

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 2020

Boston Avenue UMC & the Green Country District Celebrate McCurdy's mission in Oklahoma

After a year of exploration, prayer and discernment Boston Avenue UMC in Tulsa, OK, and McCurdy Ministries Community Center (MMCC) covenanted to be mission partners during Sunday morning worship at the church on Feb. 5. The church and McCurdy promised to support each other through "our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness."

While MMCC has had covenants between missionaries and individual churches, this is the first time in recent history a church has chosen McCurdy to be their national mission partner. Boston Ave UMC has committed to sending two to three Volunteer in Mission Teams a year to McCurdy and to help make the outside of the Project Cariño space beautiful and conducive for our counseling ministries.

To launch this covenant MMCC Executive Director Patricia Alvarado, Director of Development/ Church Relations Diana Loomis and Project Cariño Director Amanda Trujillo-Gonzales traveled to Tulsa for a weekend which included a meeting with the Boston Avenue Mission Team, attending a reception for MMCC staff and key BAUMC leaders, celebrating the covenant in three worship services, recording a podcast about McCurdy, speaking to 150

adults and youth in Sunday School and speaking to the BAUMC Mission Celebration which included a chili cook-off.

The McCurdy staff was warmly welcomed and enjoyed meeting so many Christians committed to being the hands of Christ in our world. The staff brought a taste of Northern New Mexico to Tulsa by carrying Chimayo chili powder to Tulsa and making chili con carne for the chili cook-off.

Special thanks to the BAUMC Lay Leader Ed Payton and the Missions Pastor Sara Pugh Montgomery for leading BAUMC's search for a National Mission partner and planning a special weekend of mission celebration.

During the trip the McCurdy staff joined Green Country District pastors and mission volunteers for a dinner and program about McCurdy at First UMC in Claremore, OK. Over 50 people shared in this wonderful mission dinner. We give special thanks to Linda Polson, member of First UMC Claremore and MMCC board member for organizing the dinner. Linda's hard work communicating about McCurdy has resulted in an increase in VIM Teams coming to McCurdy from Oklahoma. In 2018-19 three teams came to McCurdy and in 2019-20 11 teams are scheduled.



Above: Boston Avenue Senior Pastor David Wiggs leads the congregation, MMCC staff and board member Linda Polson in making our covenant. Below: MMCC staff and Ed and Judith Payton from BAUMC celebrate the Chili Cook-off.



Thank you for making Giving Tuesday a success!

On Dec. 3, 2019, the McCurdy Ministries Community Center (MMCC) donors once again gave generously to **Giving Tuesday 2019**. This year we raised a total of \$65,392 from 162 donors across the United States which is up from \$63,335 from 121 donors in 2018. "In a year when donations to United Methodist National Mission Institutions across the United States experienced decline in mission giving due to conflict and uncertainties within the denomination, we are deeply grateful to the anonymous donors who provided \$36,000 of match for **Giving Tuesday** and to the 162 donors who gave generously to support our ministries! We are pleased to share that every gift given on **Giving Tuesday** was matched," says Rev. Diana

Loomis, director of development/ church relations.

McCurdy will once again celebrate Giving Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2020 and we will be looking for donors to contribute match to help make the 2020 campaign even more successful. If you would like to learn more about contributing match to our 2020 campaign please email Diana Loomis at dloomis@mccurdy.org.



Save the date for the second annual McCurdy Fiesta on Oct. 17!

You are invited to celebrate McCurdy Ministries Community Center's 108th birthday from 10 AM to 1 PM, Saturday, Oct. 17. The day will include birthday cake, mariachi music, a marcha, lawn games for kids, community nonprofit booths and free frito pies for lunch. Games will be on the lawn, booths and music will be in McCracken Gym and lunch will be served in Cole Adult Ministries Center. McCurdy friends from our community and all over the United States are invited to join us for this celebration. To reserve a nonprofit booth email Rev. Diana Loomis at dloomis@mccurdy.org.



Patricia Alvarado (on the far right) enjoys a Silent Auction for Mission with Boston Avenue UMC members.

Notes from the MMCC executive director

As we begin a new year, we reflect on the past year and excitedly anticipate working to further the realization of our vision this coming year! I often say that it takes a village to raise a child. In our beautiful Española Valley, there is a movement and excitement that can be witnessed as a new homeless shelter has been established by the collaborative work of different agencies, both private and public that have made that much-needed service a

reality. Our recent county elections saw the approval of money to be appropriated to build a new nursing home, an athletic-community use complex and renovating infrastructure to improve transportation and access to services across our huge county.

