



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, #4

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

June 2019

Join us for the McCurdy Fiesta Oct. 19

You are cordially invited to the

McCurdy Fiesta

from 10 AM to 2 PM, Saturday, Oct. 19, 2019!

The **McCurdy Fiesta** will be held on the McCurdy Ministries Community Center (MMCC) campus at 362A S. McCurdy Road, Española, NM. The local community, students and families being served by McCurdy, alumni, volunteers and supporters of our ministries from New Mexico and across the United States are invited to our campus for our **FIESTA**. The highlight of the day will be the public kickoff of our **Creating Hope, Empowering Lives Capital Campaign** to raise \$1.7 million to update Cole High School into Cole Adult Ministries Center. Cole will be home to our adult education programs as well as our administrative offices, computer lab, literacy coaching program, warm up kitchen, dining/meeting/study space, childcare spaces for the children of adults participating in the adult education programs, multi-use community room, McCurdy History Gallery and handicapped accessible restrooms and ramps.

Activities will include:

10 AM—Tours of the McCurdy Ministries Community Center campus, booths for all McCurdy programs, community non-profit booths, health screenings, lawn games and crafts for kids of all ages.

11 AM—Community Kickoff of the **Creating Hope, Empowering Lives Capital Campaign** including, students sharing testimonies and our vision for McCurdy's future programming.

Noon—Roving Mariachi band, **FREE** barbecue lunch, lawn games, mingling with McCurdy grads, the Española community, the McCurdy Ministries Community Center Board and staff, and our United Methodist supporters from New Mexico and all over the country.

1 PM—Tours of the McCurdy Ministries Community Center campus, booths for all McCurdy programs, community non-profit booths, health screenings, lawn games and crafts for kids of all ages will continue until 2 PM.

For those traveling long distances a few rooms will be available for guests on a first come, first serve basis in our retreat center at \$30 per person per night. To reserve a room call Eufemia Romero at 505-753-7221, ext. 210 or email her at eromero@mccurdy.org. To learn more about the Fiesta or to volunteer call Dawn Staton at 505-753-7221, ext. 322 or email her at dstaton@mccurdy.org.



Architectural rendering of Cole Adult Ministries Center provided by FBT Architects.

New Mexico Conference is supporting the Cole Adults Ministries Center campaign

McCurdy Ministries Community Center (MMCC) is pleased to announce that the New Mexico Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church is joining our donors and supporters across the country in support of our efforts to raise \$1.7 to rehab Cole High School into Cole Adult Ministries Center. The update of this building, named in honor of Irene Cole, long time McCurdy missionary, will allow McCurdy to expand our ministries to the parents and families of the students we serve. This updated space will provide administrative offices for MMCC staff, classes for High School Equivalency, literacy and continuing education classes for adults and childcare for the children of adults participating in Adult Education, a warming kitchen and a dining/meeting/study space. In addition, we have already created a Community Room that is used for a variety of community gatherings and a McCurdy History Gallery which highlights our history and graduates.

To donate to this campaign please contact Diana Loomis, director of development, at dloomis@mccurdy.org or call her at 505-753-7221, ext. 352.



Notes from the MMCC executive director

I want to thank our board members who work behind the scenes to help accomplish our Community Center vision and mission. In May we held our semi-annual board retreat on campus and discussed our programs, partnerships, facility infrastructure, long-range strategic plan, Campus Master Plan and Capital Campaign.

I also want to thank our staff who accomplishes so much with few resources. The work they do to impact the children in our care is phenomenal. The PreK program finished its school year and “graduated” 16 happy and excited children who showed tremendous growth throughout the year in the area of cognitive development, social and emotional growth and ways to show kindness to their peers and elders!

The Project Cariño Program far exceeded the previous years’ contact hours as they served many more students and staff and provided consultations to teachers, staff and parents/families. Also, four Masters Level Social Work interns were mentored, supervised, and given the opportunity to learn while providing a valuable service.

After School Care participants showed evidence and gave testimony to the nurturing environment they experienced. Our care providers were described by parents as “warm, inviting and caring” and the program was described as a “fun and safe place to be and learn about God.”

McCurdy Schools of Northern NM PreK and McCurdy Charter School students were well fed throughout the school year, despite some infrastructure and weather-related issues that made meal preparation challenging at times. The maintenance staff has worked hard to keep the buildings and grounds in working order despite a very challenging winter. Our administrative staff works diligently to communicate effectively, manage finances and respond in a timely manner to the emerging needs of our agency.

I want to thank our hundreds of individual and team volunteers who provided manpower, caring, affirmation, generosity and commitment to the children and families in the Española Valley and our staff.

At our recent board retreat, I was asked by one of our board members to share with them a time when I witnessed God working through others. It is my daily blessing to witness God at work through our ministries! When I walk through the PreK and receive a warm and resounding “Buenos Dias, Senora Alvarado!” when I go to After School Care and see happy, carefree children playing and laughing, when I visit Project Cariño and feel the warm and cozy environment, when I see Big Buddies and Little Buddies enjoying a fun time together and when I hear staff having a true belly laugh, I thank my Father for blessing and allowing me to be a part of this time and place!

