

# 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.

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McCurdy Ministries Community Center creates hope and empowers the lives of children, youth, adults and families through education, life skills and faith-based programs in Española, NM February 2019



Above: Ohio volunteers from Sulphur Grove UMC are installing a fence.  
Below: Screen shot of the February 2019 McCurdy Volunteer News which is emailed on a monthly basis.

## New email newsletter encourages more volunteer engagement at McCurdy

Across the denomination the numbers of individual volunteers and Volunteer in Mission (VIM) Teams have been declining. The number of individual volunteers and VIM Teams coming to McCurdy Ministries Community Center (MMCC) has also declined at a time when we are expanding our ministries and needing more volunteers than ever! Our board and staff is ramping up our efforts to communicate that McCurdy is a great place to volunteer. The need for volunteers has never been greater as we continue to make the needed improvements to the aging campus facilities and begin the preparations for Phase I and II of our Creating Hope, Empowering Lives Capital Campaign, which involves major renovations to the Cole Adult Ministries Center and the Children's Ministries Center.

Volunteers are an essential part of McCurdy's ministry and we decided the best way to share this need was to create a monthly volunteer newsletter. The inaugural issue was sent out in December to all volunteers and team leaders who have served at McCurdy in the last five years.

The newsletter will feature a variety of topics aimed at motivating people to volunteer. We plan for the monthly email publication to provide a list of upcoming work projects, helpful tips for leaders planning a mission trip and testimonials from some of our VIM team leaders. Each newsletter will feature one of the great places volunteers can visit during their free time, such as the Plaza in Santa Fe, the historical sites of Los Alamos or the picturesque vistas of Bandelier National Monument.

I hope this publication will inspire people to prayerfully consider volunteering as an individual or on a VIM Team. Our small McCurdy staff cannot do our ministries alone. Many more people are needed to work in partnership with our staff in this vital ministry for the children and families of the Española Valley.

To receive the volunteer newsletter, email your name and address to Dawn Staton at [dstaton@mccurdy.org](mailto:dstaton@mccurdy.org). If you would like more information about being an individual volunteer or leading a VIM team to McCurdy please go to our Volunteer Page on the newly updated McCurdy website at <https://mccurdy.org/volunteer-programs/>.

Linda Polson, McCurdy Board Member and VIM Team Leader.

### McCURDY VOLUNTEER NEWS February 2019

#### Volunteers Needed



It's an exciting time at McCurdy Ministry Community Center (MMCC) as the vision for the future starts to become a reality! The introduction to the McCurdy Capital Campaign provides a good overview of MMCC's plans:

"Years of planning, prayer and inspiration have led to a vision which is outlined in our new campus Master Plan. This plan includes updating, rehabbing and repurposing our 100-year-old campus facilities for ministry consistent with our mission today. Our hope is to collaborate with other nonprofits, service providers and government agencies on our campus to meet the life needs of children, youth, and families in the Española Valley."

We invite you to be a part of the future of MMCC and ask you to prayerfully consider helping this vital ministry meet their ministry's goals. If you want to learn more about the MMCC Master Plan, we invite you to read about it on the Capital Campaign page of our website.

[Visit our Website](#)

On Nov. 27, 2018, the McCurdy Ministries Community Center (MMCC) donors once again donated generously to our **Giving Tuesday 2018** event. This year we raised a total of \$63,335 from 121 donors from across the United States. "We are deeply grateful to the anonymous donors who provided \$36,000 of match for **Giving Tuesday 2018**. Knowing if you give a dollar it will be matched really motivates our supporters," says Rev. Diana Loomis, director of development/church relations. In 2017 we raised \$71,050 so our donations declined but donations were still double what was raised on our first Giving Tuesday in 2013.

McCurdy will celebrate Giving Tuesday next Dec. 3, 2019 and we will once again be looking for donors to contribute match to help make the 2019 campaign more successful than previous years. If you would like to learn more about contributing match to our 2019 campaign please email Diana Loomis at [dloomis@mccurdy.org](mailto:dloomis@mccurdy.org).

