

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. 10, #2

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. 2021

Project Cariño staff shows flexibility and creativity

Project Cariño continues to provide play, talk and family therapy, support groups, crisis intervention services and educational programs whether they are working in-person or virtually. Recently, McCurdy Charter School's shifted back to virtual learning because of an increase in COVID-19 cases among students and staff (see the article on this page). In turn, the Project Cariño staff shifted back into virtual services. Unfortunately, this meant a decision to cancel the Big Buddy/Little Buddy program for the 2021–22 school year.

Over Project Cariño's 35 year history the program has been blessed with former McCurdy students choosing to intern with our program. When the decision was made to cancel the Big Buddy/Little Buddy program for safety, Samantha Vigil, current intern as well as former McCurdy Charter School student and Project Cariño participant, immediately thought back to her school days and creatively suggested she help organize Peer Conflict Mediator training for middle and high school students instead. Her idea was enthusiastically endorsed by Project Cariño Director, Amanda Trujillo Gonzales, and the two are working to develop a different service-learning program which will be to introduce and maintain a peer mediator program, with restorative justice theology. Project Cariño will mentor secondary-level students to support their peers toward more insightful and kind interactions. We hope to roll the program out at the end of November/early December with recruitment and training and provide the peer conflict mediation program throughout the spring semester.

Project Cariño continues to provide much-needed services to our students and their families during this high-stress time. In response to student stress, our counselors are developing support groups for students on how to cope with anxiety and for students who have

experienced a death in their immediate family. All while following safety protocols required by the McCurdy Ministries Community Center board. Your prayers for our clients and staff are very much appreciated as we continue to adjust our work plans and provide critical services to our students and their families in these trying times.

Amanda Trujillo Gonzales, Project Cariño director

COVID-19 affects educational plans

The 2021–22 school year started with high hopes that with meticulous planning and prevention protocols in place at McCurdy Charter School (MCS) and at McCurdy Ministries Community Center (MMCC) all services would remain in-person for the school year. Both institutions followed mask policies and COVID-19 disinfecting policies to protect our youngest students who could not yet be vaccinated. In addition, Rio Arriba County has a 84% full vaccination rate and Santa Fe County has a 82.5% full vaccination rate among those 18 and over. Unfortunately, starting in October several cases occurred at MCS which multiplied, causing the need for a return to virtual services. The hope is that in-person services will return in mid-November. In addition, the Rio Arriba Health Council is working with MCS and the Espanola school district to do school based vaccination campaigns for five to eleven year olds since FDA approval has been granted for the Pfizer vaccine.

The switch to virtual learning has meant several changes for MMCC. Project Cariño and Pre-K switched to virtual learning and After School Care was paused for a couple of weeks until the possibility of spreading COVID diminished.

The MMCC staff and board requests your prayers for the safety and health of our students and their families as well as the safety of the MCS and MMCC staffs.



The 2021 McCurdy Giving Tuesday Season runs Nov. 1 to 30

For the ninth year, McCurdy Ministries Community Center (MMCC) will celebrate a **Giving Tuesday Season** starting on Nov. 1 and ending on Nov. 30. Several of our faithful donors have already stepped up to provide over \$30,000 of match so far 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, McCurdy Schools of Northern New Mexico Pre-K and After School Care. MMCC has instituted mask wearing, filtration and protective policies to keep our students safe. We are also continuing our virtual mission experience for Sunday School classes, UMW units, VIM Teams, youth groups and supporters who want to learn more about McCurdy and the difference we make from home.

McCurdy has celebrated Giving Tuesday since 2013. Three 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 COVID-19 Giving Tuesday Season in May 2020 and our November 2020 Giving Tuesday Season 261 donors gave \$89,456 which helped keep McCurdy and our ministries strong during a very difficult year!** Rev. Diana Loomis, director of development says, "We have been so blessed



by the prayers and support given by our faithful donors during a time that has been very difficult for us all. We are excited that our preschool, After School Care and Project Cariño programs are back on campus and look forward to the return of Camps Stars and our Volunteer programs in the new year."