Especially in times of challenging life circumstances, I find opportunities to praise and honor our Father! A dad who recently lost his very premature baby but was blessed to hold it for a short time before he went to be with our Lord, spoke of the blessing and gift given to him to be a daddy and how his son showed him a path to full reliance on God and a closer relationship with Christ and with his mommy! An almost 92-year-old woman, who at times feels forgotten and not useful, comforting a young mom whose stepdaughter was molested and was asking, “How can God let this happen?” In response, the elderly woman prays with the young mom and as a result, both feel a renewed sense of belonging and caring that comes when our Father uses us to bring comfort and healing to others. Christ has said, “Love one another, as I have loved you!” When we serve others, when we share our grief and sorrow we are a witness to HOPE and we fulfill Christ’s commandment!

My prayer for all of us then is that we would submit ourselves to our Father, inviting him in and allowing him to fulfill his plan for our lives! In Christ, **Patricia A. Alvarado, Executive Director**



Patricia A. Alvarado

Project Cariño staff and students make a difference!



The 2018–19 school year has ended. Referrals have been made for students who require emotional support over the summer and others who have reached their treatment goals have been discharged. McCurdy Charter School staff, parents, students and friends referred a record number of 98 students to Project Cariño this school year which is 26 more than last year. These students received emotional support through individual, group and crisis intervention. Our staff of eight, three licensed therapists, four master-level clinical interns and one therapy dog, kept up with this increased work load by working together as a cohesive team!

We provided 7,123 hours of individual and group therapy for students and their families, crisis interventions, advocacy, training and collaboration with McCurdy Charter School staff in support of students, classroom presentations such as Establishing and Maintaining Healthy Relationships and the Healthy Use of Technology and administered the Buddy Program.

This year our four interns were master of social work students from NM



Top: Big Buddies at last fall's Halloween Party. Below: A Big Buddy and Little Buddy enjoy the pool at an end of the year field trip.

State University and NM Highlands University. They carried caseloads of at least 5 students and all facilitated various support groups during the spring semester. They received clinical and play therapy training and supervision from all three licensed therapists.

The Buddy Program was coordinated by Amanda Trujillo-Gonzales, intern Stephanie Camfield (intern), Maureen Appenfeller and Dorothy Swalley (Volunteers in Mission), Rianna Griego (recent MCS graduate/volunteer) and Heidy Cano (student volunteer). It took all six of us to accomplish 1,368 hours of coordination, supervision, mentorship visits, planning awesome Halloween and Christmas parties as well as two end-of-year field trips.

Seven of 14 Big Buddies will graduate from school this year including Chris Naranjo and Angie Arroyo who volunteered for five years; Isaiah Archuleta who volunteered for three years; Joby Atencio, Jackie Bernal and Karina Gonzalez who volunteered for two years; and Ubi Barela who volunteered for one year. We thank our Bigs for their commitment and their awesome record of engagement! Each Big Buddy made a strong and positive impact and in return, were positively impacted by their Little Buddy! **Amanda Trujillo Gonzalez, Project Cariño director**



McCurdy Charter School thank you to Project Cariño & MMCC

“On behalf of the MCS students and staff, we want to express our sincere appreciation for the continued partnership with McCurdy Ministries Community Center and Project Cariño. Their continued support through programs like Big Buddy/Little Buddy and the many hours of service have helped our school in ways that can’t fully be expressed. Thank you!!”



Preschool News*Preschool News Kindergarten here we come!

McCurdy Schools of Northern New Mexico Pre-K held its 2019 graduation on May 16. This year we were blessed to promote 16 of God's beautiful, eager, kind-hearted and loving children. Throughout the year we were able to witness God's love in action through these children and their families. Many bonds and friendships were formed that will endure the test of time. These children have learned firsthand how to walk in God's love by forgiving others, having patience and understanding, respecting diversity, giving back to others and showing kindness and compassion.

We know God will continue to bless their lives with goodness and love, so they can use the gifts he has given them wisely and walk into their bright futures with faith, hope and great love. *Sandra Trujillo, preschool director*



After School Care students enjoy the blankets made for them by the First UMC Los Alamos United Methodist Women.

After School Care News

“You are my strong shield, and I trust you completely. You have helped me, and I will celebrate and thank you in song. You give strength to your people, Lord, and you save and protect your chosen ones.” Psalm 28:7-8, CEV

The After School Care program is a fun, joyful, loving and safe place. At After School Care, the children enjoy attending every day and coming together for prayer. This year the children wrote their own personal prayers in our program's prayer book and every day the children's faith grew stronger. They learned to help one another, shared their ideas about God, homework and kindness.

This year held many fond memories. The children were truly happy to receive blankets from the United Methodist Women of the First United Methodist Church of Los Alamos. And, as children always are at the end of the school day, they arrive at After School Care hungry. When they are with us they enjoy a healthy snack that's provided by McCurdy Ministries Community Center. There were so many good times shared by the students as they ate and shared stories of their day at school.

