



The McCurdy Ministries Message

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McCurdy Schools
of Northern New Mexico
362A S. McCurdy Rd.
Española, NM 87532

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Sharing God's love through education and mission

February 2016



Pictured in front of the new McCurdy van are volunteers Ella Martinez, Pat Alexander and Johnnie Matinez. Johnnie and Ella are McCurdy alumni. Ella has volunteered cutting labels for 28 years. Johnnie has cut labels for over three years and Pat is a snow bird volunteer from Minnesota who has cut labels four months a year for four years.

Thanks to Campbell's Labels donations McCurdy Ministries has a new van

Thanks to generous supporters who have been sending McCurdy Ministries donations of Campbell's Labels for years, McCurdy has acquired a new seven passenger Dodge Grand Caravan for use in our ministries. The van cost McCurdy 1,600,000 points which means well over a million labels were donated, cut, prepared and sent to Campbell's to purchase the van. We appreciate our donors support of McCurdy Ministries through this important fundraising ministry. Rarely a day goes by without envelopes, boxes and packets of labels arriving. Please note that starting with the 2016-17 school year changes will be made to the Campbell's Labels for Education program. Look for information on these changes in upcoming newsletters.

Every donation of labels McCurdy sends to Campbells Labels is banked until we spend the points. At this date there are 455,421 points in the McCurdy account. Our goal is to replace another one of our aging McCurdy vans by accumulating another 1,600,000 points. So here is the challenge: **help McCurdy Ministries accumulate 1,144,579 labels by the end of 2016 to secure a new van!** We invite you to go through your cupboards and drawers in the kitchen where you 'stash' those UPC labels and to remind everyone at church to collect their labels for McCurdy. Then we invite you to send the UPC labels to McCurdy Ministries at 362A S. McCurdy Road, Española, NM 87532.



A McCurdy preschooler
photographed by Rich Saxon

Announcing a new McCurdy video

Thanks to the work of McCurdy volunteer, Richard Saxon from Colorado, McCurdy Ministries now has a three minute downloadable video promoting all aspects of our ministries in Española. Rich is a talented photographer who has a special gift for photographing children. A link to the video he created, which is now posted on YouTube, can be found on the McCurdy website under the News & Resources tab. Another way to view and download this video is to type this link into your browser:

<https://youtu.be/f3y2fPYy6wE>

Please use this video for worship, UMW meetings, Sunday School classes, VIM Team recruitment, interested donors or to email to a friend you want to learn more about McCurdy. If you have questions about this resource please contact Rev. Diana Loomis at dloomis@mccurdy.org or call her at 505-753-7221, ext. 352.

Please make a note of our new address

Last fall McCurdy Ministries' address was changed by the United States Postal Service at the request of the City of Española for 911 purposes. Please make a note of our new address which is:

**362A South McCurdy Road
Española, NM 87532**

The USPS only provides a six month forward order for nonprofits. Since the first of the year many donors who use our old address are having their donations, inquiries and correspondence with McCurdy Ministries returned with the statement "no such address" on the envelope. **Rest assured we are at the same location still making a tremendous difference for the students and families of the Española Valley in the name of Jesus Christ!** The only difference is that the post office changed our address.

Included in this mailing is a new Donation Envelope with our correct address. Please make a note of our new mailing address listed above. We would sincerely appreciate it if you would throw away your old McCurdy donation envelopes after you read this newsletter and save the new envelope enclosed to send your next donation to McCurdy Ministries.

Our staff and printer have had many conversations with many departments at the USPS. We appreciate their hard work and hope that you will keep them in your prayers. Most importantly we appreciate your prayers for and support of our ministries in the Española Valley.

Notes from the McCurdy Ministries executive director



Patricia Alvarado
Executive Director

As this Lenten Season begins, I am reminded of my childhood upbringing and what Lent was like for me. I gave up candy, cookies, TV, etc. It was generally a somber time filled with reminders of sacrificing. My anticipation for Easter may have not been focused on the risen Christ as much as the time when all this giving up would come to an end. I felt relief at having accomplished a list of “Not to Dos”!

