

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. 7, #2

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

In early November McCurdy Ministries Community Center will launch a new, easier to use website at www.mccurdy.org

In early November, McCurdy Ministries Community Center (MMCC) will be launching an updated and easier to use website at www.mccurdy.org. We invite you to refresh your browser and go to our website to view the updated information about our ministries. The site has been reorganized, simplified and rebuilt from the ground up to make it easier for our supporters and volunteers to find the information they need about our various ministries.

At www.mccurdy.org you will find information on all our programs including Project Cariño, After School Care, Preschool, New Mexico Pre-K, Camp Stars, Breakfast and Lunch, Adult Education, Volunteers in Mission Teams and individual volunteers. Also, included are a staff directory, board listing, history, directions to our campus, contact information, information on the Española Valley and New Mexico, giving information, expanded McCurdy resources including PDFs of MMCC newsletters and bulletin inserts, updated MMCC program video and capital campaign resources and video. These resources are suitable for promoting McCurdy Ministries Community Center.

The Long Term Individual Volunteer, Volunteer in Mission Team information (which includes VIM, Emergency Response and Nomad Teams) and Local Volunteer information has been updated. Thanks to Linda Polson, MMCC board member and experienced VIM team leader, all volunteer



Screen shot of the new easier to use MMCC website with two toolbars at the top of the page for easy navigation and simplified easier to use information and applications throughout the website. (Photo by Rich Saxon)

applications have been simplified, made web interactive and able to be downloaded or filled out online and emailed automatically to both MMCC offices and your team leader.

Your suggestions on additional ways to improve the McCurdy Ministries Community Center website are appreciated. Please email your suggestions to Eufemia Romero at eromero@mccurdy.org or call 505-753-7221, ext. 210.

The 2018 Giving Tuesday Campaign will support the McCurdy Ministries Community Center General Fund

The McCurdy Ministries Community Center (MMCC) General Fund 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. We are excited to announce for this year's **Giving Tuesday** event, anonymous McCurdy donors have committed to give **\$36,000** of match this year which is the highest amount donated in the six years we have held this event.

Your **Giving Tuesday** donation will provide much needed support to our **General Fund before year end**. This means every gift you donate marked **Giving Tuesday** between Nov. 1 and Nov. 27, 2018, will be matched up to \$2,500 as long as the match lasts. So if you give \$100 your gift will be multiplied to \$200.

Last year, McCurdy Ministries Community Center donors broke our Giving Tuesday 2016 record by raising \$71,050 from 128 donors across the United States. This year due to the increase of match donations from \$31,000 to \$36,000, we have



set our Giving Tuesday 2018 goal at \$75,000.

Starting last year we made it easier for you to make a donation to MMCC during our Giving Tuesday Event. Please note the match is only for gifts to the General Fund not the capital campaign, the McCurdy Foundation or specific programs. For your gift to be matched please give in one of these three ways:

1. Mail a gift postmarked between Nov. 1 and Nov. 27, to McCurdy Ministries Community Center, 362A S. McCurdy Road, Española, NM. The check MUST be marked Giving Tuesday to count toward the match.
2. From Nov. 1 through Nov. 27 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.
3. On Nov. 27, 2018, you can go to <https://www.umcmmission.org/give-to-mission/search-for-projects/projects/581479> to give to McCurdy through the United Methodist Advance. Only gifts given on Nov. 27 through this option will be applied to the match IF it is still available.

Please call Rev. Diana Loomis at 505-753-7221, ext. 352 or email her at dloomis@mccurdy.org if you have any questions about **Giving Tuesday**.

Notes from the MMCC executive director



Patricia Alvarado

As I drive along US 285 from Santa Fe to Española on my way back to McCurdy Ministries Community Center (MMCC), I see the signs of late fall including the beautiful autumn colors and snow-capped mountains of the Jemez and the Truchas. I feel the crisp cool air and appreciate the multicolored skies, interspersed with cloud formations. It is a reminder of a quiet and serene inner peace! There is so much going on “behind the scenes” on our campus that a peaceful drive is a gift from our Father!

