

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

June 2021

Over the Summer

McCurdy campus and programs are reopening

The McCurdy Ministries Community Center (MMCC) board and staff are excited to announce that the McCurdy campus will fully reopen to programming and volunteers on Aug. 1, 2021 after being closed since mid-March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. During the shutdown MMCC provided a variety of programs including virtual therapy, educational programs, crisis intervention services and family support through Project Cariño, virtual preschool, family support and learning packets through our McCurdy Schools of Northern NM Pre-K sponsored by the NM State Early Childhood and Care Department, Virtual Mission experiences for mission teams and committees, Sunday School classes, UMW units and circles and weekly devotionals for our supporters to help cope with the stresses of the pandemic. Our staff is excited to be planning expanded After School Care, Project Cariño and Pre-K programs starting in August and September, a renewed Camp Stars program the summer of 2022 and the return of our individual and Volunteer in Mission Teams to campus starting Aug. 1.

To safely prepare for the campus reopening a board/staff taskforce has developed COVID-19 Safety Protocols for our students, families, staff, volunteers, visitors and contractors. The protocols for local, individual and volunteer teams can be found on the McCurdy website at

<https://mccurdy.org/volunteer-programs/>

All necessary cleaning and safety protocols recommended by the CDC and the NM Department of Health including air filters, cleaning protocols and

personal safety requirements are being implemented to keep our students, volunteers, visitors and staff safe while on our campus.

For information on what these protocols mean for our local volunteers, individual volunteers and Volunteer in Mission Teams please email Eufemia Romero at eromero@mccurdy.org or call her at 505-732-7221, ext. 210. We are excited that we have over 130 volunteers scheduled to come to McCurdy between Aug. 1 and Oct. 31 and there is room for more volunteer reservations so don't hesitate to explore coming to McCurdy to volunteer this fall or next spring.



McCracken Gym is ready for the sound of excited students.

Over the last 16 months our staff and the whole community has missed the excitement, support, hard work and faith our volunteers bring to the Española Valley! We look forward to seeing you and making a difference with you over the next year.

McCurdy launches summer opportunities for our students



Jumpstart students say the Pledge of Allegiance.

Kindergarten Jumpstart
McCurdy Schools of Northern NM Pre-K received a grant for the Summer Jumpstart Program from the Early Childhood Education and Care Department to offer ten children who will be attending kindergarten in the fall on-site learning this summer to better prepare the students for kindergarten, considering the kind of year they experienced due to COVID-19 pandemic.

As of mid-June one opening remained in the program. To inquire about the opening please contact Eufemia Romero at eromero@mccurdy.org or call 505-753-7221.

Counseling services made available

In addition, the McCurdy Schools of Northern NM Pre-K program was awarded a grant that extended Project Cariño counseling services to families that have questions about their child's transition to kindergarten or any situations that may have arisen during the last year while dealing with the

COVID-19 pandemic. This service is always available to our Pre-K families during the regular school year. Parents were encouraged to reach out to Amanda Gonzales-Trujillo, Project Cariño Director, to learn how our counselors can help prepare parents and child to speak with their kindergarten teacher about concerns they have as they transition to a new school environment. These services were FREE to families.

Waterford Upstart program

Waterford.org is working in close partnership with the Early Childhood Education and Care Department to bring the Waterford Upstart program to preschool children in New Mexico from June 2021 through May 2022 at no cost to families. Students who participate in the Waterford Upstart Kindergarten readiness program will receive:

- Dell laptop computer (which the family will be able to keep upon program completion) as well as Internet service during their participation for households that need it;
- personal coach to support the family throughout the program to ensure strong parental engagement; and
- [Waterford.org](https://www.waterford.org)'s personalized curriculum in reading, math, and science that is standards-aligned, developmentally appropriate, and endorsed for special education.

The program is meant to be used at home for 15 minutes a day, five days a week. Children who will be entering kindergarten for the 2021–2022 school year and participated in a NM Pre-K program are eligible for the program.