Last evening as I sat at our Ash Wednesday Service, we were reminded that Lent is an “opportunity” to reflect, to consider, to invite the Holy Spirit into our hearts and minds, to guide us in making our Easter preparations really meaningful. We were reminded that giving up is not just about abstaining from food or activities that steal our time and emotional, mental, and spiritual health. In giving up we seek to replace the time we gain in service to others. We were reminded that the motivation behind serving others cannot be to showcase ourselves and have others think of us as great or unselfish. We were reminded that God, who knows all things, will know when we give of ourselves, our time, our caring, our resources to help others. If we do so because we love God, we will have seized the opportunity during this Lenten Season to open our hearts

and minds to receive the grace and mercy that our Loving Father offers us daily.

Such service to others inspires me and my staff and our local community, as demonstrated by our volunteers who come from near and far to serve the children of our valley, to serve children they may not even know. Our Gala event is such a time. Please read in the article below the details of Gala 19. What I want to share with you is more than at any other time during the year, we experience hundreds of people coming together, giving of their time, donating auction items, donating resources and donating manpower—all with a spirit of humor amid exhaustion, a spirit of giving amid economic challenges, a spirit of hope amid seemingly hopeless situations, and a spirit of joy celebrating the wonderful children of the Española Valley. All these volunteers are living out what our Lord, Jesus said “Let the children come unto me.” All these folks truly exemplify being the hands and feet that work tirelessly, the arms that embrace the children, the eyes that show unconditional love and the heart that opens itself to accept God’s plan for our future.

I thank all of you that supported Gala 19. I thank you for your continued prayers and support of our ministries in the Espanola Valley! I pray that your Lenten Season will be one of true reflection, of giving, and celebrating, because you have indeed seized the opportunity to open your hearts and minds to God’s gift of mercy and grace! *Yours in Christ, Patricia A. Alvarado*



Giving Tuesday Results

Giving Tuesday 2015 was an outstanding success for McCurdy Ministries. We received \$43,097 in donations, \$14,265 in match from Global Ministries and \$5,000 in match from McCurdy’s anonymous donor for a total of \$62,362 donated through the Advance on Dec. 1, 2015. This total was a \$36,934 increase over McCurdy’s 2014 Giving Tuesday donations. In addition the number of donors increased from 68 to 97 and the number of donors who gave \$2,500 increased from two to 11.

Special thanks goes to McCurdy’s anonymous donor who helped spur others to give to this project and to First UMC in Borger, TX, whose leaders challenged their congregation to collect \$2,500 of change during the fall to donate to McCurdy Ministries on Giving Tuesday. In addition, four families from the congregation agreed to individually match what the congregation raised. First UMC Borger pastor, Pam Lehman said, “In the middle of the night five people from our congregation were poised over our computer keyboards, credit cards in hand, waiting to press the “submit” button for Giving Tuesday.” Pastor Lehman said, “Our church was so blessed by our trip to McCurdy last summer that as soon as we got back to Borger, we began to make plans to return the summer of 2016. But we also wanted to do something that would help McCurdy financially.” **And they did! Thanks to First UMC Borger and all the donors who made Giving Tuesday a success!**



From left: David and Martha Milhouse, Pat Alexander & Helen Finch. Photo by Jan Hathaway

Gala 19 update

Gala 19 was held on Feb. 7 in Memorial Gym on the McCurdy campus. A near sellout crowd of over 400 persons attended the event. Many attendees commented on the feeling of excitement that flowed through the crowd because attendance and ticket sales were up by 100 persons due to the decrease in the price of tickets. We are grateful to My Blue Heaven, a Dixieland band from Santa Fe, who donated their time to provide the entertainment for the night. Thanks also to our auctioneer, Luis Abeyta, who made the auction exciting and fun.

Donations are still being made and accepted to support this worthy fundraiser. Currently, the estimated profit for Gala 19 is \$45,000 which brings the total raised over 19 years of the Gala to \$1,050,000! Fifteen percent of the Gala proceeds will go to the McCurdy Ministries Foundation, 42.5% will go to McCurdy Charter School Athletics and 42.5% to McCurdy Ministries Project Cariño.

