

# 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.

*McCurdy Ministries Community Center creates hope and empowers the lives of children, Feb/March 2022 youth, adults and families through education, life skills and faith-based programs in Española, NM*

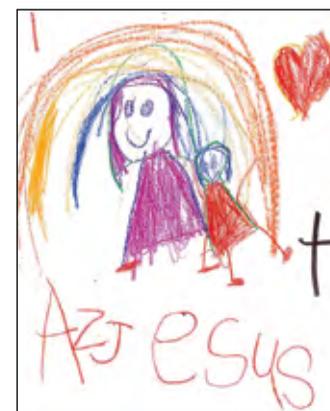
## After School Care helps their students share their faith

At After School Care we strive to help our children grow in a way that creates hope and empowers their lives. I wanted to share the faithful witness of two of our young students. In class we were learning about the Lord's Prayer and our students then had time to paint or draw about what they had learned and how it had impacted them. Two young students, aged 5 and 6, created beautiful drawings of walking hand in hand with Jesus.

One of the drawings had a rainbow and the other was covered with hearts. When I asked my students about their beautiful pictures their faces glowed with enthusiasm and joy. The six-year-old boldly proclaimed that Jesus was always walking beside her. That when she has nightmares, she calls to him and he is "by me at night, so I am not afraid." She said that she loves learning songs about Jesus, praying for him and thanking him for everything he has done. She smiled again and resolutely said "Jesus loves me and takes care of my family." The 5-year-old said, "I love Jesus so much, he is with me in my heart," as she pointed to the hearts covering her drawing. "Jesus holds my hand every day. I am not scared. I know he loves me."

There have been times through the pandemic that the struggle has been very hard to come up with ways to continue to teach, encourage and care for our students. Covid-19 has taken a toll on all of us. When I am discouraged, I am reminded of Psalm 127:3 "Children are a gift from God, they are a reward from him." My students' faith bolsters my own and together we continue to praise God for all the blessings because great is their faithfulness.

*Angela Ortiz After School Care Director*



*Left: Sophia's drawing of Jesus holding her hand. Above: Sophia and Az coloring their pictures with Jesus. Right: Jesus and Az under a rainbow. Drawings and photos used with parental permission.*

## McCurdy campus redevelopment plans are gaining community support

McCurdy Ministries Community Center (MMCC) is making exciting progress on the redevelopment of the McCurdy campus! In February New Mexico State Senator Leo Jaramillo and Rep. Susan Herrera allocated \$200,000 from state capital outlay funds to help fund the demolition of Blake, Herrick, the Library Annex, the elementary school, and the kindergarten house after remediation occurs in late 2022. The City of Española has agreed to be the fiscal sponsor to disburse this \$200,000 grant when needed. Thanks to Sen. Jaramillo, Rep. Herrera, and the city for helping in this project. MMCC has also been notified that MMCC's application for a \$500,000 EPA Cleanup Grant has passed the threshold and is a part of the nationwide competition for funding. Award notification will be in the spring of 2022.

In mid-February Patricia Alvarado and I met with Troy McClelland, vice president for the New Market Tax Credit program with Enterprise Bank (which bought out Los Alamos National Bank), and with John Brooks from the New Mexico Finance Authority who handled the New Market Tax Credit financing for the new McCurdy Charter School building. Enterprise and the NM Finance Authority are excited about our campus redevelopment and are interested in working together to provide New Market Tax Credit Financing for Phase 1 of our project which could reduce the cost of the project to McCurdy by \$4.4 million! I will be submitting a NMTC loan application to Enterprise by March 4.

Work with Homewise for the housing development on the north end of campus continues. The project will extend north to La Joya, and Homewise has revamped its plan to start construction on the north and move south. The plan will include 70+ single-family and townhomes which will be affordable for purchase by teachers, city workers, nurses, and law enforcement. This issue is important because of a long-term housing shortage in our area. A new park will be located where the retreat center sits now which will extend the time MMCC can occupy the building.

