

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, #4 McCurdy Ministries Community Center creates hope and empowers the lives of children, June 2018 youth, adults and families through education, life skills and faith-based programs in Española, NM

New Mexico Annual Conference approves capital campaign to fund \$1.7 million renovation of Children's Ministries Center



Architectural rendering of proposed renovations for the Children's Ministries Center

After a year of dialog with the bishop, cabinet, Council on Finance and Administration and the Conference Ministry Team, the New Mexico Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church voted on June 13, 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.

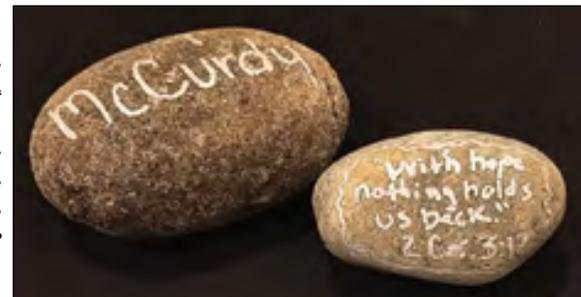
The Children's Ministries Center is already the site for Camp Stars this summer and will host an expanded After School Care next fall but until building renovations occur McCurdy cannot expand our preschool programs or completely use the building. Renovations will include installing new windows, metal roof, insulation, HVAC systems and exterior envelope to improve energy efficiency, renovating ex-

isting bathrooms and ramps to improve handicapped accessibility and rehabbing classrooms for preschool, after school and Camp Stars programming.

United Methodist Churches will be invited to be Prayer Partners for the campaign and Albuquerque, Clovis and El Paso District committees will be organized to share McCurdy's Creating Hope, Empowering Lives message with our New Mexico supporters. Rev. Diana Loomis, director of development/church relations says, "Our goal will be to share the difference God is making at McCurdy and invite our friends in the conference to help make that difference happen. I am excited to share our story with as many churches as possible!" 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.

McCurdy prayer rocks given to NM Conference attendees were made by women and girls from the Great Plains UMW Mission Tour who volunteered on campus. The rocks were painted with "McCurdy" on one side and the word "hope" or the scripture "With hope nothing holds us back." (2 Cor.3:12) on the second side.



Camp Stars launches a sixth summer of making a difference in Española

Camp Stars launched its sixth summer June 18, with 31 kindergarten to sixth grade students! Camp Stars is a six week summer camp that combines STEM education with Vacation Bible School fun and service. This year's theme is: **Rolling River Rampage: Experiencing the Ride of a Lifetime with God.**

Campers embark on an adventure with God from 8 AM to 3 PM weekdays and learn science, math, engineering and technology skills, while discovering they can trust God to be with them through anything. The scripture theme for this year is, "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you." (Isaiah 43:2)

One of the most exciting Camp Stars updates is its new location! This summer, thanks to many hours from our volunteer teams and maintenance staff, Camp Stars moves to the Children's Ministries Center which was formerly the elementary school. The halls of the building are full of children's voices laughing, learning, singing and praising God. You can feel the energy entering the building when the campers are dropped off to embark on their daily river adventure!

We thank the Monte Foundation for being the major donor to Camp Stars for the sixth summer. Their generosity makes learning, fun, service and deepening relationships with Jesus possible! Thanks to the Rio Arriba County Summer Food Program for providing breakfast and lunch for our Camp Stars participants. McCurdy wishes all of our campers a safe summer full of learning, fun and adventure!



Students and counselors enjoy their new Camp Stars home in the Children's Ministries Center.



Patricia Alvarado

Notes from the MMCC executive director

We just finished another school year for our NM PreK, afternoon faith-based preschool, After School Care, Project Cariño mental health services and breakfast and lunch programs. This week Camp Stars, our summer camp, launched our sixth summer season thanks to the generosity of the Montei Foundation. Over the summer we continue to partner with Northern New Mexico College in providing High School Equivalency services and soon will provide Adult Literacy classes in partnership with the Rio Arriba Adult Literacy program. Every summer, we welcome to campus our Volunteers in Mission teams and individual volunteers from across the country who work with our programs, prepare the

campus for the next school year and repurpose spaces for current and future programming

I am so excited about the expansion of our partnerships because they will help us meet the needs of the children, youth and families in our community! As I meet folks providing services on our campus, I am humbled by the generosity and kindred spirits of the folks who partner with us to make a difference for our children. They act as the hands and feet that make our mission thrive. I am also blessed by the relationships I have developed with volunteers, former staff, alumni, churches, United Methodist Women and donors from

across the country who believe in our ministries, pray for us and support us. Recently, I attended the UMW Assembly in Columbus, OH. It was a joy to learn and worship with women who support McCurdy from around the world. I am also blessed by the volunteers, supporters, visitors and staff on our campus who make God's difference with our children every day.