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, the capital campaign or the McCurdy Foundation. To receive the match please give in these ways:

1. Mail a gift to MMCC postmarked between Nov. 1 and 30, 2021. The check MUST be marked **Giving Tuesday** to count toward the match.
2. From Nov. 1 through Nov. 30, 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 Nov. 30, 2021**, you can 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 505-753-7221, ext. 352, or email her at dloomis@mccurdy.org if you want to make a matching donation or have any questions about McCurdy's **2021 Giving Tuesday**.



Patricia A. Alvarado,
MMCC executive director

Notes from the MMCC executive director

As we prepare for Thanksgiving; I want to share with you, a Thanksgiving Prayer, that shares our gratitude to our Father and invite you to join us in saying this prayer during November in preparation for the Advent season and his greatest gift of all...our Savior Jesus Christ. Therefore, we lift the following in thanksgiving:

- That McCurdy Schools of Northern NM has been in existence since October 1912.
- That for over a century thousands have served faithfully to set the foundation and continue caring for children, youth, and families in the Española Valley.
- That while we were a K-12 school, many students were touched and ministered by the example of their teachers, staff, volunteers from the local area as well as volunteers from across the country, and by the many supporters from across the country who gave of their resources to support the educational, spiritual, emotional, and behavioral health needs of the families and children in this area.
- That this example of serving others has fostered a resiliency and pay-it-forward attitude in generations of those who serve and those who are served, living out Christ's command: "Love one another as I have loved you!"
- That throughout our history, despite funding challenges, our Lord has provided what we have needed because of the generosity of his faithful children!
- That as we changed from being a K-12 school setting, we were able to support the creation of McCurdy Charter School (MCS), with rental space, and free use of other areas of campus for their programming.
- That as MCS pursued a new school campus on our western boundary, McCurdy Schools of Northern NM (now using the tradename McCurdy Ministries Community Center) funded the planning and architectural design of the new MCS school complex, gifted to MCS the Memorial Gym, Pringle Cafeteria

buildings, the property upon which the MCS School complex was built and still provide FREE Behavioral Health counseling and parking for their events, and use of ball fields for their spring sports.

- That as MMCC began planning an update to our campus we committed to continuing services such as free NM Pre-K for four-year-olds, After School Care, Camp Stars (summer camp which combines the best of STEM education and VBS), and Project Cariño behavioral health counseling.
- That MMCC is planning to expand our services to include child care, expanded Pre-K, family counseling services, support for grandparents raising grandchildren, adult education, financial counseling, and economic development.
- That we are blessed to be a part of a Public/Private Partnership that includes faith-based organizations, private foundations, city, state, and federal agencies... all working together to support children, youth, and families in the Española area as well as northern Santa Fe County and Rio Arriba County!
- That our Board of Trustees, as volunteers themselves, continue to give of their time and talents to serve.
- That our staff, working through everyday challenges and crises, still do so with the focus that caring for the children, youth, and families of the Española Valley is our calling and not just a job.

Therefore, we thank you Father for all these blessings and confess that it is only through your grace and mercy that we continue to envision a better tomorrow for so many that are hurting and need healing. We thank you that you provide for us a servant heart and an agape love for each other. We confess that we are all your children, and commit to "Love one another as you have loved us!"

May God's blessings sustain you and your loved ones! May you have a Thanksgiving season filled with joy, an Advent season filled with beauty and blessings, a Christmas season filled with the peace that the Baby Jesus provides, and a New Year filled with the guidance and gifts from the Holy Spirit to strengthen our resolve to honor and glorify God! *Patricia A. Alvarado, executive director*

PreK News*PreK News

As we settle into the autumn season, we find our 20 preschoolers (12 boys and eight girls) making new friends, settling into their new routine, and adjusting to having more structure in their day. The children have all made progress in recognizing their names and being more social with one another. They are also learning to be more aware of others and their feelings. We have several children who are demonstrating little acts of kindness by helping one another do classroom jobs or helping a friend clean up. We hope to continue to build on these positive behaviors as our year progresses.

The children have just wrapped up the "My Family, My Community" theme. The preschoolers explored relationships, family roles and community roles. Their learning activities included:

- Listening and connecting to families, neighbors, and communities stories.
- Telling simple personal stories.
- Dramatizing family and community relationships and roles.
- Describing animals and their offspring.

