

McCurdy Board Hires Next Executive

By Rev. Sanford Coon, Board Chair

The Board of Trustees of McCurdy Ministries Community Center conducted a nation-wide search for our next Executive Director after Ms. Patricia Alvarado announced her retirement, which was effective at the end of July. We are pleased to welcome Rev. Tiffany Hollums as our new Executive Director. She started on September 11, 2023. She comes with wonderful experience and has a Bachelor's of Music Education and a Master's of Divinity.

Rev. Tiffany Hollums is an ordained United Methodist Deacon in the New Mexico Annual Conference. Tiffany shared, "I always had a special calling in my heart to children, youth, and communities in need, which is why I chose to seek ordination as a deacon."

Rev. Hollums grew up in Lovington, New Mexico, and sensed the call to ministry as a teenager. She first learned of McCurdy Ministries as a young girl when she would eavesdrop on her mother's United Methodist Women's circle when they met at her home. She shared that being able to serve at McCurdy Ministries and in the Española community is a dream come true for her.

Tiffany and her husband, D.G., have been married for 25 years. D.G. is an ordained United Methodist Elder and is serving as the pastor at Zia United Methodist Church in Santa Fe, NM. They have a daughter, Gracie, who they adopted at birth. The Hollums family loves to spend time together—laughing, serving, and loving the community.

As an ordained deacon, Tiffany is called to serve in the church and in the world. She has served in many different communities and in a wide variety of ministries, including serving as the Executive Director of the Ida Spence United Methodist Mission located in an urban government housing project area in Covington, KY. She also served as a case manager to foster children in a Christian foster care agency.

In addition, Tiffany has served in many different United Methodist congregations over the past 20+ years as a youth minister, children's minister, associate pastor, and recently served as the Associate Pastor at St. John's United Methodist Church in Albuquerque.

The heart of ministry for Tiffany is to love the community in which she serves. She has a particular passion and calling to individuals in need and looks forward to serving the children, youth, and families in the Española Valley. Tiffany stated, "I truly believe that everyone is a beloved child of God, and that God is actively at work all around us!" McCurdy Ministries is excited to have Tiffany leading and helping to expand the ministries' programs in the coming years.

From the New Executive Director, Rev. Tiffany Hollums

As of October 1, I am beginning my fourth week as the new Executive Director, and I fall more in love with McCurdy ministries every day!

I've loved getting to know our wonderful staff as well as the incredible VIM teams, long-term volunteers, and the Board. I learn something new every single day—whether it is discovering a new part of McCurdy's rich history or getting lost in a new part of our campus!



Rev. Tiffany Hollums,
Executive Director

The adventure is officially underway and I feel deeply humbled to be a part of this journey with each of you. Most importantly, I can sense that God is with us as we prayerfully seek His guidance for each and every step. My prayer is that we are all sensitive and aware of the Spirit at work in and through us, this incredible ministry, our churches, and the Española Valley.

Please feel free to reach out to me to introduce yourself and to share memories or dreams. I'm thankful for each and every one of you and your love, support and prayers for McCurdy Ministries. Grace and peace be with you all.

Tiffany Hollums

Thollums@mccurdy.org
505-753-7221 Ext 352

2023 Giving Tuesday Season



We are once again celebrating our Giving Tuesday Season as we have since 2013. Over the last ten years our generous donors have given \$550,000 to support our General Fund. We are thankful that once again, McCurdy is blessed with several anonymous McCurdy donors who believe in the difference we are making in Jesus' name.

We are making it easier for you to make a donation to McCurdy during our **Giving Tuesday Season**. Your gift of up to \$2,500 will be matched as long as the match lasts if you give in one of these ways:

1. Enclosed Envelope: Use the envelope provided in this mailing to send a check to McCurdy Ministries for **Giving Tuesday**. The envelope must be postmarked between Nov. 1–30, 2023. Your check must also be marked **Giving Tuesday**.
2. McCurdy Website: From Nov. 1–30, you can go to our website at <https://mccurdy.org/give-now/> to make a donation. Please specify the donation is for **Giving Tuesday** to qualify for the match.
3. IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution: If you are 70½ or older, consider making an IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution from your financial institution directly to McCurdy. The gift counts toward your IRA required minimum distribution. If you have questions about how to make such a donation, please talk to your accountant or financial advisor. If you designate your

gift as a **McCurdy Giving Tuesday** gift, then up to \$2,500 will be matched as long as the match lasts.