My life's journey has been full of the unexpected, but I would not trade any of it! My Father in heaven has held me and my children through sad and tragic experiences, yet has blessed us with so much joy. Before I begin my day and when I lay down to sleep, I invite my heavenly Daddy, to provide protection, strength, love and faith, as I interact with others. My hope is that the love of Jesus Christ will be seen and experienced by others through my words and actions. I pray we all can exude kindness, humility, calm and peace that will impact others in a positive manner.

I pray daily you—our McCurdy family—will grow in Christ and truly know the joy that was promised to us by God. The truth is Christ did NOT promise us happiness. He promised us the JOY of being one with him. If we live our lives with Christ in our hearts, minds and souls, then the anxiety, worry and impatience that can keep us from being what we were meant to be falls away and the jewel that God created will shine through and light the path for others to follow on their own journey! I thank all of you, on behalf of McCurdy Ministries Community Center and I pray that we can all open our hearts and minds to the gifts waiting for us! *Patricia A. Alvarado, MMCC executive director*

Project Cariño is growing in the ways we serve

With the help of two counselors and four interns, Project Cariño ended the 2017–18 school year providing a record number of 4,488 contact hours of services to 530 McCurdy Charter School and 45 McCurdy Ministries Community Center students and their families! Each of these contact hours means a child, youth or family was listened to, supported, coached, resourced and helped to deal with their life and school circumstances. Services included 1,170 therapy hours, 824 classroom presentation hours, 2128 Big Buddy/Little Buddy hours and 366 client support hours. In addition, our Project Cariño Director, Amanda Trujillo Gonzales, spent 423 hours supervising and training our three MSW interns and one BSW intern. This year Project Cariño, which is a free school based mental health program, provided 1,888 MORE contact hours with students and their families than last school year.

This increase is due in large part to Project Cariño's successful internship partnership with New Mexico Highlands University, New Mexico State University and Western New Mexico University. During the school year one BSW and three MSW interns saw individual clients, coordinated support groups including the Buddy Program and provided training to MCS faculty and staff. Project Cariño and the Española Valley, benefits greatly from the work of our interns. As one intern stated, *"Being at Project Cariño has convinced me that I have chosen the right career path and because of that, I have found newfound inspiration to move forward. I am also now convinced that where I belong is in Española."* We are so grateful for our interns and wish them all the best of luck as they take their learning from their time at McCurdy out into the world to make a difference!

Project Cariño will have one BSW intern and one MSW intern for the 2018–19 school year which ensures the continuation of the Buddy program. In addition, we are excited to share the McCurdy Ministries Community Center Board of Trustees has approved the hiring of a third full time counselor to ensure the high level of contact hours, care and services provided to students will continue. An additional counselor will mean our mental health services can be expanded to Camp Stars, the Adult Education Program and a summer youth program will be started. As a result

the Project Cariño budget will increase from over \$131,000 in the 2017–18 school year to almost \$185,000 in the 2018–19 school year. The development staff is applying for grants and working on donor support to raise the necessary funds for this program expansion. If you are interested in helping fund this program expansion please be in touch with Diana Loomis, director of development.

This school year, 20 MCS students participated in the Big Buddy/Little Buddy program which matches high school and elementary students for mentoring relationships during the school year. Our buddy program is proud of the longevity of several Big Buddy/Little Buddy relationships. One Little Buddy has been in the program for six years, four Little Buddies have been in the program for five years and five Little Buddies have been in the program for four years. In addition, one Big Buddy participated as a Little Buddy and in return has volunteered as a Big Buddy for four years. As one Big Buddy said, *"Project Cariño's Buddy Program has helped me realize how much of an impact I can make on a Little Buddy's life... My Buddy taught me more and helped me more than I did for him... My Little was always excited to meet and that made me happy knowing I could make my Little happy."* We thank God for the amazing work of our Project Cariño staff, interns and Big Buddy volunteers that make this program a success.

Participants in Project Cariño's Celebrate Survival program for students who have experienced a death in their immediate family get ready to cut a cake.