You might not know all that goes on within the boundaries of our beloved campus! I met a former employee who worked with us over twenty years ago when we were a K-12 school and he asked what was going on at McCurdy, because

it seemed so “quiet!” I assured him that while the campus might look quiet right now, there is so much going on to make our vision of a Community Center come to fruition. Below is overview of what’s going on “behind the scenes” at MMCC:

- Our **After School Care** operates daily from 3 to 5:45 PM at the Hovermale Children’s Ministries building for children from the charter school and the MMCC Preschool. **Our NM Pre-K and afternoon faith-based preschool** are on-going at the Pilling Retreat Center West wing. Our NM Pre-K staff have conducted home visits, hosted parent events, served students daily, attended on-going NM Children, Youth and Family Department training, as well as delivered quality program services. **Project Cariño**, our school and community based mental health counseling program, has logged in **OVER 1,196** contact hours since Sept. 5, working with students, parents, teachers, volunteers and staff providing class presentations, training, supervision, and Big Buddy/Little

Buddy coordination.

- Our cafeteria staff has served over 7,600 breakfasts and lunches to our charter school, MMCC students, staff and volunteers.
- Camp Stars, our summer camp, ran June 12 to July 27. We provided eight hours a day of quality programming that included STEM activities coupled with Vacation Bible School. We also partnered with the Rio Arriba County Summer Food program to provide free breakfast and lunch to all participants, as we were a site for summer food distribution.
- We have hosted several retreat groups at the Pilling Retreat Center for faith-based organizations as they conduct their own pilgrimages.
- Our VIM program brought 75 volunteers to our campus between Sept. 9 to Oct. 19 and they volunteered **1,875 work hours**.
- We are continuing working on our **Creating Hope, Empowering Lives Capital Campaign** to renovate the buildings that have been designated in our Master Plan for expanded community services.

Your continued prayers and donations make our ministries possible! There are times when our families and children cannot fathom that someone from across the country is willing to give of their time, prayers and resources to support persons they do not know. It is always an opportunity and a joy to share with them that God’s plan for us is to provide for us, “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

As the Thanksgiving and Christmas season approaches, I thank you on behalf of the McCurdy Ministries Community Center Board of Trustees and staff, for all you do for our children and families in the Española Valley. May God’s blessings sustain you! Yours in Christ, *Patricia A. Alvarado, executive director*

Project Cariño staff keeps growing & making a difference!

Project Cariño is well underway providing social and emotional support to McCurdy Ministries Community Center and charter school community! September and October have brought requests of support for 32 students, addressing depression, anxiety, grief, divorce and self-esteem. These cases have been divided among our three professional therapists and three master-level interns in clinical training. As of Oct. 16, our staff had provided 93 hours of individual therapy for students, 20 sessions for parents and provided crisis intervention for four students. We have also collaborated with teachers to help them with information and recommendations in addressing specific behaviors in the classroom. Our staff has also made 11 classroom presentations on “Healthy Relationships and Healthy Use of Technology,” “Good Touch—Bad Touch Empowerment Training,” and an introduction of the Project Cariño program and staff. **WHEW!!**

Our team has also grown by two over recent weeks. May, our therapy dog in training, is also in practicum at Project Cariño! She is a Border Collie whose mama is Stephanie Camfield, one of our student interns. Currently, May has passed two of three evaluations that will validate her ability to help therapy clients regulate strong emotion. Once she has passed all three, May will be able to accompany Project Cariño staff in providing emotional support to MCS students and staff. She is Project Cariño’s second therapy dog, following in the paw prints of our beloved Compa who went to live in Albuquerque with his mama a couple of years ago. Jackie Fernandez, Clinical Social Work Intern, will join us next month to complete



MSW intern Stephanie Camfield and May her therapy dog

her training as a student at NM State University School of Social Work. She is no stranger to Project Cariño and McCurdy Charter School, as she successfully completed a different practicum experience last school year! We welcome Jackie back into the Project Cariño fold, and proudly count seven therapists working to support MCS students for the 2018-19 school year!