We also performed our required fire drills for September and October. The children did very well. We are now collecting documentation for student portfolios for our first Parent/Teacher conferences to be held on Nov. 12, 2021. I have offered accommodations to have the conferences via zoom or in-person for families. *Sandra Trujillo, Pre-K director*



Left: Preschool students enjoy story time with Sandra Trujillo. Above: Preschool students being creative using Play dough. Note the masking and social distancing used by the Pre-K program to keep our youngest students safe.

After School Care news



ASC students enjoy lion's manes.

Afterschool Care (ASC) has 39 students including 17 boys and 22 girls. Thanks to the generosity of the Montei Foundation, the Texas Methodist Foundation, and a NM Conference Thaxton grant ASC is free for all McCurdy Charter School students and is aimed at helping students recover from educational losses that occurred during the pandemic. The staff assists students with homework and parents with any concerns about their child.

ASC has safety rules in place to keep our students, parents, and staff safe from COVID 19. Unfortunately, a COVID-19 outbreak occurred

forcing the return to virtual learning and a pause in services for ASC for two weeks.

The students in Afterschool Care are learning about Daniel and the Lion's Den. Often our students run to greet their parents and share the stories with their families which always warms the Afterschool Care staff's hearts!

After hearing the stories of Daniel and the lion's den, one student asked, "Why didn't the lions eat Daniel?" The other children explained to her that God saved him from the lions because he was a good person. Sophia then said, "Do I have an angel looking over me at night when I sleep?" "Yes, you do!" replied the teachers and all the children. You all have a special angel looking over you, so keep being strong and kind to others like Daniel." *Angela Ortiz, after school care coordinator*

Calling all McCurdy students and graduates, current and former staff, volunteers, supporters and residents of the Española Valley to save the date and join us in 2022 to celebrate McCurdy's

110th anniversary

Friday, Oct. 21, and Saturday, Oct. 22, 2022.

On Oct. 21, 1912, Mellie Perkins, a United Brethren deaconess and McCurdy founder, and Susanita Martinez, a teacher, started the only school in the Española Valley just a week after arriving in New Mexico.

McCurdy Ministries Community Center carries on their tradition of service to our Valley.

Friday there will be a dinner and gathering for students, graduates, current and former staff, volunteers, supporters and the community.

Saturday morning we will hold a

McCurdy Fiesta

including a Marcha, concert, health screening, games, giveaways and ending with a free lunch and fellowship for the whole community.

McCurdy vision and campus master plan improved

“Then the Lord answered me and said: Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so that a runner may read it. For there is still a vision for the appointed time; it speaks of the end, and does not lie. If it seems to tarry, wait for it; it will surely come, it will not delay.” Habakkuk 2:2–3 NRSV

The last several years have been tumultuous. Potential schism in the church and declining denominational mission giving made it necessary for the McCurdy Board of Trustees to suspend our Creating Hope, Empowering Lives Capital Campaign in 2019 with a plan to restart the campaign after General Conference of 2020. When the pandemic hit, General Conference was delayed twice. While McCurdy Ministries Community Center focused on finding creative ways to make God’s difference for our students and their families during the COVID-19 epidemic and children were educated, lives were saved and families were supported.

Patricia Alvarado, MMCC’s executive director, has become famous for her, “All in God’s time!” reassurances that helped keep the staff and board positive. Behind the scenes, our New Mexico State Representative Susan Herrera asked McCurdy to rethink our campus redevelopment plans to include affordable housing which is a critical community need. MMCC began an update of our Master Plan focused on creating “A Live, Work, Educate and Recreate Planned Community” on our campus. Rep. Herrera helped bring together our Public/Private Partnership. The blessing in the pandemic included having Public/Private Partnership meetings monthly by Zoom and the group now includes Santa Fe County Commissioner Henry Roybal, Rep. Susan Herrera, New Mexico Representative Roger Montoya, North Central New Mexico Economic Development Department staff, Santa Fe County Economic Development staff, the Española, Planning and Zoning Director, Los Alamos National Laboratories staff, Homewise staff (a nonprofit home developer) and McCurdy representatives. The partnership is working together to help fund and redevelop our campus in ways that will benefit the Española Valley. The campus redevelopment will be approached in three phases.