McCurdy student mural to be recreated in Cole in honor of our alumni

McCurdy volunteers work on all kinds of creative projects that make a difference on our campus. This summer five artists from City Point UMC in Richland Hills, TX, under the direction of Rev. Amy Tate-Almy, will spend a week starting the re-creation of an important Millennial Mural (partially pictured to the right) first created by Class of 2000 student artists and dedicated in memory of their fellow artist and student Julian Gonzales. The mural which was originally installed outside Memorial



Gym succumbed to the effects of weather a couple of years ago. Our City Point volunteers have committed to return every year until the mural is recreated in the Cole Building west wing hallway. The new Millennial Mural will be in memory of Julian Gonzales and in honor of McCurdy graduates from 1912 to 2012. The original Millennial Mural artists were: Tomas Martinez, Myriah Spence, Anthony Maestes, Vicente Salazar, Monica Sanchez, Isaac Valdez, Luke Smith, Elisha Markley, Claire Gallegos, Maria Alvarado, Kris Cordova, Julian Gonzales, Justin Foss and Carlos F. Martinez. The sponsor for the project was Edward Mills, McCurdy art teacher.



Hard working Board President Marilyn Peabody breaking ground for McCurdy Charter School in September of 2016.

Long time McCurdy board member, Marilyn Peabody, resigns

Marilyn Peabody, president of the McCurdy Ministries Community Center (MMCC) Board of Trustees for the last six years, has completed her term of service and resigned effective Aug. 1, 2018, after 15 years on the MMCC board. Patricia Alvarado, executive director, says, "Marilyn has been a true leader, who served with commitment, dedication and passion. She saw McCurdy through some very real challenges as we transitioned from being a private faith based preschool-12 school to McCurdy Ministries and now to McCurdy Ministries Community Center. Marilyn helped create a vision for MMCC to expand, restructure, update our infrastructure and programming and partner with community agencies by becoming a Nonprofit Hub to expand the services we provide to McCurdy Ministries students and staff, McCurdy Charter School (MCS) students and staff, and the Española Community at large. She also played an integral part in making the new MCS School Building a dream come true!"

Marilyn is a McCurdy alumni, who is married to a McCurdy alumni, Troy Peabody, and is mother to two outstanding McCurdy alumni, Major Thomas Peabody and Greg Peabody. You could say her blood runs McCurdy blue! She also taught at McCurdy for three years, and in every way she served God and made God's difference at McCurdy with a true heart for who we are and who we are called by God to be for the next 100 years! Diana Loomis, director of development, says, "Marilyn is a shining example of how Christians with faith and grit can make a difference that impacts a whole community. Working with and watching the partnership between Patsy, Marilyn and our board has been inspiring to me. Marilyn has a God given gift to bring out the best in people and agencies like McCurdy!"

The new MMCC board officers are: Rev. Steve Trout, Los Alamos, and Rev. Sanford Coon, Albuquerque, co-chairs, Miquela Vigil, Española, secretary, Rev. Harry Riser, Española, finance chair, and Tom Hofmann, Columbus, OH, development chair.

McCurdy board members, alumni, staff and the community are invited to a reception honoring Marilyn from 11:30 AM to 2:30 PM, July 19 in the Cole Adult Ministries Center Community Room on the McCurdy campus. Refreshments will be served as Marilyn's friends and supporters come and go and wish her well.

Preschool News*Preschool News

Spring was a busy season for McCurdy's morning Pre-K and afternoon faith-based preschool programs. The children were preparing for the next step in their educational journey—kindergarten! During this time Pre-K students reviewed the alphabet, numbers, counting and other skills that they had learned this school year by listening to stories reviewing letters and numbers, building the alphabet in the construction center, using simple science tools to gather information, and creating collages showing what they had learned. The children also focused on the rhyme and beginning sounds of words, the letters L, N, and K, naming and describing objects, retelling stories in proper sequence, and associating spoken and written language. In preparation for kindergarten the students also focused on cooperation, being responsible and identifying or recognizing changes that happen over time. They also visited the kindergarten teachers, children and classrooms to learn first-hand what kindergarten was like. May 10, 2018, the Pre-K held the last parent/teacher conferences and on May 17, 2018, 20 Pre-K students celebrated graduation complete with caps and gowns! Congratulations to all of our Pre-K students who are now moving on to kindergarten more prepared for success in school and in life!