It was with thanksgiving and sadness that we recognized the retirement of David and Martha Milhouse who have organized the Gala for 15 years. During those years David and Martha have travelled from Indiana to Española several times a year staying up to four months on campus to organize the Gala. We are also grateful for Pat Alexander’s Gala organizing work, Helen Finch’s donation recruitment work, the entire Gala Committee and all the volunteers who donated hundreds of hours of work to make the Gala a success. The date for Gala 20 has tentatively been set for Feb. 4, 2017.

Lenten Prayer by Ruth Duck

God of grace, we thank you that in love you sent Jesus Christ into the world not to condemn, but to save. May your mercy cause us to respond to you in loving commitment, that we may discover the true life you offer us. Amen.

Please consider these creative ways to support McCurdy Ministries

McCurdy Ministries touches the lives of more than 500 students every school day. Your donations of prayer, time, talent and funds literally help us save lives and create a safe place for the children and youth under our care.

We ask you to prayerfully consider these ways of supporting our ministry:

Donate and encourage others to donate regularly to McCurdy. Make a donation of cash, stocks, land or an appreciated asset. **Send us Campbell’s Labels for McCurdy Ministries and Box Tops for Education for McCurdy Charter School.** 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 and come enjoy Northern New Mexico.** Remember McCurdy Ministries in your will and become a part of the Mellie Perkins Society. **Set up an endowed fund in the McCurdy Foundation.** If you purchase a new car, donate your old one to McCurdy for a tax deduction. **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 McCurdy Ministries donation information please call Diana Loomis at 505-753-7221, ext. 352 or email her at dloomis@mccurdy.org.

Project Cariño news and updates



Michelle Esquibel,
Project Cariño Counselor

This school year the Project Cariño staff is pleased to share the reintroduction and expansion of a long time peer mediator program on the McCurdy campus. For many years Project Cariño operated a peer mediator program when funding and staff was available. In this program, students from fifth to 12th grade underwent an application process to be chosen to participate as McCurdy Peacekeepers. The Peacekeepers were then trained to intervene and assist fellow students with peer conflict under the supervision and assistance of Project Cariño counselors.

In the past Peacekeepers commented that their role empowered them to be leaders in their school and enabled them to share their knowledge and increased communication skills in other settings. Older students were proud of the ways their role enabled them to gain skills to help them succeed in college and employment settings.

The training for the Peacekeepers has been based on a Restorative Justice model. Experts from Santa Fe and Albuquerque partnered with Project Cariño to train students and staff. Depending on the training format, students learned different approaches to conduct mediation and other interventions to help their peers and improve the culture of safety on campus.

This year, in collaboration with our Santa Fe Restorative Justice expert, Mary Louise Romero-Betancourt, and the principals and staff at McCurdy Charter School, the Peacekeeper program is deepening in its evolution. Instead of the “healing circles” only being facilitated by Project Cariño counselors, the program has become integrated into the academic environment of the charter school via the service learning classes and the elementary classrooms. Students and staff have been trained in facilitating healing circles that address peer conflict and bullying. The work also focuses on identifying and strengthening the values of the participants, as well as “making right the wrongs.”

One of the main assets of the Restorative Justice model is that it shifts focus away from punitive interventions that are known to have little positive impact on change and growth, and highlights inclusion and healthy relations between everyone in the learning environment. The results we are already witnessing are students who are connecting more with one another in kinder ways. Also, students who tend to act out, or are not often included, are becoming more embraced by

their peers through positive attention and encouragement. These are hallmarks of a positive peer culture that McCurdy Charter School and McCurdy Ministries are invested in promoting.

With the new paradigm, students do not have to leave the learning environment to address an issue. Additionally, administrators, teachers, and other staff are more involved in the restorative process. What this does is allows for our best values and behaviors to be highlighted on a daily basis and interwoven in the fabric of all that occurs on campus.

