

The McCurdy Ministries Community Center Message

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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

Nov. 2020

By working virtually

Project Cariño strengthens families in hard times

Project Cariño director, Amanda Trujillo Gonzales has been working with a student, and her mom, for about a year now around the divorce of her parents. Amanda says, “The divorce became final last week and soon after, my client had a terrible nightmare that brought lingering feelings and fears to the surface. In the nightmare my client heard her parents whispering to each other about putting her up for adoption and they took her to a place where she was given away. These fears often manifest as children try to understand why parents’ feelings for each other can change, and the resulting fear that parents will also stop loving their children. As this child shared the details of the nightmare’s symbolism of abandonment, betrayal, loneliness, sadness and darkness, she shared that she was comforted by a picture that popped into the nightmare, of me, her Project Cariño therapist!”

The next day as my client, her mom and I worked therapeutically through the issues we were able to help her understand and accept that she is grieving the loss of the family with parents living together and normalized the resulting fear and anxiety she has felt. She was able to hear her mom’s reassurances that her dad and mom will never ever stop loving their child and helped her see that she is the single most important person in their lives! Mom helped her daughter to see all the ways she expresses her love for her that weren’t immediately obvious to my client, but now that those words were spoken they will never be forgotten! Our session ended with a conversation about a book called “*The Invisible String*,” which helped my client to

understand the depth of her mom and dad’s love for her, and even though they aren’t always physically together, their hearts are always and forever connected by that string that can’t be seen but can definitely be felt!

The takeaway for Project Cariño is about the impact we can make through a strong therapeutic alliance; it is the successful and collaborative creation of a trusting and safe relationship that becomes a source of emotional support and the catalyst for emotional healing! My client’s ability to draw comfort and support from a mental representation of this alliance, even at the subconscious level, is testament to Project Cariño’s efforts and abilities. This story shared by my client and her mom has come at an important time, during a pandemic with telehealth as our only source for connection, and it has served to strengthen Project Cariño therapists’ commitment to serve with a reminder that our work is important in helping children and families to establish a new path with genuine, loving support. **Amanda Trujillo Gonzales, Project Cariño director**



Project Cariño works confidentially with all clients. Occasionally a client agrees to share a story anonymously from therapy that demonstrates the difference this program makes.



McCurdy celebrates the Giving Tuesday Season with \$17,000 in matching funds!

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 \$17,000 of 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 expands 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 and our PreK services. 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 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.umcmmission.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 505-901-3082 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.



Patricia A. Alvarado,
executive director

Notes from the MMCC executive director

The time of Thanksgiving is upon us! The season seems to have come so quickly this year and yet with the year we have all experienced, it may be that giving thanks is the last thing on our minds! Each one of us has experienced this year in different ways; some more tragically than others. Mentally most of us go inward into our minds' conversations which can lead to negative and distressing self-dialogue which in turn impacts how we function in our personal and professional lives. We do so automatically, without much thought as to how we sound, first to ourselves in our own private thoughts nor how those private thoughts transcend into negative conversations with our families, friends, and colleagues.

If we focus on the hoops we have to jump through to get even a small portion of our "planned" day realized, we end up at night focusing on the "things" that did NOT get done, instead of focusing on the surprises or blessings that did make their way into our day. By focusing on the hardship we miss a child's smile, a child's gaze in awe of something new they have discovered, an elderly individual recounting a fond childhood memory with clarity and detail, a story of a good deed done and a kindness shared, a youth thinking out of the box to lead a venture to help out his community and people who have little reaching out to share what they can to help others!

Today, I reach out to all of you to pray that we all CHOOSE to focus on our blessings, even amid tragedy! That because of our human nature, we invite Our Father to surround us with His love and grace to help us to CHOOSE:

*Choose to be blessed. Choose to be grateful. Choose to be excited.
Choose to be thankful. Choose to be happy.*

PreK News*PreK News

Greetings to all, I hope this newsletter finds you all in good health.

Our preschool children are adjusting to their virtual learning setting and even though they have not physically met one another we are beginning to see signs of friendship among the children. They are starting to notice and become familiar with the other children in their class. If one of the students is not present or signed in, they will ask for that child, or say "Ms. Sandra, Is my friend in the waiting room and you have to let them in the class?" We have also witnessed a few families becoming more involved in the class, joining in music, movement, stories and in some activities. When we did a live demonstration on the parts of a pumpkin the families joined in. That week we sent home smaller pumpkins to all the preschoolers and their families so they had a pumpkin to use for the lesson.

