

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

Sept. 2020

School starts with virtual PreK



Preschool Director Sandra Trujillo working with her computer and her preschoolers during a Zoom class.

McCurdy Schools of Northern New Mexico PreK opened its doors to greet the 2020–21 class on Sept. 9. The Pre-K staff has geared up for a new and unusual school year with a virtual start and the hope that by the end of October a hybrid combination of onsite and virtual classes will be allowed by the state. We hired former educational assistant, Theresa Romero, to work with our PreK team and we couldn't be happier that she is back. The staff and I have been educating ourselves on distance learning and virtual platforms.

We held our Parent Orientations at Cole Community Room while taking social distancing precautions the week of Aug. 17. Our school classroom/ home visits were held the week of Aug. 24. The parents were very pleased with the safety measures we have in place for the children and many of the children wanted to stay and have on-site school immediately!

Our staff prepares, packs and seals learning

packets that go home with families every Friday. The packets include the children's work for the next week which they follow during our daily hour long zoom call. They then complete the work after the call ends. There are three to five activities per day for a total of 13 to 20 activities prepared and sent out on a weekly basis.

We are also preparing for on-site hybrid learning. We are working longer and harder than ever, as we deal with technology and connectivity issues, try to help our class feel connected, field family questions and deal with scheduling issues due to work requirements. We are hoping it all works out for the benefit of the children. The children all seem to be very engaged during class time and parents have mentioned they look forward to their "Computer School" daily. One grandparent mentioned that her granddaughter thinks we live on her computer screen. **Sandra Trujillo, preschool director**

The McCurdy Giving Tuesday Season runs Nov. 1 to Dec. 1

For the eighth year, McCurdy Ministries Community Center (MMCC) will celebrate a **Giving Tuesday Season** starting on Nov. 1 and ending on Dec. 1. Several of our faithful donors have already stepped up to provide match so that once again your gift will be matched up to \$2,500 as long as the match lasts.

Your support during the **Giving Tuesday Season** is critically important as MMCC works to expand our impact while combating the ways that the COVID-19 pandemic has affected our community. Whether our staff is working virtually, by phone, by email or in person, we are still transforming the lives of McCurdy Charter School and MMCC students and families every day through Project Cariño's services to McCurdy Charter School students and their families and McCurdy Schools of Northern New Mexico PreK. We are also launching a virtual Volunteer in Mission experience for supporters who want to learn more about McCurdy and the difference we make from home.

McCurdy has celebrated Giving Tuesday since 2013. Then two years ago we expanded the effort from one day to a season to make it easier for our donors to support our ministries. **During our November/December 2019 Giving Tuesday Season 162 donors gave \$65,392 which was a 34% increase in the number of donors and a \$2,000 increase in donations!** Rev. Diana Loomis, director of development says, "In a time when so many are experiencing hardship we are working hard to decrease expenses while keeping our staff employed. If we match the 2019 donations made on Giving Tuesday we will raise 6% of our 2020-21 budget and donors get the satisfaction of knowing their gifts will be matched dollar for dollar!"

Our theme for our **Giving Tuesday Season** is "Give light. Give love. Give life." 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 and cannot be designated for a program or the McCurdy Foundation. To receive the match



please give in these ways:

1. Mail a gift to MMCC postmarked between Nov. 1 and Dec. 1. The check MUST be marked **Giving Tuesday** to count toward the match.

2. From Nov. 1 through Dec. 1, 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. 1, 2020**, 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 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 2020 Giving Tuesday.

The May COVID-19 Giving Tuesday was a blessing during a frightening time

Last May during our special COVID-19 Giving Season, 95 donors gave 100 gifts totaling over \$38,535! We thank these donors who stepped out on faith at the beginning of the pandemic to provide financial support for our ministries at a critical time. In April of 2020, a month which included Easter, we received \$10,706 in donations. After our COVID-19 campaign and the wonderful generosity of our donors we received \$94,687 in May! The result has been we have not laid off staff or reduced compensation AND we have found creative ways to be the hands of Christ during the pandemic. All thanks to your generosity! We are so grateful for your support.