We have also experienced many agencies, public and private, collaborating to leverage resources to help children, youth, and families in many areas including literacy, acquiring a high school equivalency credential, post-secondary education, dealing with trauma as it affects children from 0-5 and offering support to parents and grandparents as they raise their children. We have witnessed law enforcement, first responders and health providers working together to support families and not just

incarcerate people who have fallen prey to societal pressures and generational trauma. We are seeing a movement to also provide support to those who provide services, by providing these folks with affordable, quality childcare, median income housing and support for their children while their parents fulfill their career choice to serve others. As such, we have seen the community come together to support families in education, economic development, housing, job training, and transportation. We believe this will encourage youth and young adults to return home and invest in their community.

McCurdy Ministries Community Center has been an integral part of this community's vision for the future and has given its heart and support to the families of this valley for over 107 years. As we transition to a Community Center and do the work to improve our campus infrastructure, I ask for your prayers, support with resources and people power. I ask you to come to McCurdy as a part of a Volunteer in Mission team, as a long-term volunteer or consider hosting your own group's training or retreat on our campus!

Our funding is dependent, in large part, on the generous support of our donors. Over the last several years our general fund has seen a decline in giving. To continue the valuable programs we provide to the community, we need to ensure that not only are our programs being financially supported, but the funding that is required to maintain our facilities, utilities, and staff is maintained. I reach out to you to prayerfully consider McCurdy Ministries as you give of your time and resources! We are here to follow Our Father's purpose for our lives; to serve one another and do so in love! May God's blessings continue to sustain you! Yours in Christ,

Patricia A. Alvarado, executive director

Calling all Ohio McCurdy supporters!

Dear Friends of McCurdy, It is not often that we can celebrate a ministry moving into its second century of service. McCurdy Ministries Community Center (MMCC) is doing just that! So we invite you to join us from

**10 AM to 2 PM, Saturday, March 21, 2020,
at Church of the Messiah UMC,
51 North State St., Westerville, OH,**

to hear McCurdy updates, future plans for ministry and learn ways to build a mission team.

Dee Dee Heffner, McCurdy home missionary for 39 years and current board member, will share her story and her hopes for McCurdy's future. Tom Hofmann and Lori Riddle, also current MMCC board members will update you on McCurdy's current status and hopes for the future of the ministry. There will also be a Panel Discussion on "How to recruit and build strong and effective Volunteer in Mission Teams" led by experienced team leaders. Also, pastors Lou Seipel (Stonybrook UMC) and Tom Mellott (St. Paul's UMC) who have been to McCurdy will lead us in a meaningful chapel service. There will also be plenty of time to share Food and Fellowship because the United Methodist Women from the Church of the Messiah UMC will prepare a lunch for us. (Donations for lunch will be accepted and appreciated.) Finally, we will provide McCurdy Team Leader Packets and information on individual volunteer opportunities for take-away.

Do not miss this opportunity to connect and celebrate! To make a reservation please email Marlene Deringer at mderinge@gmail.com and include the names, church membership and email addresses of those who plan to attend. If you have any questions feel free to contact any of the planning committee members. Thank you for your support of this important ministry!

The Moving Into a Second Century of Service Planning Team: Tom Hofmann, Stonybrook UMC, Lori Riddle, Reynoldsburg UMC, Marlene Deringer, Church of the Messiah UMC, Carla Oatman, Sulphur Grove UMC



Thanks to St. Paul's UMC from South Carolina for creating this amazing angel sculpture.

Thus far we have received 37 referrals from McCurdy Charter School (MCS). Juan, Marcos and I currently carry 32 active cases collectively. We've made presentations to two elementary school classrooms about Project Cariño and we'll be providing in-service training for MCS faculty in February about student-teacher relationships. Project Cariño has also agreed to again partner with the Breaking the Silence Suicide Prevention Program at MCS. We are currently in the early stages of planning three support groups including two Celebrate Survival Grief support groups for students who have lost a parent or sibling to death and a Changing Families group, which will address the issues children of separation and divorce experience.