The staff meets with the children daily for 45 min, then we meet with each child individually for 15 minutes throughout the remainder of the week. This allows us to connect with the child and their family in a more intimate setting aside from class time. It also allows us to address any questions or concerns they have and work with the child individually on areas where they may need extra support or challenges. Much additional time is spent by the PreK staff preparing take home packets with 10-12 activities for the students each week.

Sandra Trujillo, PreK director



Remember to give thanks...

Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices, Who wondrous things has done, in Whom this world rejoices; Who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

I would like to share this excerpt I came across that can remind us that Our Father CHOSE US and that in His strength, we can live the life He wills for us!



"God's Strength"

*The light in your heart is not weakness,
The kindness you give is for real.
The love that God gives, you can cherish.
It's all in the way we feel.*

*Spending our lives with His meaning,
Reaching for things with His grace.
Sharing our joys with each other
And keeping our hearts in one place.*

*The strength God gives is forever.
All weakness and doubt will be gone.
Our lives filled with His meaning,
Forever we will be strong.*

By Ron Baratonio

My prayer for us all is that every day we may choose to be in thanksgiving for our God who has chosen us and as we experience that gratitude my prayer is that we multiply our gratitude by sharing it with others! I want to express, on behalf of our Board of Directors and our staff, our gratitude for you and all that you do to support our vision and mission to impact the children, youth, and families of the Española Valley! God's blessings on you all!

Patricia A. Alvarado, executive director



Project Cariño staff receives thanks

Recently, the Project Cariño staff was invited to share information and exercises with the staff of McCurdy Charter School to help deal with the stress of living and educating in the midst of the pandemic. They walked away feeling validated and have ideas about how to keep their bodies and souls protected going forward. Their students will benefit from this parallel; hopefully Project Cariño has helped fill the emotional cups of MCS staff so they in turn can fill the many cups of their students and families! Amanda Trujillo-Gonzales, Project Cariño director.

Project Cariño Team, On behalf of the McCurdy Charter School staff, we would like to thank you for taking the time to talk to us about coping with these challenging times in education. It was much appreciated. You have a really amazing team. Hopefully, we can do this again after the holidays. We appreciate your service! Thank you! Bernadette French, MCS principal



Participants in the Oct. 18–23 McCurdy Virtual Mission as they gathered on Zoom.

McCurdy launches virtual missions

The week of October 18–23 McCurdy Ministries Community Center launched its first Virtual Mission program led by Linda Polson, McCurdy board member and experienced Volunteer in Mission Team leader. Virtual Missions were developed by Karen Distefano, South Central Jurisdiction United Methodist Volunteer in Mission and Disaster Response Director, to help churches and mission volunteers stay connected to the mission field during the pandemic.

Linda Polson, participated in the first Virtual Mission Karen led, and then adapted the program for McCurdy. There are three types of Virtual Mission. The first is an hour a day for six days, the second is an hour three times during a week and the last is a 60 to 90 minute one time session which can be designed especially for your church. On the [McCurdy website](#) you can

find a new Virtual Mission page at <https://mccurdy.org/virtual-mission/> with outlines for the three and six hour Virtual Missions, instructions on how to plan an event and resources to learn about McCurdy Ministries Community Center, Española and Northern New Mexico.

Rev. Diana Loomis, director of development/church relations says, “We are excited about Virtual Missions and are grateful to Karen Distefano and Linda Polson for organizing this approach to mission. During the pandemic we have sorely missed our volunteers and it has been exciting to reconnect with past volunteers and meet new volunteers who want to learn about the differences we make in the name of Jesus Christ in the Española Valley.”

To learn about the Virtual Mission possibilities for your church, mission group, or Sunday School email Diana at dloomis@mccurdy.org.



Since the start of the pandemic McCurdy has been sending out weekly devotionals with scriptures, photos, thoughts on living through the pandemic and McCurdy news. If you are not receiving these emails every Thursday and would like to please email your address to dloomis@mccurdy.org. The following is the All Saints Day devotional.

“See what love the Father has given us that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world

does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.” 1 John 3:1–3 NRSV

I love All Saints Day. I love remembering those who lived out the faith, who changed our country for the good, who changed my life. To me there is nothing more stirring than hearing a beautiful pipe organ and a congregation singing, *“For all the saints who from their labors rest, who thee by faith before the world confessed, thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest. Alleluia! Alleluia!”* as they join together in worship to remember the saints of the faith and the saints of our hearts.