Notes from the MMCC executive director



Patricia A. Alvarado,
executive director

Since our last newsletter publication, we have all experienced such a different existence than we would have ever imagined. All over the country and the world, we have seen and heard tragic stories as well as the courageous accounts and the tremendous acts of kindness that have been experienced by so many! The COVID-19 Pandemic has had such power in our lives and its rippling effect continues to make its presence known!

McCurdy Ministries Community Center has certainly been no exception! Our on-site operations were halted in March and to this day, we continue to operate using a combination of on-site and virtual work. Some of our employees worked from and continue to work from home. Some came in to work with modified work schedules and just in

the last month, some have returned to full-time work on-site. The services we provide through our Project Cariño, our school based mental health counseling service, saw a spike in hours logged working with families by telephone and ZOOM calls. Our counselors provided much-needed support to individual students and their families AND they volunteered to work with our most vulnerable clients over the summer. As the new school year starts, we have a fully staffed department, who are already seeing another steady increase in services being provided via virtual and on-line platforms. We are so grateful and blessed to have such a dedicated team of providers!

Our Pre-K program finished off the year virtually as well. All children and parents were present on-line, via ZOOM, as we conducted our end of year Parent Event which was a celebration of our preschoolers “graduating” from home with their families and extended family members logging on. We are grateful to the First UMC Los Alamos UMW who made decoration packets with cookie making kits to help our preschool families make their graduation event special even if it was at home! This summer, there have been many meetings that have taken place on-line with the NM Pre-K State

agency to review new protocols and what model we were going to follow as the new school year would begin. We contacted parents and conducted surveys to determine what modality to adopt as we began our new school year. We began delivering NM Pre-K services on Sept. 9, 2020, via ZOOM, and for several weeks before, we had engaged parents in hosting parent orientations, on-site visits, all the while following NM protocols for dealing with COVID-19. The staff has worked tirelessly to develop new methods of delivery of the curriculum, materials to be given to children, and training in on-line delivery of lessons! We also had to make physical adaptations to the PreK for when the children will return to on-site. At that time we will use a hybrid model of service. Half of the students will attend on Monday and Tuesday, Wednesday all students will be online at home, then the other half of the students will attend on Thursdays and Fridays. Beginning the hybrid model will be dependent on COVID-19 numbers in our region and guidance given by NM PreK. We are again so grateful and blessed to have such a dedicated team of providers!

I want to thank all of our staff who have supported our programs including the Development Department for fundraising during these uncertain times, the Business Department for all the financial adjustments made, for Food Services for new ways of food delivery, for Maintenance who have done so much additional work because our Volunteers in Mission teams have not been able to come to New Mexico to help with our maintenance and grounds needs, for our administrative assistant who is always on top of communication with donors, volunteers, and the local community, and for our Board members who have helped communicate the valuable work we still do at McCurdy all across the country! I thank all of the local community agencies who partner with us and strategize for the future of McCurdy Ministries Community Center as well as collaborating with us to serve our children, youth, and families. Last, but not least, I thank all of our donors and prayer partners, who continue to support our vision and mission, despite the challenges that COVID-19 and current national unrest has had on their lives!

How blessed are we to have the means to serve and to carry out our work as we are challenged to turn need into celebrations! May God’s blessings be upon you and yours and continue to sustain you! **Patricia A. Alvarado, Executive Director**