On the front lines, our two professional therapists, Marcos Castellano, LMSW, and I have been blessed with volunteers who help us provide therapeutic and service-learning opportunities for the MCS community. We couldn't do all of this important work without them! Juan Sanchez, LMSW, continues to volunteer 20 hours a week providing therapeutic intervention for 10 students and their families. His service is imperative as we work to provide services for all of the students who are referred to us.

Ben Slattery, our first year MSW intern from NM State University, has been coordinating our Buddy Program this year. He coordinates and supervises mentorship visits between Big and Little Buddies each

Project Cariño staff and volunteers change lives!

Project Cariño hit the ground running this spring semester! We've been busy providing direct support services for students, families and staff at McCurdy Charter School (MCS), in addition to working with McCurdy Ministries' staff and our Volunteers in Mission.

week and mentors the Bigs as they work with their Littles, creating an awesome parallel process that has worked for us over the years. We have 23 students enrolled in the program, which equals 11 mentorship matches, plus one Little Buddy who Ben himself will be mentoring directly as a Big Buddy! Along with the two days a week that Ben's at Project Cariño, he is also a full-time student and when he isn't here to supervise visits, our long term Volunteer in Mission, Maureen Appenfeller, helps us as well. In addition to everything else Ben is doing, he's also working on an end-of-year celebration for our Buddies which is usually a field trip to some exciting and fun place in the surrounding area. Our individual volunteer, Dorothy Swalley, also helps with this activity every year and helps shut the Buddy Program down at the end of the year.

Rianna Griego, MCS graduate and Project Cariño volunteer, planned and executed an amazing Christmas Party for our Buddies. She single-handedly put up the decorations and community volunteers catered the traditional Christmas meal of posole with red chili, quesadillas and sweet goodies! A good time was had by all!!

During the fall months, we were helped a great deal by Vessel First UMC in Claremore, OK. Joy Rhinehart helped us organize our therapy books so they can be more readily referenced by our therapeutic team and Frankie Long lead the team in helping us get snacks for our Buddies and therapy clients. Without them, we would not have been able to provide snacks to our students this year, again due to financial constraints. It was wonderful having them on our team even for a short while. While the St. Paul's UMC VIM team from Orangeburg, SC, was here in the fall, they worked behind the scenes to provide inspiration for our team and clients by creating a second angel that stands by the flowerbeds in front of our offices. This angel stands by the one they created for us last year. Both angels and the inspirational messages they made and posted in the flowerbeds make our physical setting welcoming and peaceful which sets the stage for the difficult work we do. **Amanda Trujillo-Gonzales, Project Cariño director.**

After School Care News

The After School Care students are learning about kindness and love for one another. Frank Clark says, "Real generosity is doing something nice for someone that will never find out." Here's an example of how kindness comes through in our After School Care program. Some students wanted to learn the Bible song "Every Move I Make." They thought singing and dancing to the song would be so much fun. But some of the younger children were too shy to sing and dance. The older students told them it would be so much fun and they would teach them to dance. The kindness the older children have for the younger ones is truly sweet and amazing to see.

The After School Care program wants to thank Dawn Staton for the kindness she has shown our children. We also want to thank the VIM team from Vessel UMC in Oklahoma and Frankie Long for their generous donation of stuffed animals. The children received the animals as Christmas gifts and enjoy them so much that they still talk about sleeping with them at night to keep them safe. *Angela Ortiz, after school care provider*



An After School Care student enjoys a stuffed animal and present from Santa at the ASC Christmas party. Thanks to the Vessel UMC from Claremore, OK, for the stuffed animals.

"Christ is our hope in every season of life. Amen."

Creative ways to 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.

Shopping at Smith's Grocery and collecting Box Tops are two creative ways to support McCurdy

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, 362A 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!

"I will thank you forever, because of what you have done. In the presence of the faithful I will proclaim your name, for it is good."

Psalm 52:9 (NRSV)

PreK News*PreK News*PreK News

I cannot help but notice and feel proud of the growth and strides that the children have made not only academically, but socially and emotionally this school year. Upon return from our holiday break, I asked the children to tell me about their favorite part of their winter vacation. Most of the replies were about receiving a variety of tangible gifts such as electronic games, TV's, laptops and cellphones (yes cell phones). There were also children who received the gift of privileges such as staying up later than usual or getting to do something special like seeing a movie or staying at a friend's house.

Then there were a few who in my opinion had received the most valuable gift of all and that was the gift of "presence." These children were content with the undivided attention of someone to talk to and really listen to them while doing simple activities like baking cookies, reading books and spending time "to just watch the big snowflakes fall down and drink hot chocolate." Our undivided attention and "presence" makes a great deal of difference to our children!