What is exciting about the changes to the Peacekeeper program is that it is a sustainable model. Students and teachers in the elementary learn and practice this model just as the secondary school does. As the students grow and advance over

the years, they approach the learning community in a different way, more aware of themselves and more able to contribute to a culture of safety.

Of course, none of this can be achieved without the interest and dedication of the students. Our students have the biggest hearts and they are eager to serve their school and community. We are moved by the strength of character of our students. It is inspiring when they share with us that they feel accepted, supported, and cared for at school by adults and by one another. It is exciting to hear that the students feel they can make a difference in the lives of one another.



McCurdy Peacekeepers joining together in their slogan, “If it’s meant to be, it starts with me!”

Cheers to all who helped make the Restorative Justice training happen this year and a **BIG HIGH FIVE** to all of our students for making us proud!

Thanks to the **Montei Foundation, Con Alma Foundation, Santa Fe Community Foundation, Northern New Mexico United Way, United Methodist churches and individuals who financially support the work of Project Cariño.**

Camp Stars fourth year will launch in June

The 2016 Camp Stars students will learn what it means to “catch the wave of God’s amazing love” when this McCurdy Ministries program launches its fourth summer on June 13 on the McCurdy campus. Camp Stars is for children who will enter kindergarten to 6th grade in the fall of 2016. This summer educational enrichment camp combines the best of STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education with Vacation Bible School fun and faith building.

The camp will run for six weeks starting June 13 and end with a Closing Program and Open House for families on July 26. There will be a holiday for Independence day July 2 to 5. The daily schedule for Camp Stars will be 8 AM to 3 PM Monday through Friday. Breakfast and lunch will be provided to each camper at no charge. Financial aid will be available for students qualifying for free or reduced lunch.

More information on Camp Stars will be posted on the McCurdy Ministries website at www.mccurdy.org after March 15. Tuition costs, Camp Stars application, financial aid application and scheduled information will be posted on the website.

The Camp Stars 2016 theme will be “Surf Shack: Catch the wave of God’s amazing love” and kids will be encouraged to explore how to put their faith and minds into action on God’s behalf. In this mission focused camp, kids will experience God’s amazing love and discover how to fuel up and move through life with God. The scripture theme will be “Remember that the Lord is great and awesome.” Nehemiah 4:14b.

For more information on registering your child for Camp Stars or for Camp Stars employment call the McCurdy Ministries office at 505-753-7221, ext. 210.



After School Care news

Students at McCurdy’s After School Care work on homework, reading skills, bible study, computers, games and crafts. One kindergartner was struggling with her homework skills. Her teacher asked us to work with her and sends notes attached to her homework outlining where she needs help. Since then her teacher says she has improved greatly!

We also study bible lessons. During our bible lesson on telling the truth, we played “Look for the Truth.” We hid an index card with Truth on it while a student turned away. When the student came back and looked for Truth the class said they were “hot” or “cold” to help him/her find the truth. Afterwards we discussed how the game would have been changed if we didn’t tell the truth. Our staff is blessed to make a difference for these students.
Flor Cordova, After School Care Director

McCurdy’s Box Tops for Education update

The **Box Tops for Education Program** is going strong thanks to you! This school year we’ve submitted \$9,196 of Box Tops to support McCurdy Charter School (MCS). Since MCS opened, you’ve helped raise \$54,657 to support MCS class field trips, yearbooks, parties and supplies which students and their families cannot afford. Most Box Tops we receive come from our generous supporters located around the United States. Please mail your Box Tops to McCurdy Ministries at 362A S. McCurdy Road, Española, NM 87532. Thank you for your support! *Vickie Luviano, volunteer manager*

McCurdy Ministries cordially invites the children and families of McCurdy Charter School & McCurdy Ministries' After School and Preschool programs to a



Rock-n-Roll Spring Fling

for preschoolers through sixth graders

**3 PM, Wednesday,
April 6, 2016,
in the cafeteria**

Bring a basket or container to hold your eggs and prizes as well as canned goods which will be donated to the Soup Kitchen of San Martin de Porres. An after school snack will be provided and then the children will enjoy prizes, arts and crafts, games, gifts and an Easter Egg Hunt. The hunt will be moved inside in case of rain or snow.