Patricia A. Alvarado

Notes from the MMCC executive director

We have all heard the statement, “The COVID-19 pandemic has negatively impacted so many that the results will take years to overcome.” The challenges facing people in all walks of life have not gone away. The systems to combat the virus and the impact on our lives are as varied as the experiences families, communities, businesses, and governments have faced.

We can all share our stories of experiencing the fear of uncertainty, the inconvenience of changes in our routines, the heartbreak of loss, and it never ends. During this challenging time, we have been bombarded with all the

things that are wrong and the resulting anxiety and division in our country.

We have also seen the strength and dedication, the compassion and mercy, the determination and commitment, the love and the caring that has arisen in response to these challenging times. Daily we hear of the sacrifices our medical personnel and first responders make; the dedication of our

teachers as they overcome difficulties so they can nurture their students; the commitment parents have shown as they balance parenting roles, employee roles, and being a teacher to their children; and strangers reaching out, neighbors helping, and family members going above and beyond to make a difference. What a true testament to, “*Greater love hath no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friends.*” John 15:13. What a true testament to the commandment, “*Love one another; as I have loved you.*” John 15:12. What a true testament to Jesus saying, “*Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on.*” Mark 41–44

I take this time to **THANK EACH AND EVERYONE OF YOU** for the ways you have lived out the commandment of love, the choices you have made to give of yourselves and your resources, and the nurturing you have given God’s children young or old, neighbor or stranger. I pray for Our Father’s continued blessings on you and your family and for your continued faith and hope in a Father that is merciful, nurturing, and loving! I pray for your physical, emotional, and spiritual health in all that you face daily and into the future. *Patricia A. Alvarado, MMCC Executive Director*

Public/Private Partnership continues to make a difference for McCurdy

Perhaps for the first time in McCurdy’s 109 year history the City of Española, Santa Fe County, several state agencies, legislators including Rep. Susan Herrera, Rep. Roger Montoya and County Commissioner Henry Roybal, Los Alamos National Laboratories, the Federal Environmental Protection Agency, several area nonprofits and McCurdy Ministries Community Center board and staff are working together to help implement an updated MMCC Master Plan for our campus.

With the help of Rep. Herrera and Commissioner Roybal, MMCC leadership held the first meeting of the group in November of 2019. While the COVID-19 pandemic slowed down some aspects of our ministries, the work of the Public/Private Partnership has been gaining momentum. The group has met by ZOOM monthly throughout the pandemic and is encouraging communication, cooperation and creative thinking as MMCC revamps our Master Plan for our campus.

Public/Private Partnership members with expertise in Federal grants, requested a cost estimate of the redevelopment of campus so the MMCC board hired Sanjay Engineer, vice president of FBT Architects to create building plans. FBT designed the new McCurdy Charter School building and has been working on the Master Plan for the MMCC campus pro bono for five years. MMCC established a Building Taskforce of volunteers, alumni, board and staff to work with FBT on the design. The Building Taskforce has completed their work with FBT and the MMCC Board will review the resulting recommendations this summer. It is expected the plans will be highlighted in the September 2021 *McCurdy Message*.

The Public/Private Partnership will assist MMCC in securing funding to make the redevelopment of our campus a reality. When talking about McCurdy’s ministry plans, Patricia Alvarado, executive director, frequently says, “All in God’s time!” With the passing of the American Recovery Act and the possibility of Federal infrastructure legislation passing, Public/Private Partnership members anticipate there will be much more federal funding available for the campus redevelopment.



Rev. Loomis to retire Dec. 31, 2021

Rev. Diana Loomis, director of development/church relations, has announced that she will be retiring from full time ministry at McCurdy Ministries Community Center as of Dec. 31, 2021. Originally she had intended to retire on Dec. 31, 2020, but she delayed her retirement because of her commitment to McCurdy and her concern about the effect the COVID-19 pandemic would have on the difference McCurdy makes in the Española Valley.

