

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. 8, #1

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 October 2019

McCurdy launches full day PreK

McCurdy Ministries Community Center now offers a FREE full-day McCurdy Schools of Northern NM PreK program funded by the New Mexico Children, Youth and Families Department. This program for 20 students (11 boys and 9 girls) includes breakfast, lunch, snacks and a great introduction to learning. The new PreK program began Sept. 4, and that day the children were excited about starting school! School is in session 8 AM to 3 PM, Monday to Thursday and 8 AM to noon on Friday. The shortened day on Friday gives staff a chance to work on lesson planning and documentation as required by NM PreK and FOCUS. Our preschool staff is looking forward to an interesting year, as they prepare for the upcoming October FOCUS 4 Star verification visit.

To get ready for our new NM PreK program, staff hosted a parent event to give information, handbooks, schedule home visits and discuss the program's goals and curriculum, conducted home visits as required by NM PreK and hosted an open house for parents and students.

This year our staff welcomed a set of identical twin boys, two native Spanish speakers and a new educational assistant, Angela Talache-Tapia. Angela comes to the PreK program with 22 years of EA experience at Head Start. Also, Barb Wharton, long term individual volunteer, was a tremendous help to staff. Barb prepared paperwork, files for the children and cleaned up a newly painted and remodeled office.

We want to thank all the VIM teams that worked on getting our space ready for the new school year! These volunteers painted, moved furniture, cleaned and organized closet space and inventoried materials and equipment. The staff also thanks our maintenance and IT staff for all they do every day to support our program, as well as Denise London, our MMCC Business Manager, for helping to manage the registration of students and Eufemia Romero MMCC Administrative Assistant, for answering all NM PreK-related phone calls. Preschool Director Sandra Trujillo says, "As we hit the ground running, we ask for your good vibes and prayers for our program!"



Above: The NM PreK students and their teachers enjoy their afternoon snack together. Below: Preschool Director Sandra Trujillo and two preschoolers enjoy dressing up, using their imagination and learning at the same time.



You are invited to the McCurdy Fiesta Oct. 19!

The McCurdy Fiesta will be held on the McCurdy Ministries Community Center (MMCC) campus at 362A S. McCurdy Road from 10 AM to 2 PM, Saturday, Oct. 19. The local community, alumni, volunteers and supporters of our ministries from across the United States are invited to our campus for our **FIESTA**. Festivities will include music by Mariachi Ventura, a magic show, health screenings, give-a-ways from area nonprofits and government agencies, crafts for the whole family, yard games, prizes for kids of all ages and a free **Frito Pie or Posole Lunch**. The highlight of the day will be at 11 AM when MMCC students and families share the difference McCurdy makes in their lives, Española Mayor Javier Sanchez declares the day McCurdy Ministries Community Center Day, Bishop Earl Bledsoe from the New Mexico Conference of the United Methodist Church blesses our campus and ministries and N.M. State Representative Susan Herrera shares the importance of working together to make our community stronger. The Fiesta schedule will be:

10 AM—Games, Crafts, Prizes and Fun for children, tours of the McCurdy campus and History Gallery, McCurdy program, community non-profit, service provider and agency booths with give-a-ways and health screenings.

11 AM—The McCurdy Program will start with Mariachi Ventura leading participants into the historic McCracken Gym to hear students sharing about the difference our programs have made in their lives, the vision for McCurdy's future and the difference McCurdy will make in the future.

Noon—FREE Frito Pie and Posole Lunch served in Cole Adult Ministries Center (formerly the high school).

1 PM—A Family Magic Show will be held in McCracken Gym. Tours of the McCurdy campus and History Gallery, McCurdy program, community non-profit, service provider and agency booths with give-a-ways and health screenings will continue until 2 PM.

For Fiesta information call Dawn Staton at 505-753-7221, ext. 233 or email her at dstaton@mccurdy.org.

McCurdy Ministries Community Center has match and will double your donation on
GIVING TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2019
For more information on ways to give during the Giving Tuesday season please see page two.