4. United Methodist Advance #581479: On Nov. 30, 2023, you can go to <https://advance.umcmmission.org/p-596-mccurdy-ministries-community-center-formerly-known-as-mccurdy-school.aspx> online to give to McCurdy through the United Methodist Advance. Only gifts given on Nov. 30, through this option will be applied to the match, if the match is still available. **The McCurdy Advance number is 581479.**

Please be in touch if you have any questions about **Giving Tuesday**. And as you prepare for Thanksgiving, we hope you will rejoice with us in all God continues to do in our ministry. Preschoolers are still learning their ABC's. Our children in the Afterschool Care Program have computer and homework time as well as enjoying STEM learning and Christian-based music and arts and crafts. We are blessed to stay connected to our supporters with our weekly devotions and monthly volunteer newsletters. Our Volunteers in Mission teams have been busy helping to prepare the campus for all of the upcoming changes. Our Project Cariño counselors continue to help students work through the trials of life in the Española Valley. We are grateful because your donation makes these ministries possible. You are a true blessing to the students in our care!

But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.—Isaiah 40:31

After School Care

Math, Science Easier to Learn, Enjoy with LANL and Triad Grant

We are using more techniques that get students moving, out of their seats and engaging in hands-on learning activities which can help make learning concepts about math and science fun and the understanding more ingrained. McCurdy Ministries is very grateful to the Los Alamos National Lab and Triad for helping to support these hands-on experiments and equipment. There are lots of opportunities for students to get involved in creating experiments and learning new skills.

Our children are learning many science and engineering concepts. Currently, they are studying how magnetics work. It's easy for kids to build, test and reconfigure a variety of pathways—sharpening STEM problem-solving skills as they create! The Magnetic Center includes foam balls, a ball cup, plus 11 translucent plastic pipes

with funnels that give kids a clear view of the action. They enjoy creating different pathways while learning about resistance. The children have spent hours creating new pathways and even have races with the magnets, trying to create the paths of least resistance.

Another great learning activity for our budding architects is learning about spatial reasoning, engineering, and building in three dimensions as they construct one realistic house after another! Children follow the prompts on the activity cards—slotting together plastic walls, floors, and roofs to create different houses as well as creating their own designs.

After School Care still incorporates God's word into their daily learning. They continue to learn about the beauty of God's world and create art to capture special Bible verses.



Left: Budding architects create a house; Right: Learning the power of magnets

Project Cariño News

By Matila Fernandez, MSW Intern and Dorothy Swalley, Long term Volunteer

School has started again and there have been a lot of changes both for McCurdy Ministries and Project Cariño. Amanda Trujillo-Gonzales is no longer serving as the Director. She had been with McCurdy for 17 years and leaves big shoes to fill. We will miss her leadership, caring, and her knowledge of McCurdy and Project Cariño.

If you know of someone who has a Masters in either Counseling or Social Work, loves God and enjoys working with K–12 students as well as college interns, please direct them to our website at McCurdy.org. Help us look for someone as special as Amanda for this critical role. Our students need our help more than ever and this important position is key to the success of this program.

Matilda Fernandez, MSW Intern, is working this fall and spring semesters as she completes her Masters in Social Work at New Mexico Highlands University. She will continue with the Buddy Program, as well as provide other counseling services. There are three new pairs of students who will be able to begin meeting this fall in the Buddy Program.

Bill Clapp continues to work to provide services to the McCurdy Charter School students. He has been a part of Project Cariño for 6 years and is a very strong advocate for our students.

We are very grateful for the continuing support from Boston Avenue UMC, Tulsa, OK. The flowers and landscaping in our fenced yard create a very peaceful and refreshing area where the Buddies can visit and play. It also is being used for counseling sessions which provides a quiet, calming, safe place for healing to occur.