Project Cariño continues to work creatively during the pandemic

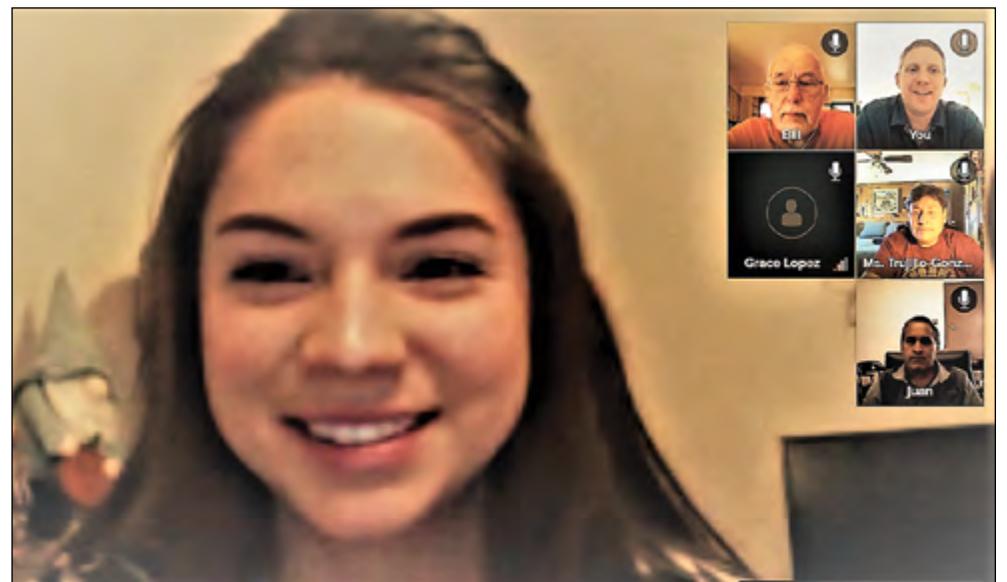
Project Cariño is back to work with the start of the new school year and in the first 30 days dealt with 14 referrals for therapy, 12 sessions with parents, 28 hours resourcing teachers and 38 hours of supervision for staff. The staff is working primarily using zoom and phone sessions and is providing creative resources for educators and parents. In this time of isolation and fear Project Cariño has been a steadfast resource to their clients.

Our therapeutic team has evolved again this year, but fortunately we were able to bring back therapists who have been a part of the Project Cariño staff in the past. Our team consists of two professionally licensed clinical therapists, one volunteer MSW therapist, one MSW student intern and one BSW student intern. Amanda will be leading her team into the 2020–21 school year providing all services for her team, clients, client families in collaboration with McCurdy Charter School administration and McCurdy Ministries Community Center administration. She will be available for at least 40 hours each week, Monday through Friday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Amanda will be working remotely to start the year, and will gauge a balance of remote and in-person services depending on the pandemic and infection rates throughout the school year.

Bill Clapp has returned to Project Cariño this year. We are fortunate to have him back to help us with his wealth of experience and expertise in the clinical field! Bill will be working 36-hour weeks; nine hour days on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Also returning this year is Ben Slattery, MSW Intern. Ben was with us last year as an MSW Intern, and due to complications of the pandemic, he was given extraordinary permission to return for a second and more challenging experience. He will be joining Bill and me for 16 hours a week (Tuesdays and Thursdays) as a clinical therapist in training, carrying a small caseload of 5 students and families. Juan Sanchez will return to Project Cariño again this year, for 20 volunteer hours all day on Mondays, Tuesdays, and half day Wednesdays. He has agreed to provide our clients with valuable case management services, connecting them with the concrete services they often need to achieve optimum function. He will also provide supervision for our new BSW Intern from NM Highlands University, Grace Lopez. Grace will graduate from NMHU with a Bachelor of Social Work degree in May

2021; she is a local resident of Santa Cruz, NM and learned of Project Cariño from her grandmother, Janette Archuleta, who recommended our internship highly!

Project Cariño has been offered the opportunity to become part of the Rio Arriba Dialectical Behavior Therapy clinical team which will be a school-based intervention for students who have experienced emotional trauma. It is a cognitive-behavioral therapy that teaches people how to live in the moment, develop healthy ways to cope with stress, regulate emotion and improve relationships. It is useful for people who have difficulty with emotional regulation or are exhibiting self-destructive behaviors including eating disorders and substance abuse. **Amanda Trujillo-Gonzales, Project Cariño director.**



The 2020–21 Project Cariño staff and interns hold a zoom staff meeting to plan their work.

Volunteers continue to make a difference for McCurdy from a distance!

Since last March McCurdy volunteers have been coming up with amazing ways to make a difference for our ministries from a distance. Groups have created graduation celebration backpacks for our preschoolers, sewn masks for our staff, volunteers and students, donated the funds they would have spent on their mission trip to New Mexico to McCurdy and made sure the projects they intended to work on this summer were completed despite their absence.