This year's After School Care class became a small family, sharing and playing together, being kind to one another and helping each other. We thank all of the students and their families for letting us teach and care for each and every one of you and we look forward to seeing you in August.

Have a wonderful summer! *Angela Ortiz and Angel Ortiz-Hanrahan, after school care providers*

You are invited to McCurdy 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 Española 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 or call 505-753-7221.



Campers enjoyed a visit from the Española Fire Department during the second week of Camp Stars.

Camp Stars launches 7th summer of making a difference

In June Camp Stars launched its 7th summer of providing a fun summer camp experience to kindergarten to sixth-grade students in Española. Camp Stars is a six-week, five days a week summer camp that combines STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) with Vacation Bible School faith, fun and community service.

This year's theme is **“To Mars and Beyond! Explore Where God’s Power Can Take You”** and the scripture theme for this year is, **“Glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine by his power at work within us.” Ephesians 3:20 (CEB)**

Campers participate in Bible based stories, drama and-crafts, along with STEM educational lessons each weekday from 8AM to 3PM in the Children's Ministries Center formerly the elementary school on MMCC's campus. Each day the halls of the building are filled with children's voices laughing, learning, singing and praising God. In addition, each Camp Stars camper is provided breakfast and lunch.

We thank the Monte Foundation for being the major donor of Camp Stars for the 7th year. Their generosity makes learning, fun, service and a deepening relationship with Jesus possible! McCurdy wishes all of our campers a safe summer full of learning, fun and adventure!



Thoughts from our associate director of development



Dawn Staton

When I first began work at McCurdy Ministries Community Center I read the book, "A Spirituality of Fundraising," by Henri J.M. Nouwen. As a development professional, I never looked at fundraising from a spiritual perspective. But after reading the book, I realized educating potential donors that personal giving enhances their spiritual growth was a ministry unto itself.

According to Nouwen, "From the perspective of the gospel, fundraising is not a response to a crisis. Fundraising is, first and foremost, a form of ministry. It is a way of announcing our vision and inviting other people into our mission. Fundraising is proclaiming what we believe in such a way that we offer people an opportunity to participate with us in our vision and mission. When we seek to raise funds we are not saying 'Please, could you help us out because lately it's been hard.' Rather, we are declaring, 'We have a vision that is amazing and exciting. We are inviting you to invest yourself through the resources that God has given you—your energy, your prayers and your money—in this work to which God has called us.'"

McCurdy Ministries Community Center's mission, "...to create hope and empower the lives of children, youth, adults and families through education, life skills and faith-based programs in Española, NM" is our guidepost to how we view our fundraising ministry. Through this lens we invite you, our volunteers and donors, to develop a "spiritual communion" with us that we hope provides you with a feeling of community and purpose.

Whether you are donating to support our capital campaign, Project Cariño to support the mental health of our students or Camp Stars to provide a fun-filled summer of STEM activities, recreation and Bible learning, your donation—whether it be time or money—strengthens your ties to MMCC, helps sustain our community, fills your soul and blesses God.

"Fundraising is a very rich and beautiful activity," says Mr. Nouwen. "It is a confident, joyful and hope-filled expression of ministry. In ministering to each other, each from the riches that he or possesses, we work together for the full coming of God's kingdom." I couldn't have said it better! **Dawn Staton, associate director of development**

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.

Smith's and Box Tops provide creative ways to support MCS

Thank you for your support of McCurdy Charter School by collecting Box Tops for Education. Since 2012, we have helped the school earn an amazing \$89,693! Please continue to send in your Box Tops for Education to McCurdy Ministries Community Center, 362-A S. McCurdy Road, Espanola, NM 87532.

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. The Kroger Company Family of Stores is committed to bringing hope and help to the local neighborhoods they serve. For more information about the Inspiring Donations program, please inquire at your local Smith's store or if you have a Smith's Rewards Card Card, please go online and link it to MMCC which will make the donation process much easier!

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! 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 (@McCurdyMinistry))

Instagram at: [@mccurdyministries.](https://www.instagram.com/mccurdyministries/(@mccurdyministries).)



Youth volunteers from Oklahoma dig a trench for a fiber optic cable.

Volunteer News

Spring has sprung here in the Española Valley! The snow has melted, the trees and flowers are blooming and with it, so are the needs on our campus.

In the past few months, we've had over 100 volunteers, from Alabama, Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas who have provided support and upkeep in our dorm and gift shop, worked with staff providing administrative and maintenance help, mowed lawns, pulled weeds, laid cable, and assisted Project Cariño staff on miscellaneous projects. Remember, here at McCurdy Ministries Community Center you can volunteer 12 months out of the year and we have tasks for all ages and abilities! Some tasks are sedentary and some are physically challenging.

MMCC is now scheduling Long Term Individual Volunteers, Local Volunteers, Volunteer in Mission (VIM) and Emergency Response Teams. With MMCC's transition to a community center, we have construction, building demolition, program development and administrative needs. Your help is critical and you may have a talent we can use to 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 Volunteer 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 or at 505-753-7221 ext. 210.