## 2018 Giving Tuesday Final Report



## Notes from the MMCC executive director



Patricia A. Alvarado

It is with a grateful heart that we look back on McCurdy's 106 year history of ministry and service. We have a tradition of helping our students, staff and volunteers grow spiritually, personally and academically. Experiences on our campus help to form, shape and empower lives in a positive and loving way.

That is how it is with God's love! The impact of his love, mercy and grace has no bounds. Regardless of what is going on in the world around us, whether it be politics, church issues, social issues, government issues, or family circumstances, God is at work in our lives. Jesus' commandment for us is to "love one another as he has loved us." We are also urged to "give thanks in all things!"

When we are in an attitude of gratitude, our focus goes from me

and my issues to, "How I can be an instrument of peace and healing to others?" The gifts my Father has given me need to be shared with others. No matter how trivial I may think my gifts are, I can rest assured if I use my gifts to honor God, then I will be honoring and blessing God, myself and others.

On behalf of McCurdy Ministries Community Center staff and Board of Directors, I thank you for the ways you honor God, our ministries and our children, youth and families by supporting our work in the Española Valley.

Yours in Christ,

Patricia A. Alvarado, executive director

## Project Cariño staff is growing the difference they make!

Project Cariño continues to work closely with McCurdy Ministries Community Center and McCurdy Charter School students, parents and staff to support the social, emotional and developmental needs of our students ages four to 18. Our main goal is to support students and families so that their learning experience is successful.

With our staff of three full time therapists, four MSW student interns and our therapy dog May, we have the equivalent of 5.5 full time therapists on staff. This school year 54 students have been referred to us for therapy from

staff, parents, and the students themselves. Typically, Project Cariño starts a wait list for services late in the fall semester but because we are blessed with four master-level student interns from NM Highlands and State Universities this year we have been able to provide therapy services to all those referred!

In addition to providing individual and family therapy, we facilitate support groups for students who struggle with anxiety and boys with low self-esteem. This spring, four additional support groups are in the works to address grief issues for students who have lost parents or siblings, a self-esteem group for girls, a exploring masculinity group for boys, and a transition group for graduating seniors.

Project Cariño transforms lives and these students testimonies demonstrate the difference we make:

A student receiving therapy says, "Project Cariño is my safe place, a place where I feel comfortable and supported. A place where I don't feel alone. Knowing that I have Project Cariño makes me stronger knowing that even if I don't have the best day I have a place to go to and someone to talk to. Project Cariño is my safe haven."

Another student who received therapy, participated in a grief group and the Buddy Program wrote, "Project Cariño has helped me by being there for me when I was having a hard time when my mom died. They were there for me to talk to and made me feel better. Then I found out that some of my friends also lost a parent when we were in Celebrate Survival Grief Support Group together. Now I can talk to friends who know exactly what I'm going through. Project Cariño's Buddy Program has helped me realize how much of an impact I can make on a little kid's life. I feel like my Buddy taught me more and helped me more than I did for her. She made my day better and she really enjoyed visiting with me. She was always excited to see me in the hallway at school and at games, and that made me feel happy."

Amanda Trujillo Gonzalez, Project Cariño director



Above: Project Carino Big and Little Buddies celebrate after their Ugly Sweater Contest at their Christmas party.

Left: A Big Buddy and Little Buddy enjoy opening a Christmas present.



*"Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree today."*

Martin Luther



### MMCC'S Adult Ministries Center & Community Room are available for meetings, retreats and training sessions

Are you looking for a large and Wi-Fi enabled meeting space that holds 102 participants to host trainings, meetings or events? McCurdy Ministries Community Center invites area nonprofits, government agencies, service providers and civic groups to use the Cole Adult Ministries Center and our Community Room for your next event. Our Community Room and our Retreat Center are also great spaces for United Methodist groups on retreat. To learn more about using this space, please contact Eufemia Romero at 505-753-7221, ext. 210.



