

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, #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

May 2020

SPECIAL COVID-19 EDITION

McCurdy Ministries Community Center is sponsoring A COVID-19 Giving Tuesday Season May 1-31

During the COVID-19 crisis our health, our families, and our livelihoods are all being affected. When our lives are adversely affected our medical professionals, service providers, law enforcement, government officials, grocery store workers and military step up to make a difference and so do our churches and faith-based nonprofits like McCurdy Ministries Community Center. Throughout this newsletter you will learn about the simple and extraordinary ways McCurdy is stepping up to be the healing hands and feet of Jesus for our community and our supporters during this difficult time.

Not only does McCurdy Ministries Community Center (MMCC) step up but so do our donors! Just as we were realizing how this crisis would affect our ministries, two key donors made special anonymous gifts because they knew hard times were ahead for MMCC. I am always amazed by the ways that God works because right after those donations were made the international Giving Tuesday organization announced a **COVID-19 Giving Tuesday on May 5** and our Development Committee recommended to our board that we set aside \$22,500 of these gifts to be used as match for a **McCurdy Ministries COVID-19 Giving Tuesday Season from May 1 TO May 31, 2020** in response to this crisis. This means that gifts mailed directly to McCurdy Ministries Community Center at 362A S. McCurdy Road, Española, NM

87532 and gifts made on our webpage at <https://mccurdy.org/give-now/> will be matched dollar for dollar as long as the \$22,500 of match lasts. This is a great way to turn your \$25 gift into a \$50 gift!



We know that many of you are financially stressed just as MMCC is financially stressed so your most important gift to our ministry is to keep our students, families, staff and board in your prayers. If you are blessed to be able to support our **COVID-19 Giving Tuesday** efforts we thank you and if you are not able to support us financially at this time we understand. Please know we are

keeping you and your families in our prayers on a daily basis.

One of the ways we are sending our caring thoughts your way is that every Friday we are sending out a **McCurdy Cares for You Devotional** and occasional **COVID-19 Survival Resources** from our Project Cariño and PreK staff by blast email. If you would like to receive these emails please send me your email address at dloomis@mccurdy.org and I will add you to this mailing list. If there is any way we can be of support to you and your family please be in touch. Sending hope, healing and comfort to you and yours today during this most difficult time. *Rev. Diana Loomis, director of development/church relations.*

The McCurdy Schools of Northern NM PreK is closed



McCurdy preschoolers listening intently to their teacher.

When New Mexico closed the public schools on March 16 due to the COVID-19 crisis, we made the decision to close the McCurdy PreK as well. The public schools and some of the preschools are closed for the school year. Our PreK teachers under the direction of Sandra Trujillo, began supporting our preschoolers and their families from a distance. Patricia Alvarado, MMCC executive director, says, “The PreK staff has an assigned pool of students. They connect with the children and their parents every other day and walk them through some of the resources and activities if needed. This time also helps parents to vent or to get help for themselves as they interact with their children daily.”

Sandra Trujillo says, “Parents have been very appreciative of the resources I have provided on our webpage or by text. Many of the children are missing their friends, missing their teachers and wonder why we cannot go back to school. (Parents) were very thankful for the video I provided explaining COVID-19 to children. I (also) spoke to many of the children. They seem to be doing well, telling me about pictures they are painting of their pets and things that they are cooking with their parents. One of the children stated that they cannot go see grandma and grandpa because they don’t want to get them sick. So they can only see them on the computer or through the window.”

Notes from the MMCC executive director

Many thoughts race through my mind as I think of this “new normal” we are living through. We find ourselves in unfamiliar territory working from home or endangering ourselves to work outside the home because we are needed. The challenges of being a home school parent, an online teacher, managing a workforce from a distance and offering critical services via technology are difficult. Listening to the tragedy, statistics, and impending doom can lead to feeling overwhelmed. Then there are the stories that share the strength, courage, resilience, and love that one human has for another that inspire and cause us to act with a purpose!

In this edition of our newsletter, you will read about the ways McCurdy Ministries Community Center is loving and serving one another. You will also learn how WE are being served by others who are carrying out Christ’s command to love one another. Within our community, we see the same challenges that are on the news, but we also see the countless ways people, church organizations, government agencies, businesses, and non-profits are working together to serve the least of us.