Phase 1: McCurdy Ministries Community Center Campus

The seven acres from McCurdy Drive on the north to McCracken Gym on the south will be redeveloped to house all of MMCC’s ministry needs in five key buildings. A new two-story Program Building will be built near the site of the Elementary Building that will house childcare, After School Care, expanded Pre-K and Camp Stars on the first floor and MMCC offices, family counseling offices, a computer lab and adult education classroom and a new small business support center on the second floor. Bachman Hall will become the Retreat Center and will be remodeled to house 56 persons in retreat rooms. An industrial kitchen and large dining/gathering space will be added to the building. The Bus Barn will be moved behind the Retreat Center and will be rehabbed to become the new Maintenance Building. The portables remain and will continue as the headquarters for Project Cariño. An event plaza and prayer garden will be added and the landscaping will be improved. In a future phase, the chapel/art center and McCracken Gym will be made handicapped accessible and updated. To make room for a more open and

flexible campus Blake, Herrick, the Library Annex, the Elementary School, the Kindergarten House and the Maintenance Buildings will all be demolished.

This plan will “right-size” the McCurdy campus, include solar installations making energy efficiency a reality and will mean less McCurdy funds will go to insurance, utilities and maintenance and more will go to fund ministry.



Above: View from the east of the remodeled Bachman Hall which will become a Retreat Center. Below: View from the south of the new Program Building. Renderings provided by fbt architects.



Phase 2: 73 Affordable single family homes planned

It has been decades since a new subdivision was developed in Española. In Santa Fe County the average home price has soared to over \$560,000 making it impossible for teachers, nurses, police, fire and EMS personnel to buy homes. McCurdy Ministries Community Center is developing a partnership with Homewise (a nonprofit home developer) to create 73 single-family homes, a park and perimeter walking trails between La Joya on the north, McCurdy Drive on the south, McCurdy Road on the east and Camino Arbolera on the west that will be affordable for working families to purchase.

Phase 3: MMCC is exploring the development of office space on the southern end of campus which will mean a large increase in good jobs in Española.

There is great need for telecommuting office space in Española. MMCC and our Public/Private Partnership are working to bring together local, state and federal resources to develop an office building south of McCracken Gym. McCurdy would be a part owner in this building and a percentage of the building rents would help fund our ministries for years to come. To accomplish this goal all buildings south of McCracken would be demolished and a new two to three story building with a footprint no larger than Cole High School would be built.

MMCC Board approves revised master plan at October meeting

On Oct. 28, the McCurdy Ministries Community Center Board approved the revised campus master plan and authorized staff and FBT Architects to pursue approval of the plan from the City of Española. In addition, they authorized Rev. Diana Loomis to communicate with all donors to the Creating Hope, Empowering Lives Capital Campaign to secure their agreement that funds donated to the campaign can be used for building expenses related to the revised master plan. These approvals opened the door for Loomis to apply for a \$500,000+ EPA Brownfield grant due Dec. 1, 2021, to remediate asbestos and lead paint from existing buildings that need to be demolished.

Capital Campaign donors are welcome to be in touch with Diana Loomis with questions about the Master Plan and Capital Campaign changes at dloomis@mccurdy.org. After Dec. 1, she will begin making personal contacts with donors about these changes.

McCurdy Ministries Community Center Annual Report

“Then the Lord... said: Write the vision; make it plain...so that a runner may read it. For there is still a vision for the appointed time...If it seems to tarry, wait for it; it will surely come...” Habakkuk 2:2–3 NRSV

McCurdy 2020-21 Annual Report

One of the foundations of the Christian faith is the belief that God is always working on behalf of love and that God is present in the good and bad times in life. Yet sometimes it takes patience and a willingness to tarry until God makes the vision plain. At McCurdy, we have learned the importance of tarrying this year! As the pandemic continued into a second school year, we all have coped with constant changes! Having an active and dedicated board has been a gift during these times and our staff has been resilient, adaptive and creative in our responses to our challenges. We have learned again and again that God is in the midst of ever-changing plans and God is working for good to come from these circumstances. In this annual report, we are focusing on what we have accomplished in the name of Jesus Christ. After all, that is the McCurdy tradition is it not? For 109 years McCurdy has chosen to believe in God’s possibilities and we aren’t stopping now!