Nov. 1, All Saints Sunday, is a day when we are called to remember the cloud of witnesses who surround us, who led the way with faith and as a result molded history and molded our lives. They may have lived a thousand years ago like St. Francis of Assisi who prayed, *“Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace.”* or during the last century like Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who said, *“I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.”*

All Saints Day devotional

They may have stood at the foot of the cross like Mary or stood beside your bed comforting you as only a mother can.

This year we have lost so many saints and so many of them died alone. It is heart breaking to think of the loss we have experienced and the loss that is to come before COVID19 is contained. All our loss is exacerbated by social distancing, economic troubles and political strife but I take comfort in the cloud of witnesses that surround me and support me through life whether it is John Wesley or my Grandmother Goldie. I hear their thoughts, remember their actions and know I am not alone. I am surrounded by their wisdom and their memories.

As I learned to deal with grief over the years of my life and my ministry, God gave me a simple gift. I came to know in the very depth of my soul that our loved ones may die, but the love they hold for me and I hold for them will never die. Love never dies! You may not be able to worship in person due to increasing cases of COVID19, but I know this, whether you are alone or in community you can still remember and celebrate the saints of your heart.

By lighting a candle for your loved one while remembering why you loved them and what they taught you.

By calling someone to reminisce about your loved one.

By reaching out to someone alone and telling them they are loved.

By sharing a prayer of thanksgiving with God for the difference your loved one made in your life.

By doing something special for someone else to honor the memory of your loved one.

Last March one of my friends shared this version of “Memories Bring Back You” by the One Voice Children’s Choir on Facebook and I fell in love with this song of joy and love and memories. These children will brighten your day if you listen by going to

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XB6yjGVuzVo>

I hope remembering the saints and enjoying the memories of their love for you will comfort you today. *With hope, Rev. Diana Loomis, director of development/church relations.*

with God

McCurdy Ministries Community Center

“But Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but for God all things are possible.” Matt. 19:26 (NRSV)

ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE. . . MATTHEW 19:26

Working on the possibilities even in a pandemic

McCurdy 2019–20 Annual Report

One of the foundations of the Christian faith is the belief that God is always working on behalf of love, that God is present in the good and bad times and God is always working on the possibilities in life. Since the pandemic began eight months ago all of us have been walking on shifting sand. We have made plan after plan after plan and continually had to adjust or abandon those plans for safety reasons. In this annual report we could focus on the ministries we have not been able to do OR we can focus on the ways God is acting in our midst. For 108 years McCurdy Ministries Community Center has chosen to believe in God’s possibilities and we aren’t stopping now!

Once school went virtual our Project Cariño staff and interns immediately shifted to providing virtual and phone play, talk and family therapy. They learned how to use Zoom and began student support groups using this technology. They created video and print resources to help families cope with the pandemic and provided educational programs as well as emotional support for teachers and staff.

Our McCurdy Schools of Northern New Mexico PreK staff immediately began providing resources to the preschool families so their education could continue at home. They were in constant contact with these families by phone and then with the new school year began Zoom sessions with the preschoolers, while keeping in touch with families by phone and providing weekly activity packets for each preschooler. They even held a virtual preschool graduation.

While we couldn’t host volunteers on campus for safety reasons our staff began sending our weekly devotional updates on our ministries by blast email.

We continued sending out our Volunteer Newsletter and have now developed Virtual Mission experiences so our donors, supporters and volunteers can learn about the important ministry we are doing in these hard times.

The McCurdy Board re-evaluated and approved an update on our Long Range Strategic Plan and the Master Plan for our campus and began looking at creative new ways our 29 acre campus can be used for the good of God’s ministries and the welfare of our community.

Our Administrative staff has used Zoom meetings to develop a Public/Private Partnership to explore creative uses of our campus which includes elected officials and staff from the City of Espanola, Santa Fe and Rio Arriba Counties, the North Central New Mexico Economic Development agency and the Los Alamos National Laboratories. They also applied for federal Payroll Protection Funds to help ease the financial impact of the pandemic.

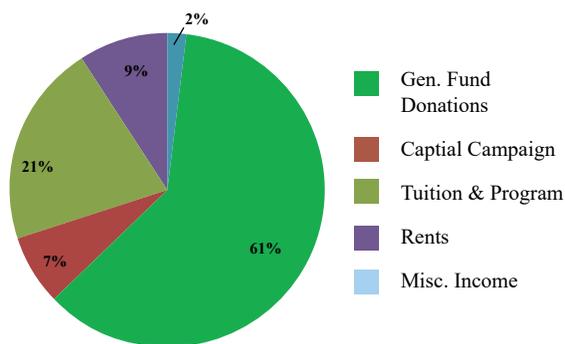
In preparation for the 2019–20 fiscal year our administrative staff worked hard to cut expenses without cutting ministry. In addition, our development staff increased our grant writing and grant awards went from \$101,333 in 2018–19 to \$152,039 in 2019–21 which is a 50% increase. In addition, our General Fund income increased 16% in the 2019–20 fiscal year over the 2018–19 fiscal year.