Our PreK staff and our Project Cariño counselors and interns are connecting with their students and families via phone calls, Zoom sessions, online resources and email. Work is continuing and relationships are being enriched as the isolation continues. The continued connection helps combat the isolation and fear. The rest of our staff is working on-site on a staggered schedule or from home to continue essential

work and to explore ways of partnering with others to fill immediate needs and to plan for future collaborations that will be born out of this collective experience.

The rallying cry has sounded, and the people are responding! We could not do our ministry without your continued love and support. YOU are answering the rallying cry! For this, we are so grateful! Below find scriptures that have helped me in combatting fear during this time. What the enemy has meant for evil, God is turning for good! May Our Father’s love and peace continue to sustain you! **Patricia A. Alvarado, executive director**

“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you.” Isaiah 41:10

“When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.” Psalm 56:3

“Peace is what I leave with you; it is my peace that I give you. I do not give it as the world does. Do not be worried and upset; do not be afraid.” John 14:27

“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and love and a sound mind.” 2 Timothy 1:7

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9

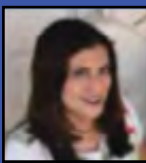
We’re all in this together.

We face stark challenges. Pandemics and economic disruptions make once comfortable lives vulnerable, while those already enduring adversity find life impossible. *100% Community* is the reset button, providing the road map for how we work together in new ways to create local systems of health, safety, education and economic stability.

In *100% Community*, we provide you and your community with the insights to endure that ten vital services are working well. The services that none of us can do without, the “surviving services,” start with medical care and include behavioral health care, safe housing, secure food and transport to vital services. The “thriving services” include parent supports, early childhood learning programs, community schools, youth mentors and job training. Each of these services play a vital role in keeping us safe from adversities—both everyday and unexpected.

100% Community shows how we can create a local system of readiness by investing in strong local systems of care, safety and education, and how we can decrease health disparities along with a host of long-standing and costly challenges including adverse childhood experiences, trauma, substance misuse, violence and untreated mental health problems.

By harnessing data, research and technology, the public and private sectors can work together with unprecedented levels of collaboration. *100% Community* provides a tested, step-by-step guide to creating a seamless local system of health and safety. Together with ten vital services accessible to 100%, we’re all stronger and safer.



Katherine Ortega Courtney, PhD and **Dominic Cappello** are advocates for solving colliding challenges using data, technology and collaboration. They know why systems that should protect us, can fail us—and teach leadership development and data-driven problem-solving. Dr. Courtney’s expertise in data analysis, continuous quality improvement, collective impact and experimental psychology guides communities and organizations through turbulent and timely change. Cappello is a community systems strategist and *New York Times* best-seller author,

whose *Ten Talks* book series on family safety reached a national audience when his innovative work was featured on *The Oprah Winfrey Show*.

“The 100% Community initiative guides us as we embrace the opportunity to design new systems of care and safety we urgently need.”

—Matt Probst,
PA-C Medical Director,
El Centro
Family Health

McCurdy is expanding our community partnerships

The McCurdy Ministries Community Center Board of Trustees is pleased to share that MMCC and Patricia A. Alvarado, executive director, will be doing critical work with the **100% Community Initiative** sponsored by the Anna, Age Eight Institute. Ms. Alvarado and MMCC staff will be helping to connect the network of “surviving services” and “thriving services” in the Española Valley described in the article above. Key in the research which established this project is Katherine Ortega Courtney, PhD, who is a McCurdy graduate.

The 100% Community Initiative is one more way that MMCC is acting as a connection point for those seeking to make a difference in the Española Valley and is one more way we are fulfilling our vision to be a community center. Before the shelter in place order occurred MMCC had become a regular meeting place for Rio Arriba Health Council, U.S. Census Taskforce, United Way of Northern NM Community Partners Forum, and Rio Arriba Adult Literacy Partnership and various other community training and educational events.

Project Cariño staff and volunteers change lives!

Project Cariño is working full steam during the COVID-19 crisis. Marcos Castellano, Juan Sanchez (a second year MSW intern) and I are working with our clients by Zoom conferences or by phone. We’re including parents more than we were able to before the closure.