The Volunteers in Mission Team from First UMC in Claremore, OK, had applied for a Woodworth grant from the Oklahoma Conference to put a new pitched metal roof on the Childcare House this summer. When the pandemic made it impossible for them to travel to New Mexico, the team asked the conference to let McCurdy staff

complete the roof. We received the funding for this project and our hardworking maintenance staff completed it. Then when the McCracken Gym trampoline room roof failed they secured permission for the funds remaining from the Woodworth Grant to be used to reroof the trampoline room.

The VIM Team from Boston Avenue UMC in Tulsa, OK, was planning to send two teams to McCurdy this spring and fall. The first team was to install a privacy fence and concrete pad on the north side of Hovermale elementary school and the second team was to install a gazebo so Project Cariño counselors could do therapy outside. The Boston Ave team worked with our staff to find an alternative way to complete and fund this project. The result is beautiful!



Top: New gazebo, privacy fence and concrete slab for Project Cariño.
Middle: Rebuilt roof on the McCracken Gym trampoline room.
Bottom: New roof on the Childcare house.

McCurdy Virtual VIM program launching in October

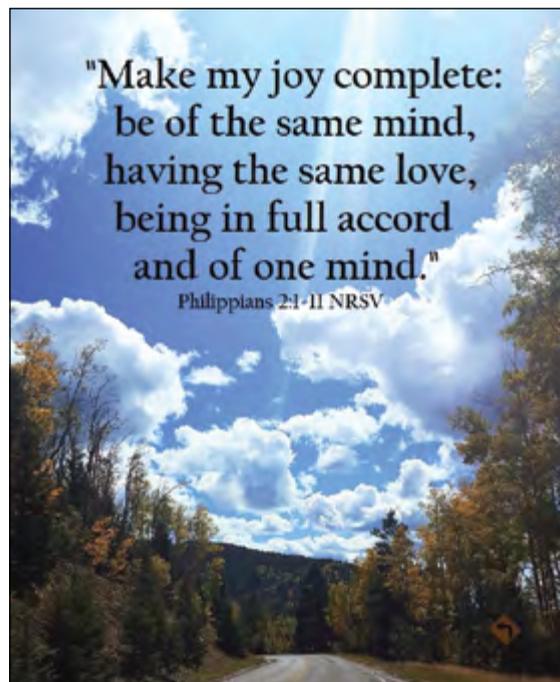
Check out a virtual mission trip to McCurdy Ministries Community Center! Join the first-ever McCurdy Virtual Mission Trip from 7 to 8 PM CDT, Oct. 18–23, 2020. All sessions will be conducted online using Zoom and will last approximately one hour.

The sessions will include an opening devotional by a team member, a presentation by McCurdy staff members or the VIM Leader, discussion and question answer time, and an

opportunity for fundraising. In addition, there will be some short personal study assignments, including videos to watch and/or some articles to read.

A Virtual VIM is a great way to learn more about McCurdy from the comfort of your own home. To sign up for the Oct. 18–23 Virtual VIM Trip, contact Linda Polson, VIM Virtual Team Leader, at lpolson1966@gmail.com or call her with any questions at 918-855-8783 (cell).

McCurdy COVID-19 devotional ministry



Since the early days of the pandemic McCurdy staffer, Diana Loomis, has been sending out a weekly devotional to share our faith in hard times, to keep our connections with our supporters strong and to share what is happening with our ministries. Below is the Sept. 24 devotional. To receive these weekly emails please email dloomis@mccurdy.org.

This morning these words from Philippians have been on my heart. "Complete my joy by thinking the same way, having the same love, being united, and agreeing with each other. Don't do anything for selfish purposes, but with humility think of others as better than yourselves."

(CEV) When Paul writes this

scripture he is chained in a Roman prison, writing about unity, community, and the joy that comes from faith. Paul's words describe the essence of a strong, healthy community which is critical amid a pandemic.