McCurdy will celebrate Giving Tuesday with matching gifts

For the seventh year, McCurdy Ministries Community Center will celebrate **Giving Tuesday** on Dec. 3, 2019. Your support during the **Giving Tuesday** season is critically important as MMCC works to expand our impact on our community while dealing with declining mission giving in the United Methodist Church. McCurdy helps transform the lives of 566 students and their families every day through Project Cariño, After School Care, McCurdy Schools of Northern New Mexico PreK, Camp Stars and our volunteer program.

Since 2013 McCurdy has joined with nonprofits around the country to give donors a chance to give back to our communities in gratitude to God. **Last year 121 donors gave \$63,335 during our Giving Tuesday campaign!** Rev. Diana Loomis, director of development says, "If we match the 2018 donations made on Giving Tuesday we will raise 6% of our 2019–20 budget and donors get the satisfaction of knowing their gifts will be matched! The first year MMCC participated in Giving Tuesday was 2013 and we raised \$31,524.

Our theme for Giving Tuesday is **"Give light. Give love. Give life."** It is easy



to make a donation to McCurdy during our Giving Tuesday Event. Your gift up to \$2,500 for the General Fund will be matched as long as match lasts. Please note the match is only for gifts to the General Fund not the capital campaign, the foundation or specific programs. To receive the match please give in these ways:

1. Mail a gift to MMCC postmarked between Nov. 1 and Dec. 3. The check MUST be marked **Giving Tuesday** to count toward the match.
2. From Nov. 1 through Dec. 3 go to our website at <https://mccurdy.org/give-now/> to make a donation. Mark your donation **Giving Tuesday** to qualify for the match.
3. **Only on Dec. 3, 2019**, go to <https://advance.umcmission.org/p-596-mccurdy-ministries-community-center-formerly-known-as-mccurdy-school.aspx> to give through the United Methodist Advance. These gifts will be matched if the match is still available.

Please call Rev. Diana Loomis at 505-753-7221, ext. 352 or email her at dloomis@mccurdy.org if you want to make a matching donation or have any questions about McCurdy's **2019 Giving Tuesday**.

Notes from the MMCC executive director

Our mission statement, *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, New Mexico*, expresses our vision for our community outreach. Preparations are being made by our programs, maintenance, food service, administrative and development/church relations departments to celebrate McCurdy Schools of Northern NM/McCurdy Ministries Community Center's 107 years in the Española Valley. The celebration event will take place on Oct. 19. For more information read page one.

What a legacy and tribute to Our Father's faithfulness to our mission! Many people have passed through our doors; whether they served others or received services as students and families and later on paid it forward by going on to serve others in their respective communities. McCurdy had its humble beginning in October 1912 and since has seen many transformations. At the core of our existence has been surviving, thriving and redefining our role in this beautiful Española Valley by the grace of God! We can take a walk through history and name all of the faithful who have given much to be God's hands and feet in carrying out His will for our work! The dedication, commitment, faith, hope and love of many has woven a tapestry that has withstood the test of time!

Now as we collaborate with community nonprofit and agency partners to serve our community at large, we navigate through defining community needs and working with community partners to meet those needs. Developing a process for pooling and leveraging resources to better serve our community is a challenging but necessary must! Amidst all of this and in the face of current world events and even church related events, it can be easy to lose hope and sight of our vision!

At a recent staff meeting I shared, "Why we should have Hope in Christ!"

Jeremiah 29:11 *For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.*

Hebrews 10:23 *Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for*

he who promised is faithful.

Job 11:18 *And you will feel secure because there is hope; you will look around and take your rest in security.*

Hebrews 6:19 *We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain.*

Lamentations 3:24 *"The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him."*

Zephaniah 3:17 *The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.*

Numbers 23:19 *God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?*

1 Thessalonians 5:8 *But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation.*

And so, I invite you to pray with me with the following prayer, for our Beloved McCurdy of 107 years, for our community and for many who have been beloved who give of their time and talents.

Prayer for Hope—God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ, you came among us a light shining in darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light or trusted good news to be good. We have closed our eyes to your glory in our midst, expecting little and hoping for less. Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope, so that we may receive the fullness of your grace and live in the truth of Christ the Lord. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Patricia A. Alvarado, executive director



Patricia A. Alvarado

Project Cariño staff begins a new school year

As we begin the 2019–20 school year Project Cariño staff and Executive Director Patricia Alvarado, met with the McCurdy Charter School administration to coordinate the details of Project Cariño support to students, families and staff. We reviewed what worked last year and what could have been improved. We are happy to work closely with Sarah Tario, MCS director, Bernadette Tixier-French, principal, and Melissa Berryhill, program coordinator, in supporting students toward a great school year.