Volunteers in Mission updates

McCurdy Ministries Community Center is always excited to welcome individual volunteers and Volunteers in Mission, Emergency Response and Nomads teams to make God's difference on our campus! There are three exciting aspects to serving as a volunteer at McCurdy. First and most importantly, you will have an opportunity to make a hands on difference on God's behalf in our community and our community will have the opportunity to welcome you and nurture you as you work. Second, you will experience the blending of the Hispanic, Native American and Anglo cultures as well as our beautiful mountains and valley. Third, we have easy office work and administrative tasks, opportunities to work with our programs like After School and Camp Stars, construction and maintenance work for all abilities, grounds jobs and even demolition of small buildings for skilled construction personnel. The best news is that you will sleep in a bed in a semi-private room with a bathroom attached. You don't have to sleep on the floor in the church fellowship hall when volunteering at McCurdy!

McCurdy is **now scheduling** Individual Volunteers and Volunteer in Mission Teams for the 2018-19 fiscal year. Remember you can bring a volunteer team or come as an individual volunteer 12 months out of the year **and we still have a few spots available this summer!** If you want to volunteer at McCurdy please contact Eufemia Romero to reserve your time. 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 work team or being an individual volunteer at McCurdy go to our website at www.mccurdy.org, click on the VIM tab at the top of the page to locate the VIM Team Handbook, VIM Team Member Handbook and the Individual Volunteer Handbook. To schedule a team or to volunteer as an Individual Volunteer contact Eufemia Romero, our Volunteer Registrar, at eromero@mccurdy.org or 505-753-7221, Ext. 210.

We are sad to announce that our former Volunteer Manager, Bridget Cabrera, recently resigned to take an executive director position with a United Methodist related social action nonprofit in Michigan. We wish her well in her new position.



The Creating Hope, Empowering Lives Capital Campaign

We are making great progress in our **Creating Hope, Empowering Lives Capital Campaign!**

Currently, we are in the Leadership Phase of our campaign and have 45 commitments totaling more than \$616,000 for Phase 1 the Adult Ministries Center. I am pleased to share that

100% of the MMCC Board of Trustees and 100% of the McCurdy Foundation Board, 100% of staff management and 100% of our National Steering Committee have made commitments to the campaign. The best news is that once we reach \$850,000 we will be able to apply for major foundation grants for matching funds to help complete the Phase 1 fundraising. In addition, we are working with our congressional delegation to identify and apply for Federal grants that will help us achieve our goals.

The best news is on June 13, the New Mexico Annual Conference voted to endorse McCurdy's Creating Hope, Empowering Lives Campaign and adopt the fundraising goal for the \$1.7 million necessary for Phase 2 of the campaign which will turn the elementary school into the Children's Ministries Center. (For more info on this decision see page one.) We will be working with Bishop Bledsoe and the churches of the New Mexico Conference over the next 18 months to achieve this goal.

Recruitment for our National Steering Committee to oversee the campaign is complete and we now have 31 members from all areas of New Mexico and eight other states around the country. McCurdy is blessed to have donors and supporters from all over the country and so having committee members from around the country is essential in reaching our donors.

Most importantly, we ask your prayers as we seek to put hands and feet on the difference God is calling McCurdy Ministries Community Center to make in the Española Valley because we know prayer helps us achieve our ministry goals. In fact, the women and girls of the Great Plains Conference UMW Mission Tour created prayer rocks to support our campaign. The rocks were painted with "McCurdy" on one side and the word "hope" or the scripture "With hope... nothing holds us back." (2 Cor.3:12) on the back side. If you as an individual or your church, UMYF group, Sunday School Class, UMM group or UMW circle



or unit are willing to be prayer partners for our **Creating Hope, Empowering Lives Campaign** please email me at dloomis@mccurdy.org and we will mail you rocks, prayers and supplies for you to be in prayer with us on a daily basis.

Even after being a Christian my entire life and a pastor for 39 years, I am still learning how powerful the scripture, "With God all things are possible!" is and you are teaching me. With hope, **Diana Loomis, director of development/church relations**



Amanda Mountain

News from the development department

I am enjoying my work as associate director of development and church relations at McCurdy! My work in this position mostly focuses on researching and writing grants but I also do many tasks on the “church relations” part of the job, building relationships with McCurdy supporters in person and online. I recently attended UMW Assembly, the Mountain Sky Annual Conference and the New Mexico Annual Conference and it was great to meet many McCurdy supporters as I traveled. I also attended an online conference to learn how to better utilize social media to communicate with our supporters and tell the McCurdy story. I learned how to create successful social media strategies on the various platforms available including

Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. It takes a team to create and maintain a successful social media strategy and I invite you to join our team!

