance

For McCurdy’s 2017-18 fiscal year which ran from August 1 to July 31, we had 882 active donors and our total donor revenue was \$1,242,402. We received donations from individuals, churches, UMW units, annual conferences and foundations from across the country with the majority of donations coming from New Mexico, Colorado, Indiana, Ohio, Texas, New York, Kansas, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Nebraska and Iowa.

2017–18 Income



2017–18 Expenses



McCurdy Ministries Community Center

Contact us at McCurdy Ministries Community Center, 362A S. McCurdy Road, Española, NM 87532, 505-753-7221, www.mccurdy.org