*A preschooler and his family enjoy the preschool Christmas party.*

## Preschool News\*Preschool News

Our McCurdy Preschool children returned from their holiday break and welcomed a new classmate. True to form, the children were all very eager and willing to help make our new student welcome.

Many of them offered to show her the routine of the day, others showed her where to find supplies and some offered her a spot next to them at the lunch table. At snack time one child noticed that the snack his mother had sent for the class that day was not enough for all the children, so he graciously gave up his snack for the new student and told me he would like to have something from the extra snack closet, because he wanted to share with others like the little boy in our Bible story for the month of January (Jesus feeds the five thousand from John 6:1-14) Our January Bible verse was: "Share with others." (Hebrews 13:16) It warms my heart that they are sharing as Christ would want them to!

*Sandra Trujillo, preschool director*



*After School Care students & staff display their MLK Day & their dream signs on the playground.*

## After School Care News

**"Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall, 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 40:30-31

In December, the After-School Care children learned about the meaning of Christmas. One child said, "It's the birthday of Jesus." Another shared, "Jesus was born to save us from our sins." One student said, "Jesus will help people to be good and to be happy and Jesus is God's son."

In January we celebrated Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday. The students shared what they know about Dr. King. One student said, "Some people couldn't understand that we are all the same in the inside, we all want peace, love and kindness for others." A first grader, said "Martin Luther King kept schools from dividing people. Whites and blacks were to be given the same rights and education. All were to have equal opportunities along with fairness."

In honor of Dr. King's birthday the students made posters of what they wanted to be when they grow up. They were so excited to take pictures with Ms. Dawn and share their dream with others. There was a wide range of occupations shared including cardiac surgeon, Navy Seal, nurse, scientist, social worker, cop, "Youtuber" and singer.

*Angela Ortiz and Angel Ortiz-Hanrahan, after school care providers*

## The Creating Hope, Empowering Lives Capital Campaign update

### New Mexico Conference Campaign for the Children's Ministries Center

The New Mexico Annual Conference (NMAC) and McCurdy Ministries Community Center are joining together in our Creating Hope, Empowering Lives Campaign to fund the rehab of the Children's Ministries Center which was formerly the elementary school. Thanks to the NMAC district superintendents District Teams to lead the campaign have been recruited and trained in the Albuquerque, Clovis and El Paso Districts. To assist the NMAC campaign church toolkits were mailed out to every church in the conference in late October. Resources for the campaign can also be downloaded on our newly updated website by going to this link: <https://mccurdy.org/capital-campaign/>

*Albuquerque District Superintendent, Rev. Craig Cockrell shares his faith and why the NMAC/McCurdy campaign is important to him.*



### National Campaign for Cole Adult Ministries Center

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. You can download Capital Campaign resources on our webpage at <https://mccurdy.org/capital-campaign/>. We are excited about people from all over the country praying and supporting our ministries in the Española Valley.

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](mailto: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 and their spouses are welcome to come to the McCurdy Ministries Community Center campus in Espanola 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 while you are on campus. 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](mailto:eromero@mccurdy.org) or call 505-753-7221.

## Thoughts from our associate director of development



Dawn Staton

As the newest member of the McCurdy Ministries Community (MMCC) staff, I am continually impressed by the impact our programs have on the children, youth and families of the Española Valley. Whether it's through writing grants to support Project Cariño and Camp Stars, or taking pictures during the holidays of the Big Buddy/Little Buddy, After School Care and Pre-K programs, I see the myriad of ways MMCC's staff, volunteers and programs make a difference—and it's life-enhancing. Let me give you a few examples:

Over the past year, Project Cariño counselors have almost doubled their number of contact hours. This means hundreds more hours are being provided to children, youth and families who are facing numerous life challenges. From counseling students who are being bullied, to supporting students who are experiencing anxiety, to MSW students facilitating the Big Buddy/Little Buddy program, to the emotional and supportive Celebrate Survival program (a half-day retreat for those who have experienced a death in their immediate family), Project Cariño staff are

there to help in any way they can. As a student who is receiving therapy said,

*“Project Cariño is a place where I feel comfortable and supported, a place where I don't feel alone. Everyone at Project Cariño is there to help and support you...Knowing that I have Project Cariño makes my life a lot easier.”*

During the holidays I was asked to take photos of the Christmas celebration for the Pre-K program. It was wonderful to see all the little ones dressed in their best Christmas outfits, ready to sing and perform for their families. And boy did they perform! Ms. Sandra and Ms. Jennifer did such an amazing job with the Pre-K students! The children must have learned at least seven songs, along with hand gestures and dances and they all were having such a great time. The smiles on the faces of each and every family member was so heart-warming; I have to admit I teared up a few times.

I'm blessed for the opportunity to work on behalf of the McCurdy Ministries Community Center and the impact we make is something I experience every day. More importantly our impact is felt by our students, families, staff and volunteers and for that—I'm truly grateful.

*Dawn Staton, associate director of development/church relations*



*Volunteers from Illinois and Indiana made a big difference on campus this winter.*

## Volunteer News

The snow is falling here in the Española Valley, but we are blessed to have individual volunteers making an impact on the McCurdy campus. In the last few months, ten volunteers from Minnesota, Texas, Indiana, Kansas, Illinois and Ohio have worked in the dorm, gift shop, development office, Project Cariño and on maintenance projects around the campus. At McCurdy Ministries Community Center (MMCC) **you can volunteer 12 months out of the year!**

McCurdy is **now scheduling** individual volunteers, local volunteers as well as Volunteer in Mission (VIM), Emergency Response and NOMAD teams. With MMCC's transition to a community center, we have construction, building demolition, administrative and program development needs. Your help is critical and you may have a talent we need to move our renovation forward!

For information on leading a VIM team, being a member of a VIM team, or volunteering as a Individual or Local Volunteer, please go to our website at [www.mccurdy.org](http://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 or the Local Volunteer Handbook. To schedule a team or to volunteer as an individual, please contact Eufemia Romero, volunteer registrar, at [eromero@mccurdy.org](mailto:eromero@mccurdy.org) or at 505-753-7221 ext. 210.

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

*Thanks for sending us your Tyson Project A+ labels!*

This school year your support has helped us earn \$169! Sadly, Tyson will be discontinuing this program on May 31, 2019, so please send us the last of the Tyson labels you have collected no later than May 15, to be processed and submitted before the May 31 deadline.

*Thank you for supporting McCurdy Charter School by collecting Box Tops for Education!* This school year we have raised \$2,900 and since we began collecting box tops for the charter school we have helped the school earn an amazing \$88,800!

*If you shop at a Smith's Grocery you can sign up to participate in Smith's Inspiring Donations*, which will donate 5% of every eligible purchase to McCurdy. For more information about the Inspiring Donations program, please inquire at your local Smith's store.

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

## McCurdy website & media updates

In the past year, we have integrated our donor database with an email marketing system, allowing us to share more inspiring stories, well wishes, and up-to-the-moment updates with you on a more frequent and timely basis by email. **Please know you can opt out of receiving information from MMCC at any time; if you are receiving The Messenger via mail, just contact us at 505-732-7221. If you are reading The Messenger via email, just hit the “unsubscribe” button at the end of the email.**

We are also excited that the redesign of our website is complete! The revised site is more user-friendly and offers more resources, information, photos and insights into all the activities and programs offered through MMCC. To access our new site, we encourage you to refresh your browser and view the latest MMCC information.

We invite you to 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/>(@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](mailto:dloomis@mccurdy.org).