McCurdy's Public/Private Partnership meets every month and includes McCurdy board chair and staff, Rep. Susan Herrera, Rep. Roger Montoya, Sen. Leo Jaramillo, Santa Fe Councilman Henry Roybal, Española Mayor Javier Sanchez, state

economic development staff, county economic development staff, city planning staff, FBT Architects, Homewise staff, LANL staff and financial consultants provided by an EPA Grant. At the January meeting, Kathy Keith, director of community affairs for the Los Alamos National Laboratories, reported LANL expects to hire 2,000 more employees this next year and increased employee hiring will continue for at least the next six years. This information highlights how important it is to approach the housing supply issue creatively by government and nonprofits like McCurdy and Homewise. *Diana Loomis, Public/Private Partnership Director*

## Loomis retires and starts part time role with McCurdy

Dec. 31, 2021, Diana Loomis retired as McCurdy's Director of Development/Church Relations and is now working part-time as the Private/Public Partnership Director. She will focus on securing funding and collaborating with public and private agencies from around the community, state and country to move forward our vision for a "Live, Work, Educate, Recreate Planned Community" on campus. She will be working remotely and will no longer be handling the donor, church and volunteer relations and grant writing tasks for McCurdy Ministries Community Center.

We thank Diana for her 10+ years of work and successes in securing funding through grant writing, person-to-person meetings, church relations, and events that helped build relationships that will last for many years to come! Many milestones were met and new goals set with her help and initiative. Diana will still be impacting the future vision for McCurdy Ministries and difference we make for the children, youth and families of the Espanola Valley.



*Diana Loomis*

**"I have no greater joy than this, to hear that my children are walking in the truth." 3 John 1:4 NIV**



Patricia A. Alvarado,  
MMCC executive director

## Notes from the MMCC executive director

There have been times in my professional and personal life when I have experienced a “lull” in answers to requests, whether they be work-related or personal. We go through our work days, weeks, and months when we reach out to business associates, contractors, or other potential partners and it seems as if a response takes much longer than we would hope. It can be frustrating or even cause anxiety, depending on our deadlines and need to move on to the next action item! When we do not get a response it may lead to a sense of not being heard or valued.

In our personal lives we may be waiting on a medical diagnosis, potential job or financial advice. We may need advice on how best to support our children or grandchildren with a medical diagnosis or learning difference. Some may face “unforeseen situations” when caring for a member of the family.

Since the effort required to do simple tasks when we are weary increases greatly, there is a tendency to give up. But those who wait upon the Lord shall not grow weary, because their strength is renewed while they wait. Waiting upon the Lord

is like resting in him while he recharges our batteries. I am reminded of what it means to wait on the Lord. When we are facing difficult situations, we take comfort in Jeremiah 29:11 knowing that it is not a promise to immediately rescue us from hardship or suffering, but rather a promise that God has a plan for our lives and regardless of our current situation, God can work through it to prosper us and give us hope... Also, Psalm 27:14 says, “Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say on the Lord.”

Last weekend, I received a text message from a good friend who used to be a teacher at McCurdy when we were a K-12 institution. She sent some photos taken with her cell phone as she walked around our campus. She discovered “someone” had left random messages as they walked around drawn in the snow; simple reminders that we are not alone! In her text she said, “I wanted to share this with you, I was just walking around, looking for Jesus, and I stumbled on these messages” Now if that is not an answer to prayer, and a simple reminder that his love for us will prevail, I don’t know what is!”

I wanted to share these photos with you all! Simple reminders in our lives are waiting for us to stop, observe, take a breath, and we will be renewed with Hope, Joy, and Courage!!! May God’s blessings continue to sustain you!

Patricia A. Alvarado, executive director



Thanks to the caring soul who left these words of hope and encouragement on the McCurdy campus after a recent snow. Thanks for blessing our campus!