Project Cariño staff and interns spent all of the 2020–21 school year providing virtual and phone play, talk and family therapy using Google Meet which meets HIPPA privacy standards. They constantly provided resources to students and their families. They provided educational programs as well as emotional support for teachers and staff. They worked creatively to hone their virtual crisis intervention skills and in the process saved lives and ensured treatment for clients.

Our McCurdy Schools of Northern New Mexico PreK staff also spent all of the 2020–21 school year providing virtual education to their students and also provided weekly take-home Pre-K packets for families. When New Mexico offered to fund a six-week Jump Start program this summer, our Pre-K staff

was eager to provide this service to help preschoolers who had been in virtual classes adjust to in-person classes before they started kindergarten this fall. Nine students participated. The program was a great success and appreciated by parents, students and staff.

While we could not host volunteers on campus for safety reasons we sent out weekly devotionals, updates on our ministries and the Volunteer Newsletter by blast email. Thanks to Board Member Linda Polson, we also developed Virtual Mission experiences and hosted 11 church groups to learn about missions at McCurdy and more virtual missions are scheduled for 2022.

The McCurdy Board approved an updated Master Plan for our campus. See page three to learn about our plans.

Our Public/Private Partnership continued to explore creative uses of our campus and funding for those uses. See page three for more information on the work of the Public/Private Partnership.

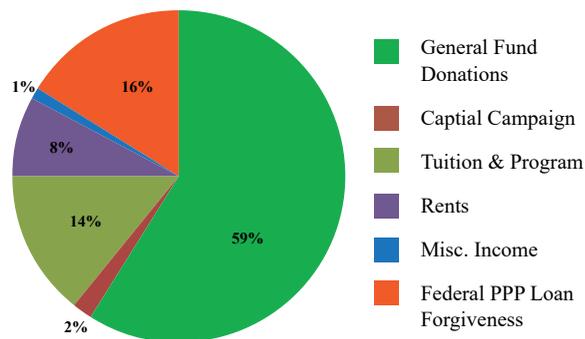
During the 2020–21 fiscal year our administrative staff worked hard to cut expenses without cutting ministry and they applied for two Federal PPP Loans which were forgiven. Our development staff increased our grant writing and grant awards increased up to \$165,000 for the year which is an 8% increase after a 50% increase last year.

Throughout the pandemic, we have experienced wonderful support and flexibility 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!

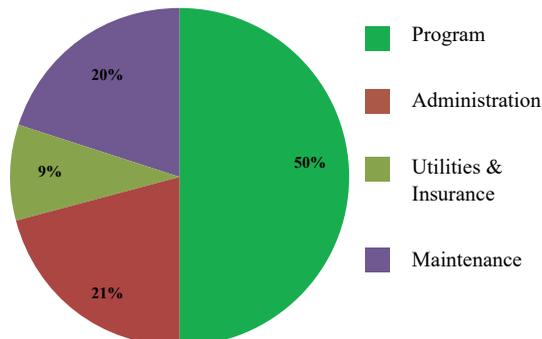
McCurdy Ministries Community Center finances

For McCurdy’s 2020–21 fiscal year which ran from August 1 to July 31, we had 710 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, 2019–20, and 2020–21 fiscal years and has a gold transparency rating with Guidestar.org.

2020–21 Income



2020–21 Expenses



2020–21 Mellie Perkins Society

During our 2020–21 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 have 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 2020–21 fiscal year

Robert Jossierand Estate, Gloria Jean Phillips Estate, Mary Lue Warner Estate and Alfred Wilkin 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 Setiz, Dorothy and Larry Swalley.

When making a charitable gift remember

If you itemize...

- Charitable gifts must be completed by Dec. 31, 2021, to be deducted on 2021 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.

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 another 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 assets.