Project Carino buddies



McCurdy long-time Project Cariño volunteer Dorothy Swalley

Pre-K—The World of Education

When asked to write an article for the fall newsletter sharing my experience in becoming the Pre-K administrator, I begin to think about how in the world of education, every journey is unique, and mine is no exception.

My journey in the field of early childhood education began with my own children. I cherished the moments when I witnessed the spark of learning in their eyes. This fueled my passion to be a part of the early educational journeys of other children.

Over the span of the following 28 years, I have had the privilege of growing from an Educational Assistant, where I had the best mentor, Ms. Kathleen Vigil, to being a passionate Pre-K lead teacher, to a Site Director, and now stepping into the role of Pre-K Administrator.

As a Pre-K teacher, I found joy in engaging with students, creating engaging learning environments, designing curriculum, and witnessing the incredible growth of my students. With time, my dedication led me to the role of Site Director. This position allowed me to have a broader impact on our school community. I learned to balance administrative responsibilities while staying connected to the children, their families and my assistant teachers who inspire me daily. It has been a period of growth and development, both personally and professionally.

This year, I've been entrusted with the role of Pre-K administrator, a responsibility I hold with great honor and humility. The shoes left behind by Ms. Patricia Alvarado, our former Administrator, who retired this past summer, are not just big, but deeply respected. Her legacy is one of dedication, compassion and unwavering commitment to the children and the families we serve.

While stepping into her shoes may seem daunting, I am inspired by the knowledge that I have been

trained, shaped and encouraged by the very person I now follow. Ms. Alvarado's mentorship will be invaluable; her wisdom and experience will serve as a guiding light. I aspire to fill the void she left with the same grace, dedication and love for our Pre-K community.

As I take on this role, I am excited about the opportunities to continue nurturing the young minds under my care, to support our talented Educational



Above: Pre-K students enjoy healthy snacks; Left: Playground fun with sand

Assistant teachers, and to work alongside our devoted families. Together we will build a strong foundation, ensuring that our Pre-K program remains a place of love, learning and growth.

Looking back at my 28-year journey (and counting), I've learned that each step has been a preparation for the next, and that with faith, dedication and the inspiration of Ms. Alvarado and the influence of my former mentor Ms. Kathleen Vigil, I am confident that this chapter will be filled with growth achievement and the continued joy of educating our future leaders.

I believe that **"I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me."** *Philippians 4:13*

With deep gratitude and respect,
Ms. Sandra Trujillo

McCurdy Schools of Northern New Mexico
Pre-K Administrator/Site Director
& Lead Teacher

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.—John 13:34–35

Live, Work, Educate and Recreate Planned Community



Rev. Diana Loomis,
Partnership Director

Public/Private Partnership

All around the country new infrastructure projects are being planned and constructed as a result of the Federal Infrastructure Act and the Inflation Reduction Act. McCurdy has been blessed because this legislation is helping our plans to create a “**Live, Work, Educate and Recreate Planned Community**” on the McCurdy campus.

First, in response to a Presidential Executive Order, the Environmental Protection Agency Region 6 Brownfield Program chose Española as their community to bring to bear and coordinate all EPA resources and all Federal resources on.

The EPA chose Española because of the work McCurdy had been doing with the EPA. This partnership has resulted in:

1. A renewed EPA Financial Technical Assistance Grant to assist McCurdy in preparing for Federal grants and loan programs.
2. An EPA funded Phase 2 Remediation Assessment for asbestos, mold and lead paint of our adobe buildings, including core samples drilled into the walls to determine if these contaminants are in the adobe walls of Herrick, Blake, the Library Annex and several smaller buildings. If so, then the EPA can help fund the demolition of these buildings. McCurdy has also been blessed with a \$100,000 grant from the Anchorum Foundation for demolition, a \$200,000 NM State Capital Outlay Grant for remediation and demolition due to the work of Rep. Susan Herrera and Sen. Leo Jaramillo, and up \$300,000 in grant funds for remediation from the NM Environment Department. Because of these funding sources, the demolition of these unusable buildings will hopefully be accomplished in the next year.
3. Due to funding from the Inflation Reduction Act, McCurdy has been chosen for the EPA Brownfield Brightfield Program and now has energy consultants at work developing a new energy plan for our campus, which will mean the decommissioning of the steam plant that heats seven key buildings on campus. The consultants will draw up a plan using geothermal, solar, battery storage, energy efficiency and wind energy sources, present that plan to the McCurdy Board for approval, and then pursue Federal Grants that will pay up to 50 percent of the cost of these plans. This is an amazing resource to help our dream of an energy efficient green campus come to life! In addition, there is a possibility that McCurdy will become an energy producer that would not only eliminate our energy costs but also