### \*PreK News\*

Greetings! December and January have been quite challenging for our Pre-K center. Dec. 13 Mother Nature shared winter storms and horrific winds which caused a lot of damage to our preschool. Two huge Cottonwood trees that shaded our Pre-K playground were uprooted during this wind storm. Luckily, due to the storm, we had canceled classes that day and no children were on-site at the time the trees fell on our building. We had the two trees removed and decided to remove the third for safety reasons. One bright spot was the preschool parent who brought heavy machinery and helped with tree removal. We lost our playground and classroom shade, but the trees were also a huge part of our spring science curriculum as many ladybugs laid their larva there and Ms. Robin would return each spring to build her nest and hatch her baby birds. We are looking to purchase wind sail tarps to shade the children during the coming spring and summer months.

Classes were supposed to start Jan. 3, but we discovered a flooded preschool caused by a water heater that burst in the dorm area and flooded part of the Pilling Dorm, our storage, and snack room. Vicente worked tirelessly vacuuming out the water, shampooing carpets, and treating the wall where the water heater was located for mold. Then



Contractor works to remove the remainder of the tree that fell in the Pre-K playground.

maintenance helped install the new water heater. The children then had to do another two weeks of ZOOM, classes due to Omicron COVID-19 outbreak. Children returned to in person schooling on Jan. 31. In the meantime, staff was busy collecting data for portfolios and documentation for the second round of Parent Teacher Conferences on Feb. 11. We sincerely ask for your prayers of support as we journey through this ever changing school year. Sandra Trujillo, site director/lead teacher



Intern Samantha Vigil

### Project Cariño News

**Editor’s note:** During the pandemic Project Cariño has not been able to offer the Big Buddy/Little Buddy Program. This year, with the help of Samantha Vigil, a Project Cariño intern, a peer mediation program is being set up instead.

Restorative justice and peer mediation in schools is an approach to aid in school discipline that allows students to establish expectations for their peers.

While a Project Cariño intern, I’ve learned bullying is a major issue, as it is at many schools. During my high school years I was a peer mediator trained by The MASTERS Program, and found peer mediation gave our students a voice to be heard; a way for us to set our own expectations for our peers and a way to hold them accountable. Students learned about reparations and the importance of repairing the damage we do. For example, one student was found putting his chewed gum under the desks at school, our Peer Mediation Council and the student agreed a fair reparation was to require the student to work with the janitors after school to scrape off the gum from under the desks.

In the Peer Mediation Program at McCurdy Charter School students will learn about active listening, asking questions, listening to both sides of the story, verbal and nonverbal communication skills, coming to solutions, and identifying emotions. The students will learn about themselves, how they may react (positively or negatively) to a specific person and/or subject, and allow them to learn appropriate ways to express their emotions. These experiences will improve the student’s communication skills and give them tools to improve their daily lives. Once students are well trained, they will begin to take on some minor disciplinary cases, such as, bullying, classroom noncompliance and tardiness.

Students trained as peer mediators at McCurdy Charter school will be doing community service by offering peer mediation services. The goal is to have the first group trained this year and next year have some of the same students continue as peer mediators to help train new mediators. With support from Project Cariño and McCurdy Charter school, the peer mediation council will be a continuous support for McCurdy students in years to come. Samantha Vigil, Project Cariño Intern

“We love because he first loved us.” 1 John 4:19 NIV



*Sarah Allen, director  
of development/  
church relations*

### New director of development/church relations

## Please welcome Sarah Allen to McCurdy!

McCurdy Ministries Community Center has hired Sarah Allen to be the new Director of Development/Church Relations. She started Jan. 3, 2022, and will assume grant writing, donor relations, development relating to general and programmatic fund raising, newsletter editor and web-site communications responsibilities. She will work with churches and volunteers from across the country and will be working locally with community agencies in collaborative efforts for community betterment. She will be communicating with staff as well when it comes to programmatic needs that will guide the work of raising funds for our programs.