While the hard times we are going through are frightening we are experiencing wonderful support from our donors. We thank you for your belief in our ministries and the way we are making God’s difference in the Española Valley! Your support reminds us every day “with God all things are possible” even in the midst of a pandemic!

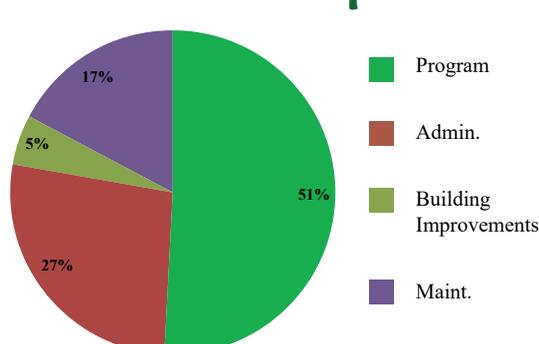
McCurdy Ministries Community Center finances

For McCurdy’s 2019–20 fiscal year which ran from August 1 to July 31, we had 841 active donors. We received donations from individuals, churches, UMW units, annual conferences and foundations from across the country with the majority of donations coming from New Mexico, Ohio, Texas, Kansas, Indiana, Colorado, New York, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, Illinois and Iowa. Please note McCurdy Ministries Community Center has been given clean audits for our 2015–16, 2016–17, 2017–18 and 2019–20 fiscal years and has a gold transparency rating with [Guidestar.org](https://www.guidestar.org).

2019–20 Income



2019–20 Expenses



2020 Mellie Perkins Society

During our 2018-19 fiscal year we were blessed by estate gifts, individual donations, grants, church and church organization donations. Our greatest need is support for the General Fund which is the lifeblood for our ministries. The majority of our staff salaries, utilities, maintenance, insurance and program expenses are paid by our General Fund.

Increased estate gifts inspired the MMCC Board to start the Mellie Perkins Society to recognize our donors who make McCurdy a part of their estate plans. If you remembered McCurdy in your estate plans we invite you to be a member of the Mellie Perkins Society. Please contact Rev. Diana Loomis, director of development/church relations, at 505-753-7221, ext. 352, or email her at dloomis@mccurdy.org to let her know your intention.

Our gratitude to those who remembered McCurdy during the 2019–20 fiscal year

Mary Moon Estate, Fern Heim Trust, Julia Moya Gallegos Estate, Ruth Stambach Estate and the Mary Lou Warner Estate

Our gratitude to these persons who have remembered McCurdy in their estate plans:

Pat Alexander, Marijean Backman Ambrose, Rev. Chuck Chipman, Rev. Sanford and Mrs. Mary Ellen Coon, Tom and Sandy Hofmann, Betty Letzig, Rev. Diana Loomis, Holly Ludlam, Virginia McQuiston, William and Carol Mead, Ronal & Marvalene Ricard, Virgil Jean Sancken, Robert

When making a charitable gift remember

If you itemize...

- Charitable gifts must be completed by Dec. 31, 2020, to be deducted on 2020 tax returns.
- Gifts of cash are deductible up to 60% of your adjusted gross income.
- A gift of appreciated stock can offer greater tax savings than cash.
- Consider pre-paying your 2021 charitable gifts if that will boost your deductions over the standard level. Then itemize every other year.

If you do not itemize...

- If you are over 70½ consider an IRA Rollover Gift. You can authorize your IRA to pay any amount up to \$100,000 directly to McCurdy. You avoid the income and the gift counts toward your required minimum distribution.

Why give stock?

- Gifts of stocks, bonds and mutual fund shares that have increased in value may provide a bigger gift and a bigger deduction for you. If you have owned these assets for more than one year, you avoid paying capital gains tax on the appreciation and may deduct the entire fair market value for tax purposes.

Planning to give a future gift?

- Remember McCurdy in a will, living trust or other estate plan.
- Consider establishing a Charitable Gift Annuity which is a current gift for tax purposes that provides annual fixed payments for life and at your passing McCurdy receives the remainder.
- Name McCurdy as the beneficiary of your IRA, insurance policy or other asset.