When I was doing my doctoral work I researched American individualism. The strength that helped Americans of all races and economic circumstances settle this continent is called "rugged American individualism." Unfortunately, a singular focus on accomplishing what is good for one individual or group all too often causes harm to others. This is why Native Americans have a very different view of the settling of this continent. This is why Black Americans have a very different view of slavery. In this scripture, Paul is calling us to step outside our comfort zone and view life from the experiences of someone different than us. As Christians, we are called to put aside our needs and desires, to do what is best for the Christian community, what is best for the greater community, what is best for our country, and what is best for the world understanding that each person on the planet, no

matter their race, no matter what language they speak, no matter the color of their skin, no matter their religion IS A CHILD OF GOD! So while wearing a mask may go against my grain, while avoiding large groups is lonely, while I may be bored and frustrated with the restrictions the pandemic has brought upon us, as a Christian I am called to put community needs ahead of my needs.

This week I am working on the September McCurdy Message. When I read the article that Sandra Trujillo, our preschool director, wrote I was inspired! Preschool classes started Sept. 9 virtually. Our staff has to prepare for virtual sessions, prepare an activity kit that goes home with every family once a week, prepare for the time when they will be able to teach using a hybrid virtual/in-person teaching style all the while learning new technology, new platforms and constantly dealing with the connectivity issues that are a part of life in Northern New Mexico. They are working long, hard hours and are missing the joy of experiencing their preschoolers in person, yet they are committed to doing their best to keep these preschoolers and their families safe while helping them to learn. They are an example of individual Christians sacrificing themselves for the good of the greater community! Teachers all over our country are making the same sacrifices for the greater good.

There isn't much about our situation in the United States that is easy now. I am ready for the election season, the pandemic, and the economic effects we are going through to be over. It is easy to get lost in our difficulties and fears. Those difficult times are when the Christian community is MOST important! This week one of our wonderful United Methodist musicians, Jeanie Strathdee shared a virtual choral version of "I Believe" in memory of Ruth Bader Ginsburg. I have sung this song without knowing that it is based on a poem written by an anonymous Jewish Holocaust victim. The words were found inscribed in a cellar in the Cologne concentration camp during WWII and are an astonishing testimony to faith in devastating times. The link to the video is: <https://www.facebook.com/jeanie.strathdee/videos/3105473872908720/> and the lyrics are:

*I believe in the sun. I believe in the sun, even when, even when it's not shining.
I believe in love. I believe in love, even when, even when I don't feel it.
I believe in God, I believe in God, even when, even when God is silent.*

Listening to this song reminds me of the resilient human spirit, the power of God, and the comfort that comes from community. I hope you will listen to this inspiring song and join me in praying for community dedicated to God's love and the greater human good. With hope, Diana Loomis, director of development/church relations.

Camp Stars and After School Care paused during pandemic

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic Camp Stars was not able to be held this summer. Thanks to our major donor for Camp Stars, the Montei Foundation, MMCC was able to expand Project Cariño's virtual counseling work to the summer. The Montei Foundation also chose to support our General Fund during this crisis. We are grateful for their generosity!

Plans are being made now to expand Camp Stars next summer. We plan to reach out to elementary teachers across Espanola to find students who have fallen behind because virtual education didn't work well for them or because they had connectivity problems which interfered with their education during the pandemic. We will extend invitations to these students to participate in this summer camp

next summer which will include breakfast and lunch, STEM education, service, Bible stories, fun and learning.

In addition, After School Care has been paused until students are able to return to campus. As long as the Espanola area transmission rate remains low over the next few weeks, we expect the charter school to implement a hybrid elementary school with two days in school, all virtual on Wednesday and two days of virtual learning for the elementary students. Class sizes will be significantly smaller to maintain health and safety. McCurdy Charter School has already announced that middle and high school students will attend all virtual classes through the entire fall semester.

Creative ways to support McCurdy through the COVID-19 crisis

McCurdy Ministries Community Center touches the lives of 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!

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: <https://twitter.com/McCurdyMinistry>, Instagram at: <https://www.instagram.com/mccurdyministries/>



McCurdy founder Deaconess Mellie Perkins sitting at her desk.

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)