Rev. Loomis started at McCurdy on July 1, 2011, when she moved back home to New Mexico after serving 32 years as a pastor in the Missouri Conference of the United Methodist Church. She says, “Spending the last ten years of my ministry working at McCurdy has been an incredible blessing. The people of the Española Valley are welcoming, warm and caring. Sharing stories about the life saving differences we make for our students, their families and the community, and raising funds to support our ministries has been the privilege of a lifetime!” She has travelled across the United States sharing the McCurdy Ministries Community Center story at individual donor meetings, worship services, informational meetings, retreats and UMW events and says, “Getting to know our donors and their passion for the difference we make has been amazing. I am a better person because of the experiences I have had and the friendships I have made with our donors especially the United Methodist Women!”

Patricia Alvarado, executive director, has announced that Loomis will continue in a part time position with McCurdy as the Director of the Public/Private Partnership. She will continue her work on the redevelopment of our campus, facilities and ministries in partnership with the key leaders in our community. For an update on the McCurdy’s Public/Private Partnership see the article on this page.

Development Director search announced

The McCurdy Ministries Community Center Board has announced the search for a new Director of Development/Church Relations will launch on Sept. 1, 2021. The position will be full time with benefits. Skills required are a deep faith, working knowledge of the United Methodist Church, fundraising, grant writing, public speaking, communication and social media skills. The most important skill is a passion for God’s mission and the difference McCurdy makes. On Sept. 1, the job will be posted on the McCurdy [website](#). Applications will not be accepted before Sept. 1. McCurdy supporters are encouraged to inform persons they think would be excellent applicants about this job opportunity.



After School Care students get homework help, enjoy crafts and hamming it up with the photographer.

Photo by Rich Saxon.

After School Care and Project Cariño being expanded for the 2021–22 school year

Early in the COVID-19 pandemic McCurdy staff began talking and planning changes to our programs that will be beneficial to our students and their families when we return to in-person programming. There were two programming priorities identified that would require extra funding to accomplish. The first was to expand the After School Care program to 45 students and provide teachers and tutors to help students recover from any educational losses caused by virtual learning. Educational experts from around the country are expecting students to struggle to recover from the last 15 months especially those who live in rural poverty areas with poor connectivity like the Española Valley. We received grants from the Texas Methodist Foundation and the Montei Foundation to cover the cost of extra staffing for After School Care and to make the program free to students who qualify for free or reduced lunch for the entire 2021–22 school year. We are grateful to these foundations for their support!

In addition, as the year progressed it became clear to our Project Cariño counselors that students returning to in-person schooling were expressing anxiety, grief

and depression that was effecting their schooling. Amanda Trujillo Gonzales, Project Cariño director says, “Anxiety disorders have been exacerbated through the pandemic, as we deal with a life-threatening virus. All people, especially children, draw comfort and security from our ability to predict events in our lives. The pandemic has had us worrying about whether we would be able to attend in person school. We wondered if we were exposed by someone who was asymptomatic or if our parents who had to continue working in person would die.” It became clear that for the 2021–22 school year an additional halftime counselor was needed to provide support groups for students to help deal with these stresses. Recently, an educational enrichment grant was submitted to LANL Foundation to help fund an additional counselor for two years. In addition, we are grateful to the UMW National Office, United Way, LANL Foundation, Montei Foundation, the NM Annual Conference Pippin and Thaxton grants, Community Health Funder Alliance, Con Alma Foundation and N3B who all provided grants to support the very important work Project Cariño does year in and year out.

PreK News*PreK News

After Spring break, we had the privilege of having the kids on-site, one at a time. They were so excited to be my “Guest Host” for the morning and help me lead the class. After class was over, each individual student and our staff enjoyed a mid-morning snack and then continued with end-of-year assessments. It was helpful to have them on campus for the assessments. We were very pleased with the gains that the children made, considering the challenging year. The children all enjoyed their time in the classroom, and either did not want to leave or wanted to come back again. One of the mothers who is a photographer, volunteered to photograph each child in cap and gown as their school picture.