Since the beginning of the semester, we have been checking in with clients we saw last year and assessing which of those need to continue receiving support from Project Cariño staff. In addition, we have received inquiries about our services from a number of parents and from teachers about three referrals that will be made in the near future.

Last year's student interns from NM Highlands University and NM State University have all graduated with their Master of Social Work degrees and several of them have already passed their licensure exams! We are proud of their accomplishments and were honored to have been a part of their learning experiences.

Our service team has shrunk from the seven members we had last year to four this year. Marcos Castellano and I have returned for another year of service to McCurdy Ministries Community Center preschoolers and MCS students. We are grateful for Juan Sanchez, one of last year's interns, who is volunteering counseling services throughout the school year. We also welcome Benjamin Slattery, a master level social work intern from New Mexico State University. In addition, Dorothy Swalley, our good friend and long-term individual volunteer from Texas returned to Project Cariño for three weeks this fall to help get our Buddy Mentorship Program off the ground and Maureen Appenfeller, our dorm host and long-term individual volunteer, will help us again this year with the daily coordination of this program. We are very grateful for our volunteers because without them our services would be reduced.

Though we are a smaller staff, we are large and strong in the conviction that we will continue to provide the best counseling services to the students and families of McCurdy Ministries Community Center and the McCurdy Charter School.

Amanda Trujillo-Gonzales, Project Cariño director





Left: Campers learn Northern NM tin-making. Above: Campers conduct a science experiment out doors.

Camp Stars seventh summer was a great success!

Camp Stars, McCurdy Ministries Community Center's summer camp which combines the best of STEM education with Vacation Bible School fun, started June 10 with 37 campers in grades kindergarten to sixth grade and completed its fifth year on July 26 with great success!

Camp Stars uses a learning center model with students rotating through four stations each day. The stations included 1. Science/Engineering, 2. Social and Emotional Well-Being through Drama/Music, 3. Vacation Bible School Arts and Crafts and 4. Math and Technology.

The VBS theme for the year was *"To Mars and Beyond—Explore Where the Power of God Can Take You!"* and the theme bible verse was *"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.

Campers did fun activities all summer including constructing a balloon car, traditional northern New Mexico tin-smithing, team-building through games,

Bible verse memorization and understanding how mathematics works in the real world. Students also participated in service projects including creating over 100 Christmas-themed greeting and thank you cards for soldiers supported by Blue Star Mothers, collecting items to be included in goodie bags for the Española Valley Fire Department who came to the McCurdy campus with their fire truck and reciting a pledge that they would stay away from drinking alcohol and taking drugs during a visit from the Rio Arriba Community Empowerment program which is sponsored by the Española Police Department.

Both parents and campers felt this year was great. One parent said, "Thank you for a wonderful summer. Both of my children really enjoyed the program." One camper said, "The field trips were the best." We are very grateful to the Montei Foundation from Columbus, OH, for generously supporting Camps Stars for the fifth year! We look forward to next year's Camp Stars program and we wish you a safe and happy year!

Sandra Trujillo, Camp Stars director

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.



ASC students gather on the playground for after school fun.

After School Care News

The students in the After School Care program are excited to be back at McCurdy Ministries Community Center! The children are sharing what they did this summer with one another. They talk about Camp Stars (MMCC's summer camp which combines STEM education and Vacation Bible School) and how they made really cool science projects.

The students are already talking and working together on different projects they'd like to do this school year. Miranda, one of our students, came up with the idea of making a cookbook and now many of the students are working together to come up with recipes they can share with each other. Our After School Care students are also learning to make new students feel welcome and cooperate with each other as they play. For example, Colten was

building a wooden dinosaur and it was difficult because some of the pieces were too small and he was having a little bit of trouble with the directions. Lucas asked if he could help. This put a smile on his face. "Sure," Colton said, "I'm excited to show my mom when I'm finished." The students were happy to see Ms. Maureen, our long-term volunteer, return to the After School Care room! She's always ready to help when needed. The teachers and children are truly grateful for her presence.