Our MSW interns are in contact with the Buddies and are supporting the Bigs to write a letter of closure to their Littles which includes reminiscing about the happy times they had together, highlighting the growth they have seen in the Littles and growth they felt in themselves. They are sharing their desire to visit with their Little Buddy next year or helping the Littles be open to a new Big Buddy. The letters will be sent to staff and then forwarded to the parents and the Little Buddy.

The days have been long as we support students, parents, and McCurdy Charter School administrators and staff. Both Marcos and I have had teachers seek support in dealing with the COVID-19 crisis, the abrupt shift to remote classrooms, and talking through how to support students without Wi-Fi access. We are also receiving new referrals from the administration and parents.

Our students are actually doing really well through the quarantine, having so much more of their parents’ time and attention than ever before! We’re incorporating parents into our sessions 100% more than any other time! One of our students had this to share about her experiences,

“I think it’s very important to remain positive, even when things are bad...Even right now, I believe we can still have peace and hope. Things do seem scary and hopeless, with this virus spreading so fast, but I believe in the middle of all this darkness, God is still in control. I know people all over are feeling worry and uncertainty, and I admit I feel nervous sometimes too, but we can trust in him that everything will be OK. I believe we will get through this hard time, and we will all come out stronger. I know things feel very weird right now and I’m a little disappointed because it’s my senior year, but I know we have to make the best of the situation. Life doesn’t always go as planned, but it’s our attitudes that matter.”

We are doing our staff meetings by Zoom which is pictured above. It is good to be “together” again!

Amanda Trujillo-Gonzales, Project Cariño director.





Save the date for the second annual McCurdy Fiesta on Oct. 17, 2020!

This event is subject to cancellation due to the COVID-19 Crisis.



Hungry students are still receiving breakfast & lunch during the week

McCurdy Charter School in cooperation with the NM Department of Education and the USDA is providing breakfast and lunch grab bags for free for McCurdy Charter School and McCurdy Ministries Community Center preschoolers throughout the remainder of the school year. These bags are available for free through the rest of the school year.

Meals can be picked in the MCS drop off lanes on the south side of campus from 8:30 AM to 1 PM, Monday

through Thursday. Thursday meals will also include meals for Friday. If families can't make it to campus, meals can be picked up at any public school site, free of charge.

We anticipate that a Summer Meal Program will be provided by USDA and the county through the Española Public Schools which is important because the program provides breakfast and lunch for students who suffer from food insecurity.

Creative ways to support McCurdy through the COVID-19 crisis

McCurdy Ministries Community Center touches the lives of 569 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, 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 founder Deaconess Mellie Perkins on the left
with the first teacher Suzanita Martinez on the right.

Support McCurdy Through planned giving

Ecclesiastes 3:1 says, "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven..." During the COVID-19 crisis many of our supporters are going through financial stress. Circumstances change and we receive communications expressing sorrow that a beloved donor can no longer support our ministry. First, we understand when circumstances change and we thank you for the support you have given McCurdy Ministries Community Center over the years! Secondly, know you are a blessing to us and we are buoyed by your prayers. Third, consider remembering MMCC in your estate plan by:

- Remembering MMCC in your will.
- Making a donation of cash, stocks, land or an appreciated asset that comes to MMCC when your estate is settled.
- Naming MMCC as a beneficiary of an insurance policy, an IRA, a checking or savings account.
- Donating a gift annuity to earn income during your lifetime and bless MMCC with a donation after your death. Gift annuities can be arranged through the Texas Methodist Foundation.

For more information on Planned Giving please contact Rev. Diana Loomis, development director, at 362A S. McCurdy Road, Española, NM 87532 or email her at dloomis@mccurdy.org. Once you notify McCurdy that you have remembered MMCC in your estate planning then you become a member of the Mellie Perkins Society. Mellie Perkins Society members are recognized in our Annual Report which is published in the November *McCurdy Message*.