Our final Parent Teacher Conferences

were held on May 7, with 100% attendance. Parents were all very pleased and thankful for our efforts and success of the school year. Our closing ceremony took place on Friday, May 14, via ZOOM. The children all had speaking and singing parts. We prepared end-of-year graduation bags for each child along with a preschool moving up diploma.

Seeing what the children have learned from the beginning of the year until now has been amazing. Their growth even in a virtual learning environment was very validating. When they came into the classroom last month, we were so impressed to see all the children learned during the year.

Sandra Trujillo, Pre-K director

We miss our volunteers and look forward to seeing you on campus!

The McCurdy campus without our Volunteers in Mission, Individual Volunteers and Local Volunteers has not been the same! With the reopening of our campus we look forward to welcoming our volunteers who have been fully vaccinated back to join our staff in making God’s difference on our campus. For more information on how to volunteer go to

<https://mccurdy.org/volunteer-programs/>

on the McCurdy website or call Eufemia Romero at 505-753-7221 or email her at eromero@mccurdy.org.

Virtual Mission program

If you are not yet ready to travel to McCurdy please explore our Virtual Mission program on our website at

<https://mccurdy.org/virtual-missions/>

Our staff can create a one, three or six hour virtual experience to help update your VIM Team, Mission Committee, Sunday School Class, UMW Unit or Circle, youth group, or men’s group on all that is happening at McCurdy Ministries Community Center. We have been pleased to have groups from Pennsylvania to Texas to California to participate in this program.

To keep up with our volunteer program subscribe to our Volunteer Newsletter

On the 15th of every month we send out a Volunteer Newsletter edited by VIM Team Leader and Board Member Linda Polson. The newsletter is full of helpful hints for team leaders, updates on McCurdy and even traditional Northern New Mexico recipes. To subscribe to the newsletter send your email to dloomis@mccurdy.org.

We need help to reopen our retreat center

With the reopening of our campus to volunteers on Aug. 1, 2021, we have to ensure the safety of our guests which includes personal protective equipment, handwashing stations, temperature checks and air filters in every room of the dorm. The cost of the air filters is \$130 and replacement filters are \$50. We need 45 filters for the dorm which is a cost of over \$2,500. If you are willing to make a donation to this expense please send a check marked “Dorm Air Filters” to McCurdy Ministries Community Center, 362 A S. McCurdy Road, Española, NM 87532.

God, grant me the Serenity to accept the things I cannot change. The courage to change the things I can, and the Wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time, enjoying one moment at a time, accepting hardship as the pathway to peace. Taking, as He did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it. Trusting that He will make all things right if I surrender to His will. That I may be reasonably happy in this life, and supremely happy with Him forever in the next. Amen.

By Reinhold Neibuhr





Sandra Trujillo, preschool director, in conversation with a preschooler. Photo by Rich Saxon.

The Body of Christ in ACTION!

For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness. Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Romans 12:4–15 NRSV

The executive director of the food bank that does an amazing job of feeding hungry people all over Northern New Mexico is a friend. Recently, she came to my house for brunch and conversation for the first time since the start of the pandemic. I was amazed to hear all the food bank staff did to help feed people in need who couldn't work and were locked down because of the pandemic. I am incredibly grateful for the work the food bank staff does day in and day out.

Then yesterday I came across this video and song which honors the staff, volunteers, and donors of Feeding San Diego, a food bank in California which you can view at:

<https://www.facebook.com/OneVoiceChildrensChoir/videos/236956514527720>

This song reminded me how important the varied gifts in the body of Christ are. Today's scripture describes the different gifts needed among the community of faith to make God's difference, to be the body of Christ, and HAVE WE NEEDED EACH OTHER THE LAST 15 MONTHS! Reading this scripture and viewing the video multiple times also reminded me of the importance of saying thank you to those who have served sacrificially to help us through this time. So I reached out and thanked my friend for making God's difference during these hard times.