mean that we could produce energy for our community, which could provide an income for our ministries!

4. Sarah Allen has applied for up to \$250,000 in grants specifically for faith-based nonprofits, funded by the Inflation Reduction Act, to make buildings outside of our Phase 1 construction plans like Cole and McCracken energy efficient as well.
5. Recently, our liaison at the EPA informed us about a soon to be released \$2.8 billion EPA Environmental Justice Grant that nonprofits like McCurdy, who operate in poverty areas with environmental pollution issues, can apply for and use for capital improvement projects like the development of our “**Live, Work, Educate, and Recreate Planned Community.**”

Several barriers to moving forward with our redevelopment plans have been settled and McCurdy is ready to take the approval to our revised Master Plan to the City of Española. We are working with Rebecca Seawall, the new director of planning for the City, and hope the revised Master Plan will go to the Planning Commission for approval in October.

Progress is being made on our vision to strengthen McCurdy, so we can continue to make God’s difference in Española for the next 100 years! Our vision is so contagious that many others in the community and around the country are willing to invest in the difference we make, and that is a profound blessing. Recently, we received and are grateful to Anchorum Foundation for a \$25,000 planning grant to continue the work of the Public/Private Partnership and a \$25,000 grant for Project Cariño for the 2023–24 fiscal year. With hope for the future!

Rev. Diana Loomis, public/private partnership director



Long-term volunteer Sue McCuiston created a Vision of our New Campus Poster for mission teams staying in the dorm to be able to view while on campus.

Additional Ideas that Our Volunteer in Mission Teams Can Do to Help McCurdy

1. **Invite other churches in your conference to have team members come to McCurdy with your team.** This is a great way to spread the excitement and break down barriers of a new team choosing to come to McCurdy who have no previous on-site experience. Board member Linda Polson from the church in Claremore, OK, invited members from Boston Avenue UMC in Tulsa and Tahlequah FUMC as well as several other churches to come on a scouting trip with her to see McCurdy. Both churches are now active in sending volunteers.
2. **Consider recruiting a team to help meet a specific need.** Board Member Glenn Tombaugh recruited a specific team earlier this year to take down a small building

to create more parking for the Cole Center for our community meetings and adult education classes.

3. **Consider adopting a specific building or program and focus energy on helping with improvements.** During the last four years, Boston Avenue UMC has concentrated most of their efforts on the Project Cariño area and the results are amazing. NM United Women in Faith units and White’s Chapel Methodist Church adopted specific weeks of our Camp Stars program and supplied all the materials for art, science, and outdoor activities for each week.
4. **Have specific fundraising activities for your mission team or to raise funds for McCurdy Ministries.** Board member Lori Riddle went to numerous groups and classes in her church and raised approximately \$5,000 for scholarships for our Camp Stars students. Linda Polson organized a Fall Plant Sale at her church with half of all proceeds going to support their mission team trip to McCurdy and needed supplies.
5. **Tell your church or conference about your McCurdy experience and spread the word.** Ask people to join our email list for our weekly devotions, monthly volunteer newsletters, and our quarterly **McCurdy Message** to stay current with all happenings.
6. **Remember, individuals are also always welcome to serve as a long-term volunteer or a dorm host.**
7. **And lastly, don’t forget to schedule your team for next year. We can’t wait to see you again!**



Tahlequah FUMC VIM Team

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!
—2 Corinthians 5:17

McCurdy Then & Now

Recent Buildings and Land Acquisitions

(written as of 1967 by Virginia Frank McQuiston)

Throughout the years, the McCurdy campus has appeared as an “oasis in the desert” as many have enjoyed the spreading trees, green lawns, beautiful rose gardens, and attractive buildings. For many years, Mrs. McCracken kept her eye on the campus and directed many beautification projects, while Mr. McCracken directed the purchase of property and addition of buildings.