We have enjoyed welcoming various Volunteer in Mission (VIM) work teams to Project Cariño. We have shared with them who and what we are, and the services we provide at no cost to our students and families. We have received much help from them as well. They have beautified the Project Cariño landscape by installing new flowerbeds and flowers, an angel sculpture and several inspirational signs.

These help our staff, students and families who visit our offices each day feel peaceful and loved!

Our VIM work teams also provided administrative support for our Buddy Program and Book Inventory! Forms were created and modified to make our work time more efficient. We are eternally grateful for this gift of time! Most importantly, they also provided us with Crisis Bags, filled with readings, books, a stuffed animal, activities and words of comfort. These bags are given to students in crisis so that they have a concrete reminder of the support they have received from Project Cariño and the bags help provide emotional support after the intervention is over.

The VIM team members who have provided their continued support of our families and staff are truly “the wind beneath our wings!”

The Project Cariño staff recently held a team building day, enjoying each other’s company through various exercises. While we work together each week to support students, we feel it’s also important to take a day enjoying fun activities that help us get to know each other better, and create strong bonds that will help us support each other through the sometimes difficult work of clinical counseling. Our team is dynamic and strong and from this base we work to help others.

I am happy to have each of these therapists on the Project Cariño team as we learn, grow and work together throughout the year! *Amanda Trujillo Gonzalez, Project Cariño director*



Adult Education at McCurdy

MMCC’s Adult Education program provides meeting space, support and childcare to adults in the Española Valley who are seeking to enhance their education. We’re reviewing our partnership with Northern New Mexico College to provide adult education classes on our campus. These classes include English as a Second Language (ESL) and tutoring in math and English in preparation for completion of the High School Equivalency test. We are also partnering with the Rio Arriba Adult Literacy Program (RAALP) to provide free space for their training of peer-to-peer tutors. In addition, we have developed a Memorandum of Understanding allowing RAALP to use the Adult Education Center to provide literacy tutoring sessions.

We also invite the community to use the Cole Adult Ministries Center and Community Room to host trainings, meetings or events. To learn more about using this large, WiFi-enabled meeting space that holds over 100 participants, please contact Eufemia Romero at 505-753-7221, ext. 210.

NM Pre-K News*Preschool News

Every year McCurdy Ministries Community Center is blessed by volunteers who share the love of God on our campus. Jean Mahan is from Dayton, OH, and recently volunteered for a week at McCurdy and made a wonderful difference.

Jean Mahan (Ms. Jean as we call her) has been coming to McCurdy Ministries Community Center for 14 years and has spent the last 12 years volunteering in the PreK/School, where her help and presence are very much appreciated. Being a retired preschool teacher herself, Ms. Jean has a special way with the children and they are very excited to have her in our classroom. She always sets a good



example for the children and that leaves a lasting impression. She is like one of the family, as many of the children call her "Grandma."

This year she spent her volunteer week with us setting up and executing a hot air balloon paper mache project. The beautiful balloons now hang in our entry room above the children's cubbies, where they are always reminded of how she helped them with this fun project. They are so proud to show their parents and they tell them, "Look at what Ms. Jean helped us make!" Ms. Jean, we thank you for all the joy and happiness you radiate while you are here on campus. We all miss you dearly and look forward to seeing you again next year! *Sandra Trujillo, preschool director*

A preschooler works on a paper mache balloon.

Volunteers in Mission news

It's that time of year when the leaves are turning and our VIM groups are dwindling down, staying home and enjoying the holidays. But what an impact they made on McCurdy Ministries Community Center this fall! During September and October, six VIM teams from four states with 75 participants volunteered on our campus. They volunteered in classrooms, helped with administrative tasks, built a fence, updated the exterior of Project Cariño and many more projects. In addition, we have been blessed by three long term volunteers (those who stay longer than 2 weeks) who act as auxiliary staff and dive in to help wherever needed on campus.

MMCC is **now scheduling** Long Term Individual Volunteers, Local Volunteers, Volunteer in Mission (VIM) teams, and Emergency Response teams for the 2018-19 fiscal year. **Remember, you can volunteer 12 months out of the year at McCurdy!** With our transition to a community center, we have construction, building demolition, classroom, administrative and program development needs. Your help is critical and your talent may help move our renovation schedule forward!