Right now there is much giddiness about reopening our society to normal life which is good. Seeing my friend, listening to this song, and talking to our Project Cariño director about a grant this week have reminded me that working sacrificially for the good of others is important work that is difficult and draining. Most folks who are willing to be the hands of Christ to help heal a hurting world do so because they love God and want to make a difference. They don't do the work because they want to be honored, thanked, or recognized. Part of being the body of Christ is knowing when to thank someone who doesn't expect it and to lighten the load for someone who has been carrying it too long.

So here is my challenge to you: think of someone in your life who has gone above and beyond to make God's difference during the pandemic. Maybe the person who made a difference for you is a medical professional, a teacher, a grocery store worker, a pastor, a friend, a paramedic, a police officer, your spouse, your child, or simply a really good listener. This week take the time to write them a note and tell them why you are thankful for them and then do something tangible for them that lightens their load. In the doing, you will be acting as the hands of Christ to heal a hurting world! With hope! Rev. Diana Loomis, director of development/church relations

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic Diana Loomis has been sending our weekly devotions to McCurdy supporters. If you are not receiving the devotionals and would like to receive them please email her at dloomis@mccurdy.org.

During the COVID-19 pandemic McCurdy has been blessed by. . .

- Our staff who have met every adversity and constant change to do highly effective ministry with our children, youth and their families. Overnight our staff moved from in-person programs to virtual programs to continue our ministries with our students. They have been the hands of Christ in our community!
- Our donors who have steadfastly and sacrificially continued to support our ministries. Your support has meant we have not laid off staff as many nonprofits have. Your support has meant that our experienced staff is ready to reopen our campus and expand our ministries to meet our student needs. The 2021–22 school year will be critical in helping our students overcome emotional, educational and spiritual concerns caused by the pandemic.
- Our MMCC board who have sacrificially given their financial support, their prayers and a tremendous number of volunteer hours to keep McCurdy strong during the pandemic.
- Our McCurdy Foundation members who have supported our ministries in extraordinary ways in these exceptional times.
- Our staff who have applied for and received over \$160,000 in grants during the 2021–21 fiscal year. We have applied for more grants than ever before and have received 100% of the grants awarded so far. We have applied for another \$100,000 of grants which will help us strengthen our ministries in the 2021–22 school year.
- Our administrative team who applied for two Federal Payroll Protection Program loans totaling \$318,714. The first loan of \$170,357 has been forgiven! When the Federal Government releases the application our Administrative staff will apply for forgiveness for the \$148,357 loan.
- Our board and staff who have worked together to find creative ways to reach our supporters including our Volunteer Newsletter, our weekly devotionals and our Virtual Mission program which has meant we can share McCurdy updates with our supporters over ZOOM.

Ministry at McCurdy is alive but we are facing a critical time

The McCurdy Ministries Community Center fiscal year runs from August 1 to July 31 every year. Currently, we are in danger of ending the 2020–21 fiscal year in a deficit which means spending critical reserves to balance the budget. We are asking our supporters to prayerfully consider making an undesignated gift, using the envelope provided in this newsletter, to the MMCC General Fund before July 15, to help us avoid deficit spending and support us as we creatively expand our preschool, after school and mental health counseling ministries this fall. It may feel like the pandemic is over, but we are only beginning to see and combat the effects the pandemic has had on our students' educational, emotional and relational well-being.

We are grateful for your prayers, your volunteer hours and your financial support as we recover from the pandemic!

For more information on how to support McCurdy Ministries Community Center contact Rev. Diana Loomis, director of development/church relations at dloomis@mccurdy.org or call her at 505-901-3082.