Between 1946 and 1950 alone, the clinic, elementary school, heating plant, laundry, boys' dorm (Bachman Hall), superintendent's home and pastor's home were built, in addition to remodeling projects in Blake Hall, changing the old superintendent's home into a duplex, and the Herrick House into apartments for single teachers.

The story of land acquisitions is filled with complications and interesting sidelights. Following the addition of the orchard land, on which the Overmiller's built the superintendent's home, the present church property was obtained. The McCracken's themselves purchased the property, formerly Indian land, on which the football field is now located, as it was available and had to be purchased immediately. A small wedge-shaped section of land on which part of the track and the bleachers were located was not included in the purchase and was not acquired until 1965 when land was purchased from Mr. Clarence (Herb) Yates, Sr. for the building of several faculty houses. He then included this wedge of land, so football fans no longer watched the game from borrowed land. The orchard located west of the main campus was acquired next. Today (1967) 22.33 acres are included in the McCurdy Campus.



McCurdy Entrance and Bachman Hall

McCurdy has a rich history of starting new programs and then gifting them to the community. In 2017, McCurdy Ministries donated eight acres of land including the football field and track as well as two buildings, the cafeteria and the new gym to benefit the newly formed McCurdy Charter School. We helped the school build their new facilities on the western boundary of their new campus. Once again, McCurdy donated a program they had founded to the community, to help make needed services more available.



McCurdy Campus redesign 2020

THE FUTURE

The Future Looks Amazing and Our Board of Directors, Executive Director and Reverend Diana Loomis continue to work with our Public Private Partnership to create our newly redesigned McCurdy Ministries Campus.

How YOU can Help

McCurdy Ministries Community Center

Your prayers, volunteer work and donations have made it possible for *McCurdy Ministries Community Center* to make a significant difference in an area where 24 percent of adults over 25 have not graduated from high school, the per capita income is \$19,703, and over 25 percent of the population lives below the poverty line. We continue to create hope and empowerment through education, life skills, and faith-based programs in Española, New Mexico, as we have since 1912.

WE HOPE YOU WILL PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR MINISTRIES:

Personally donate and encourage your church to donate regularly to McCurdy.

Choose McCurdy Ministries Community Center for a Facebook Fundraiser. Invite your friends, business, and Church to help support our work in the Española Valley.

Create a special Amazon Wish List and (Amazon Smile is no longer available) choose McCurdy Ministries Community Center as your charity.

Donate needed supplies for McCurdy Programs (Camp Stars, After School Care, or Project Cariño) directly on our Amazon Gift Registry.

Hold a Volunteer's in Mission Event for a church program, dinner, or worship service and invite the McCurdy church relations team members to participate via Zoom.

Make a donation of cash, stocks, land, or an appreciated asset.

Participate in Giving Tuesday in the month of November.

Donate a gift annuity to the school to earn income during your life and bless the school with a donation after your death. Gift annuities currently pay at a higher interest rate than CDs.

Organize a Volunteers in Mission Team from your church to serve at McCurdy Ministries and support our programs while learning more about our ministry and enjoying Northern New Mexico.

Remember McCurdy Ministries in your will and become part of the Mellie Perkins Society.

Set up an endowed financial aid account in the McCurdy Foundation which is held by the Texas United Methodist Foundation.

When you purchase a new car, consider donating your old one to McCurdy Ministries Community Center for a tax deduction.

Donate to McCurdy through the UMC Global Ministries Advance #581479

And please remember to pray for McCurdy Ministries Community Center!



*He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God.
Many will see and fear the Lord and put their trust in him.—Psalm 40:3*