We've begun the school year using this prayer, "Dear God, help me spend today with a smile on my face, love in my heart, joy in his grace and my thinking cap on all day." Amen.

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

Thoughts from our associate director of development



Dawn Staton

“How wonderful it is that nobody needs to wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.” Anne Frank

When I plan my column for the **McCurdy Message** I think about interesting ideas to bring to you. This time I was thinking about philanthropy as an action and as a word. Below is some information about philanthropy you might not have known, according to *The History of Global Charitable Giving: Why We Need to Remember*. “The word philanthropy actually means ‘love of mankind’ and not charitable giving. It didn’t enter the English language until 1600, shortly before the publication of the King James’ Bible in 1611. Cultures around the world have unique approaches to charitable giving, from the traditions of haoshi (Chinese) to harambee (Zulu) to tzedakah (Hebrew) and more.”

And, though we mostly think of philanthropy as donating money, there are many other ways of providing philanthropy including:

Creating charitable institutions—Quaker schoolmaster Anthony Benezet founded the first public girls’ school in America in 1754 and created the African School in Philadelphia in 1770. Benezet established these schools with the strong conviction that children of all races and genders should be able to learn.

Using skills or knowledge to benefit a larger community: The money the National Foundation for Infant Paralysis raised in 1954 was used to sponsor clinical trials for Jonas Salks’ polio vaccine. The trial proved the vaccine was safe and effective and saved thousands of lives.

For over 107 years, McCurdy Ministries Community Center (MMCC) has provided a myriad of ways to help our supporters be philanthropic. Whether it’s providing volunteer opportunities on our campus or being the steward of your donated funds, MMCC is proud to be part of your philanthropic plan and we thank you for your trust in us. On another note, I hope to meet many of you at our upcoming McCurdy Fiesta!

Dawn Staton, associate director of development

Please support McCurdy Ministries Community Center!

McCurdy Ministries Community Center touches the lives of 566 students, adults and families every school day through our McCurdy Schools of Northern NM Pre-K, Project Cariño, After School Care, Camp Stars and our volunteer programs. Currently, the most critically needed donations are to our General Fund. By supporting our General Fund donors support all our programs. Your donations of prayer, time, talent and funds 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. So far this school year we have raised \$1,176 and since 2012, we have helped the school earn an amazing **\$90,870!**

Box Tops is changing the way this program is administered. Box Top collectors will have to download the Box Top app and scan the receipt that shows you purchased a Box Top product. We know this process will be difficult for many so we suggest each church assign one tech savvy person to collect and scan receipts through the Box Top app. We are so grateful for the difference our donors make through Box Tops and hope you will continue to support the charter school by scanning in or mailing your Box Tops for Education to McCurdy Ministries Community Center, 362-A S. McCurdy Road, Española, 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 Co. 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, please go on-line and link it to MMCC; that will help make the donation process that 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.

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

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

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



Volunteers from Texas recreate McCurdy’s Centennial Mural in Cole Adult Ministries Building.

Volunteer News

This summer McCurdy has had 12 VIM teams with 139 volunteers and four individual volunteers who have provided support and much needed help in getting the MMCC campus ready for the **McCurdy Fiesta!** Volunteers worked in McCracken Gym putting up new ceiling tiles in the trampoline room and in Hovermale installing a new kitchen. They also worked with staff providing administrative support, mowed lawns, pulled weeds, and assisted the NM PreK program in getting ready for the school year. As we ended the year on July 31, we discovered that during our 2018–19 fiscal year we had more volunteers on campus than we have had in the last nine years! Thank you to our board members and team leaders that have worked so hard to recruit team members and bring them to make God’s difference on our campus!

Remember at McCurdy Ministries Community Center **you can volunteer 12 months out of the year and we have sedentary, skilled and vigorous tasks for our volunteers to do!** MMCC schedules Long Term Individual Volunteers, Local Volunteers, Volunteer in Mission (VIM) teams and Emergency Response teams. With MMCC’s transition to a community center, we have construction, building demolition and program development 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 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 or at 505-753-7221 ext. 210. In addition, we now publish a Volunteer Newsletter monthly and blast email it out to all our volunteers. If you would like to receive this newsletter please email Dawn Staton at dstaton@mccurdy.org.