Did you know McCurdy Ministries Community Center is now on social media? Make sure you join our team by liking us on Facebook, and following us on Twitter and Instagram so you can keep up with all of the exciting things happening on campus! Being a part of our team means more than liking or following us though. We need your stories. If you have action photos of your volunteer team serving at McCurdy, a story from your time on campus, a photo of the beautiful scenery in Northern New Mexico or a McCurdy event at your local church, please share those with me and I will make every attempt to share them with others via our social media platforms! (Please note if you provide us photos of minors we must have photo releases from their parents or guardians to post them on social media.) You can find us on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/mccurdyministries/>, on Twitter at [@McCurdyMinistry](https://twitter.com/McCurdyMinistry) and on Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/mccurdyministries/>.

The GENERAL FUND is the life blood for McCurdy!

Have you ever wondered how a nonprofit like McCurdy keeps the lights on, pays insurance, repairs buildings and pays salaries? The answer is your generous donations to our General Fund! Many of McCurdy Ministries Community Center expenses such as insurance and repairing a leaking roof aren't as exciting as supporting the life changing work of Project Cariño, After School Care, preschool or Camp Stars but your support of our General Fund is the foundation of our ministries so we can keep the lights on, the rooms warm and our staff paid. While we are very grateful for any donation you make to McCurdy, we ask you to prayerfully consider supporting **BOTH** our General Fund **AND** our programs when you make your next donation. If you have any questions about budget areas where your donations are most needed please email Diana Loomis at dloomis@mccurdy.org.

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 Ministries 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.

UMW Assembly update

McCurdy staff, board members and supporters attended the United Methodist Women (UMW) Assembly in Columbus, OH, in May. Diana Loomis presented on a panel for the Legacy at Work workshop and Amanda Mountain spoke at the Deaconess and Home Missioner workshop about her calling and how this led to her current work at MMCC. McCurdy also had a booth in the exhibit hall with information about our transition to a community center and our Creating Hope, Empowering Lives Capital Campaign. We enjoyed greeting many McCurdy supporters and meeting new ones!

Patricia Alvarado, Diana Loomis, Amanda Mountain and Bridget Cabrera were the McCurdy staff who attended and Tom Hoffman, Glenna Kyker and Ellen Lipsey were the McCurdy board members who attended. The theme for UMW Assembly was “The Power of Bold” which was reflected during inspiring worship, plenary and workshop sessions. McCurdy staff returned from UMW Assembly with renewed conviction in McCurdy’s bold work to “create hope and empower the lives of children, youth, adults and families through education, life skills and faith based programs.” We thank the UMW National Staff for their inspiring event and each one of you for your prayers as we traveled to Assembly. We look forward to seeing you in Orlando for the next UMW Assembly in 2022!



After School Care students enjoy a moment with a staff member.

After School Care News

“I am a child of God” 1 John 3:1

This verse guided After School Care students in May as our staff invited our students to consider how they perceive God. The students and staff read the verse from 1 John 3:1 each day and throughout the week and read a daily prayer including prayers written and shared by students with one another. The students also created works of art which as one mom says beautifully reflected their own thoughts on our Christian faith.

Once spring arrived, afterschool care students enjoyed the warm weather by playing outdoor games with one another including their favorite game, “colored eggs.” One parent says her child enjoys her time at afterschool care because she has so much fun with all her friends while another parent said afterschool was the best place for kids because she trusts the staff and knows her child is safe and cared for during after school hours. The children in MMCC’s afterschool care are happy, safe, and love one another. We thank God for another great school year in After School Care program and wish each of our students a safe and happy summer vacation!



Box Tops and Tyson updates

We are receiving more and more Tyson Project A+ labels and we thank you! Each label is worth a whopping 24 cents which compares to 10 cents per Box Top received. Our last submission earned a \$60 donation.

Thank you for your support of McCurdy Charter School by collecting Box Tops for Education. This school year we have raised \$5,290 and since we began these efforts in 2012, we have helped the school earn over \$85,232.

Thank you for years of support by donating Campbell's Labels. As of Dec. 31, 2017, the program ended and our final balance was 566,858 points which translates into \$6,424 of prepaid Visa cards to spend on McCurdy Ministries Community Center programming. We can no longer submit labels so please throw any you have away.

Please continue to send in your Box Tops and Tyson Project A+ labels to McCurdy Ministries Community Center, 362-A S. McCurdy Road, Española, NM 87532.