So, as we enter into the new year and start making investments (stocks, bonds, real estate), I invite you all to join me in making a deposit into the greatest bank of all, the children of our world, because they are our future! Blessings, *Sandra Trujillo, Pre-K director*

**Investing in children like these
is a gift that brings joy to life!**





VIM Team Leader Carla Oatman from Sulphur Grove UMC in Ohio helps prepare McCracken Gym for the McCurdy Fiesta last fall.

McCurdy is preparing to welcome our amazing volunteers to New Mexico

We're gearing up for another impactful, productive and fun-filled volunteer season here at McCurdy Ministries Community Center! Have you scheduled your Volunteers in Mission team to volunteer on our campus? While the number of teams we are hosting each year has increased over 200% from last year to this year, we still have a number of weeks through the spring, summer and fall open for groups 15 and under. There are a few weeks open for groups up to 45 including March 1-7, March 23-27, April 19-25, April 26-May 2, May 3-9, May 11-16, Aug. 9-15, August 23-29 and September 6-12. We also have many open weeks during November and December of 2020 and January, February and March of 2021. Due to our increased number of volunteers and teams, we encourage you to schedule your week at McCurdy as soon as possible.

Volunteers are needed to help us enhance our facilities so we can continue to provide quality spaces for our ministries to the children and families of the Española Valley. 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 forward. Volunteers are also needed to help with program and administrative tasks. We have a job for you whether you need sedentary work or want to build up a sweat swinging a hammer. 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 volunteer as an individual, please contact Eufemia Romero, volunteer registrar, at eromero@mccurdy.org or at 505-753-7221 ext. 210. We look forward to seeing you and/or your VIM team here on the McCurdy Campus!

Notes from the Development Department

In a *Forbes Magazine* article from last June, Richard Eisenberg said, "Charities feared that the 2017 tax law would lead to a drop in charitable giving by individuals. The chief reason: the doubling of the standard deduction would mean it wouldn't pay for many to itemize on their 2018 tax returns, and without a charitable contribution deduction, they'd be less inclined to give. New data shows the fear seems to have been proven out."

In the United States, individual giving declined 1.1% in 2018 to \$292.09 billion and when adjusted for inflation it fell 3.4% according to *Giving USA 2019: The Annual Report on Philanthropy for the Year 2018*. Giving to religious institutions, which is done mostly by individuals rather than foundations or corporations, also fell last year.

Though this news is especially difficult in a year when there has been conflict in the United Methodist Church and mission giving is down worldwide, but McCurdy Ministries Community Center has been blessed with donors who know how much their support means to our ministries. In a comparison of donor giving between 2018 and 2019, our supporters **actually increased their giving**. For example, our number of active donors increased by 74, our total giving revenue increased by 5.8%, our total number of gifts increased by 113, our donor retention rate increased by 6.5% and our attrition rate decreased over last year by 6.52%. As you can see from the numbers, we are fortunate to have donors who continue to want to make a difference in the lives of children, youth and families in the Española Valley. They understand that without their support, our ministry would falter and for that, **we are truly grateful!**

On an ending note, this will be my last column as MMCC's Associate Director of Development. I'll be moving to the East Coast to follow my passion to work with older adults. I want to thank you all for your support of MMCC and for helping to make my job meaningful. I wish you God's grace and blessings, **Dawn Staton, associate director of development**

Our website at www.mccurdy.org is a resource to help you promote our ministries

The McCurdy website at www.mccurdy.org is a resource that churches, UMW Units, Sunday School classes, youth groups, volunteers, donors and supporters are invited to use to learn about our ministries and share the difference we make in the name of Jesus Christ with others. By going to our website and clicking on the News & Resources tab you can find MMCC videos, past copies of the *McCurdy Message*, a one page program flyer, a bulletin insert, VIM Team Leader and Team Member manuals, descriptions of all our programs. MMCC history and our vision for the future. If you are having problems accessing our website please refresh your webpage or get advice from a teenager.

We are now publishing a Volunteer Newsletter by blast email every month. If you are not receiving this newsletter please send your email address to Diana Loomis at dloomis@mccurdy.org to be added to the blast email list.

We also 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).



Work full time for the United Methodist Church? Come 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 once a year 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.

Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

Psalm 51:10-12