Teachers, parents and United Methodist volunteers are invited to help staff the event. To volunteer or for more information call the McCurdy Ministries office at 753-7221, ext. 210 or email eromero@mccurdy.org.

McCurdy Preschool news

Preparing children to make good ethical choices is a responsibility shared by family and school. Good character does not develop on its own, instead it is the result of conscientious efforts to instill, reinforce and make character second nature in students. The six pillars of character our preschool emphasizes are: **Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring and Citizenship**. Once a month in the McCurdy preschool programs we pick one of the six pillars of character to focus on and learn more about. Each time I talk about character, one of the children always asks "What's a character?" I explain character is how we act when we think no one else is looking. It is how we treat people and the way we do what is right even if the outcome is not so good for ourselves. To demonstrate the character lessons our students are learning, I would like to introduce Andrew Trujillo. Andrew is one of our full day, five year old students who has a witty sense of humor that brings a smile to all who are around him. On a daily basis Andrew demonstrates the six pillars of good character.

Andrew shows **trustworthiness** by always being honest with his friends and teachers, even if it means admitting to a wrong. Andrew shows **respect** by always being polite and courteous to everyone, even to children and families who do not speak English. Andrew has learned how to say "Buenos dias senora" and "Adios amiga" to make others feel welcome and at ease. Andrew shows **responsibility** by always doing what he is supposed to do, by doing for others who forgot or could not be responsible and by working hard to do his best. Andrew shows **fairness** by always playing by the rules, taking turns, sharing and listening before blaming. Andrew shows **caring** by helping others zip their jacket, tie their shoes or do their classroom job. Andrew shows **citizenship** by always being a good neighbor at circle and at the cafeteria table. Andrew always shows **respect** for his parents, his grandparents, his teachers and others.

At McCurdy Preschool we believe character education is necessary to help students develop tools to make good moral choices to be proud of throughout their lives. Good Job Andrew!

Sandra Archuleta, McCurdy Preschool Director



Preschooler Andrew Trujillo

Volunteer news

Each year as the McCurdy Ministries Gala draws near individual Volunteers in Mission (VIMs) arrive on our campus to make sure that everything goes as smoothly as possible and every detail is taken care of. Tablecloths are ironed, dorm rooms are cleaned for our visitors, the campus is cleaned, Gala program pages are printed and collated, auction items are inventoried, and there is even time for fun and fellowship. I'm sure our volunteers return to their rooms each afternoon good and tired. We are grateful for their hard work and cannot do without our volunteers.

We'd like to thank the following volunteers who came to ensure this year's Gala was successful: Pat Alexander, David and Martha Milhouse, Keith and Linda Schrimshaw, Pat and Ed Blasi, Dan and Nancy Gardner, Ray Cook, Ken and Jan Hathaway, Charlie and Nancy Cadwell, Dick and Bev Karr and Paul and Marcia Baynes. These volunteers worked with the many local people who work on the Gala all year long. Thanks to Helen Finch, Ymelda Samora, Pat Lujan and so many others for their outpouring of love and service!

Our volunteers are amazing people who come to serve! Our individual VIMs come for a minimum of two weeks and some, like Pat Alexander from St. Paul, MN, stay several months. There is always important work to be done like assisting in classrooms, gardening, maintenance tasks, assisting with After School Care, office work and clipping Campbell's Labels and Box Tops for education. Whatever your skill or interest we've got a job for YOU! More VIM program information is available by going to our website at www.mccurdy.org and clicking on the VIM tab at the top of the page.

With thanksgiving! Vickie Luviano, volunteer manager



Bottom left: Gala volunteers work together to transform the gym. Bottom right: Ray Cook, Ed Blasi, Charlie Cadwell and Ken Hathaway enjoy a tortilla making session. Top left: Nancy Gardner and Jan Hathaway hem tablecloths. Top right: Nancy Cadwell and Pat Alexander try out handmade Gala donations. Thanks to Jan Hathaway for providing these photos.