For information on leading a VIM team, being a member of a VIM team, or volunteering as a Long Term Individual or Local Volunteer, please go to our website at www.mccurdy.org, and click on the VIM or Volunteering tab at the top of the page to locate the VIM Team Leader Handbook, VIM Team Member Handbook, the Long Term Individual Volunteer and information for local volunteers. To schedule a team or to volunteer as an individual, please contact Eufemia Romero, volunteer registrar, at eromero@mccurdy.org or at 505-753-7221 ext. 210.



A volunteer from Dothan, Alabama, cleans carpet in the Retreat Center.



The Creating Hope, Empowering Lives Capital Campaign

McCurdy Ministries Community Center has recently launched a Church Toolkit for churches across the country who want to join in praying for our **Creating Hope, Empowering Lives Campaign**. The toolkit includes bulletin inserts, posters, prayer cards, sermon helps, creative ways to pray, a 40-day prayer journal, a general video about McCurdy and a video about the Creating Hope, Empowering Lives Campaign suitable for worship and program use. We invite churches, UMW units, VIM Teams, Sunday School classes and individual donors to support our Creating Hope, Empowering Lives Campaign by becoming a Campaign Spiritual Vision Partner. Being a Spiritual Vision Partner means you will pray for our ministries, the campaign and you will invite your church, Sunday School class, alumni class, UMW unit, friends and family to pray for our campaign. To receive a church toolkit email dstaton@mccurdy.org or download it from the Capital Campaign page on our new website. We are excited about people from all over the country praying in support of our ministries in the Española Valley.

NEW MEXICO CONFERENCE CAMPAIGN FOR THE CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES CENTER

To assist the New Mexico Annual Conference campaign to raise funds for our Children's Ministries Center, church toolkits were mailed out to every church in the conference in late October. If your church needs additional resources please contact us!

The New Mexico Conference district superintendents have each recruited two co-chairs for their District Creating Hope, Empowering Lives Campaign Teams and have nominated clergy and lay persons to serve on these teams. We thank Rev. Craig Cockrell, Rev. Ernie Vineyard and Rev. Eddie Rivera for their support in this recruitment process. 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.

Training for the lay and clergy district teams who will be sharing the Creating Hope, Empowering Lives story around the conference are scheduled for January of 2019 in each district.

El Paso District training event

11:30 AM, Monday, Jan. 7, lunch and training session at St. Paul's UMC in El Paso.

Clovis District training event

11:30 AM, Tuesday, Jan. 8, lunch and training session at First UMC in Roswell.

Albuquerque District training event

11:30 AM, Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2019, lunch and training session at Central UMC in Albuquerque.

For more information on the Creating Hope, Empowering Lives Campaign please call me at 505-753-7221, ext. 352 or email me at dloomis@mccurdy.org. *Diana Loomis, director of development/church relations*

You are invited to McCurdy Ministries for a spiritual retreat!

Lay or clergy persons who work full time in the United Methodist Church are welcome to come to the McCurdy Ministries Community Center 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 our 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 scheduling a retreat please email Eufemia Romero at eromero@mccurdy.org or call 505-753,7221.

Introducing our new associate director of development



Dawn Staton

I am Dawn Staton, the new associate director of development/church relations at McCurdy Ministries Community Center. My husband and I recently moved to New Mexico from Florida, trading the blue waters of the Atlantic Ocean for the breathtaking vistas and mountains of Taos—and we couldn't be happier!

I bring over 30 years of non-profit professional experience working with a wide range of agencies including those that support persons with mental illness, to community centers, to community foundations and for the last 12 years I worked for Jewish Family Services in both Kansas City and Broward County, FL. My skill set includes program development, staff development and supervision, grant writing, volunteer recruitment, training and retention, networking, media relations, special event coordination and marketing and public relations. My passion is working with non-profit agencies that work diligently with those in need, and whose mission it is to make an impact on the community. And what an impact the McCurdy Ministries Community Center is making on the Española Valley!