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace." Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 (NRSV)

Volunteer activities on hold except ones that can be done from afar



All Volunteer in Mission Teams and Individual Volunteer activities will be halted until mid-July due to the COVID-19 crisis. Rev. Diana Loomis, director of development/church relations says, "We love our volunteers and their can do spirit and faith that makes such a great difference on our campus and with our ministries, but we cannot encourage our volunteers to put themselves in danger to travel to New Mexico. This is a time to err on the side of safety."

Ms. Patricia Alvarado, executive director, and Eufemia Romero, volunteer registrar, have been in touch with team leaders and volunteers that have had to cancel, giving them the option to reschedule their team or individual stay to later in the summer or fall. If you would like information on available dates please call Eufemia Romero at 505-753-7221, ext. 210, from 7:30 to 11:30 AM Monday through Friday or email her at eromero@mccurdy.org. Eufemia is working part time on campus on essential services.

We are grateful for the South Central Jurisdiction VIM Office for suggesting these ways to support mission from afar:

1. Pray for the mission site, pray for the people who work there, pray for the community. Ask team members and congregation members to join you in praying also.

2. Donate to the ministry. The need that was present at the mission before the global pandemic prohibited our travel is still there.

3. Send notes of encouragement to the staff not only are they facing personal risk of infection, they also may be dealing with a huge hit to the ministry because volunteers can't get there.

4. Keep your team spirits up by having a Skype, FaceTime, or Zoom meeting with your team members from the safety of your home. Share updates from the project site, discuss future mission dates, and check in with each other to see how you are doing.

5. Focus on the "why". Consider researching the issues that McCurdy students and families face and organize a study around the issue to keep team members focused on why they will be needed once this pandemic has passed. Create small groups on Facebook for these conversations.

Finally, MMCC has been going strong for 108 years through wars, the Depression, the 1918 Flu Pandemic and the economic downturn. We'll be here to welcome you when you return!

Thanks to Covenant UMC from Dothan, AL, for creating this angel sculpture!

We apologize for giving another church credit in the February McCurdy Message for making this wonderful angel that watches over Project Cariño. The volunteers who created this sculpture from left to right on the front row are Sheri Stevens and Laura Slavins. On the top row are David Reed and Susan Reed. This is the second angel sculpture the group from Covenant UMC created for Project Cariño. We thank you for providing angels to look over our students and staff! You have blessed us all!

The McCurdy website is a resource to help 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. Also, 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) (@McCurdyMinistry), Instagram at: <https://www.instagram.com/mccurdyministries/> (@mccurdyministries).

Need a retreat when the pandemic is over?

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 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.

The only charge is to allow our staff to give you an introduction to our ministries while you are in NM. Our desire is to support you while providing a chance for you to reconnect with God, be still, renew and enjoy life. If you have questions about scheduling a retreat, please email Eufemia Romero at eromero@mccurdy.org.



First UMC Los Alamos on the right help McCurdy students with crafts during a Thanks Fest.

the year, a mortar and tassel and a graduation certificate for each student. The UMW will provide crafts for the family to do together, noise makers for a unique processional into at their own home, and rice crispy treat kits so the families can make the treats together. Special thanks to the Los Alamos UMW for supporting our preschoolers and their families in this way!

If your church, mission team, Sunday School class or UMW has a creative idea on a way you can support our McCurdy students, families and ministries from a distance please email Diana Loomis, director of development/church relations at dloomis@mccurdy.org.



Regional board member from Oklahoma, Linda Polson, writes a card for a staff member.

UMW creates graduation experience for preschoolers

All over the country an outpouring of creative ways to help 2020 graduates have graduation experiences have been occurring. At McCurdy Ministries Community Center we are saddened that we will not be able to hold our traditional Preschool Graduation on May 15 this year.

Then in comes the United Methodist Women from First UMC Los Alamos with creative ideas to create a Graduation Celebration in a Box for our preschoolers and their families. Our staff will include personal notes, the child's artwork and papers for

MMCC Board supports staff from a distance

The MMCC Board of Trustees members are stepping up their efforts to express their appreciation for the McCurdy staff during the COVID-19 crisis. Board members are taking turns sending cards of appreciation to the staff to let them know they are praying for the ministries, the staff and their families.

Our board does a great job of supporting our staff all year long. We appreciate their hard work to support our staff and our ministries during this difficult time.