I am working closely with Rev. Diana Loomis on a daily basis, learning about the Creating Hope, Empowering Lives Capital Campaign which will bring new life and programs to the McCurdy Campus. In addition, I will be assisting Diana with our Giving Tuesday campaign, the newsletter, researching and writing grants to support our current programs and fund new programs, enhancing our image via an increased presence in local and social media and finally, working with our Board of Trustees who are so incredibly supportive of MMCC's mission. I look forward to meeting and working with as many McCurdy donors, supporters, volunteers and alumni as possible. And, we want to provide you with as much relevant and timely information about MMCC activities as possible. If you have suggestions or ideas about future content for the newsletter please email me at dstaton@mccurdy.org.

I feel truly blessed to have found a position that allows me to use my skill set and professional experience to make a difference in people's lives. I look forward to a long and productive relationship with my fellow co-workers, Board of Trustees and most importantly, you, our supporters, as we sustain the growth and influence McCurdy Ministries Community Center has on the community. *Dawn P. Staton, associate director of development/church relations*

McCurdy website & media updates

Our development department has been very busy this past year and we see the dividends of that hard work paying off every day. We have integrated our donor database with an email marketing system, which will allow us to share more inspiring stories, well wishes, and up-to-the-moment updates with you on a more frequent and timely basis. **If you would like to receive these updates please send your email address to dstaton@mccurdy.org and know you can opt out of receiving information from us at any time.**

We are also extremely excited to announce that the redesign of our website is almost complete and will be launched soon! This revised site will be more user-friendly and will offer more resources, information, photos and insights into all the activities and programs offered through MMCC. Meanwhile, to keep up on the latest MMCC happenings, please like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter and Instagram. We invite churches that support us to like our pages, too!

Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/mccurdyministries/>

Twitter at: [@McCurdyMinistry](https://twitter.com/McCurdyMinistry)

Instagram at: <https://www.instagram.com/mccurdyministries/>

Please support McCurdy Ministries Community Center!

McCurdy Ministries Community Center touches the lives of more than 550 students, adults and families every school day through our Northern NM Pre-K programs, Project Cariño, After School Care, Adult Education with childcare, Camp Stars, volunteer programs and preschool. Currently, the most critically needed donations are to our General Fund. By supporting our General Fund donors support our entire program. Your donations of prayer, time, talent and funds literally help us save lives, support 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 at dloomis@mccurdy.org.

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.
Matthew 6:21

Smith's, Box Tops and Tyson provide creative ways to support McCurdy

Thanks so much for continuing to donate your Tyson Project A+ labels! Each label is worth 24 cents, compared to the 10 cents we earn for each Box Top we receive. During the 2017-18 school year, your support helped us earn \$111!

We want to also thank you for your support of the McCurdy Charter School by collecting Box Tops for Education. Since the beginning of the new school year we have raised \$1,031 and since we began collecting box tops in 2012, we have helped the school earn \$86,910!

If you shop at a Smith's Grocery you can sign up to participate in Smith's Inspiring Donations. Smith's then donates .5% of every eligible purchase to McCurdy. For more information inquire at your Smith's store.

Please continue to send in your Tyson Project A+ and Box Tops for Education to McCurdy Ministries Community Center, 362-A S. McCurdy Road, Española, NM 87532. *Your support in this simple way makes a very big difference.*



After School Care News

"Let all that you do be done with Love." 1 Cor. 16:14

It's been an exciting time in our After School Care Program. First, our students are very thankful for the pretend kitchen set they received from a wonderful donor. The children enjoy pretending they're cooking a meal for their family and they even say a small prayer before their pretend meal is served.

Recently, the children have been learning about Adam and Eve. Two of our students, Noah and Andrew, asked Mrs. Angel, "How did God create Eve?" and she replied, "God gave her one of Adam's ribs." That led to a wonderful discussion amongst the students as they explained to one another the stories they knew about Adam and Eve.

We have also been blessed to have volunteers spending time with our students—all the children were so excited to meet new people! One of our volunteers spent many hours with students, singing and playing the guitar and showing them tricks with yarn string so they could make a bridge and a chicken leg!

We thank all the volunteers who work to make our After School Care Program fun and engaging! *Angela Ortiz, After School Care director*