Sarah is skilled in working with people to build community alliances for those in need and to work to safeguard public health and social justice. Sarah has volunteered and worked as a Licensed Local Pastor in the United Methodist Church in different parts of the country as well as been employed in several different roles in other agencies that will be an asset to McCurdy in her new role as Director of Development and Church Relations.

She worked resettling refugees, helping homeless veterans, directing neighborhood healthcare centers, health systems and health departments, and in various medical schools and colleges in leadership roles in healthcare initiatives. She has over 35 years of experience in writing grants. She has shared that "... being able to secure funding has been a result of becoming knowledgeable about groups of people and their needs and concerns as well as presenting their stories in a way that encapsulates not only need but achievable outcomes."

Sarah has a Masters in Community Health Education from UNM and says she "...is carrying on the call to ministry and service that has been in her family for multiple generations, which includes her aunt, Irene Cole, who served as a teacher, Home Missionary and volunteer at McCurdy for more than half a century." We welcome Sarah and look forward to our working together to support the children, youth, and families in the Española Valley. *Patricia A. Alvarado, executive director*

## Creative ways to support McCurdy Ministries

McCurdy Ministries Community Center touches the lives of 566 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 Sarah Allen at 928-691-6471, write her at 362A S. McCurdy Road, Española, NM 87532 or email her at [sallen@mccurdy.org](mailto:sallen@mccurdy.org).

*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!*

## Giving Tuesday 2021 giving set a new fundraising record!

We are excited to share that Giving Tuesday on Nov. 30, 2021, was our most successful **Giving Tuesday Season** ever! McCurdy started celebrating Giving Tuesday in 2013. That year 148 donors gave \$31,524. In 2021, 135 donors gave \$76,565 which beats the next highest amount raised in 2017 by \$5,515.

Special thanks to our anonymous donors who provided our matching funds because every gift donated was matched so your \$100 gift became \$200. We are



grateful to all who supported this effort which ultimately feeds our preschoolers breakfast and lunch, supports our Project Carino counselors, provides supplies for After School Care and shares God's love with the Espanola Valley.

If you want to learn more about donating matching funds for Giving Tuesday 2022 which will start on Nov. 1, 2022 and ends on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving on Nov. 29, 2022, please email Sarah Allen, director of development/church relations at [sallen@mccurdy.org](mailto:sallen@mccurdy.org).

Again thanks to all our supporters who gave so generously during our 2021 Giving Tuesday Season. You are a blessing!

## I made a difference to that one!

*One day a man was walking along the beach when he noticed a boy picking something up and gently throwing it into the ocean. Approaching the boy, he asked, "What are you doing?"*

*The youth replied, "Throwing starfish back into the ocean. The surf is up and the tide is going out. If I don't throw them back, they'll die."*

*"Son," the man said, "don't you realize there are miles and miles of beach and hundreds of starfish? You can't make a difference!"*

*After listening politely, the boy bent down, picked up another starfish, and threw it back into the surf. Then, smiling at the man, he said..." I made a difference for that one."* LOREN EISLEY



## Introducing the McCurdy Ministries Wish List

A quick and easy way to support McCurdy's vital ministries to children and youth is to help purchase needed supplies. A Wish List has been created on Amazon for the supplies needed for After School Care, Pre-K, and Project Cariño (mental health counseling) programs. Simply use the link below to view the current list, which includes arts and crafts materials as well as some general office, kitchen, cleaning, and safety supplies. Select an item or two and purchase them just like you would any Amazon purchase. The Wish List operates like a wedding registry site. Be sure to select McCurdy Ministries Community Center on the address list at checkout so your ordered items will be shipped directly to Española and send an email to Sarah Allen, the new director of development/church relations notifying her of your donation so we can watch for its delivery.

**McCurdy Wish List Link:** [https://www.amazon.com/registries/custom/1EOD3JA3OX4EE/guest-view?ref=gr\\_search\\_page\\_result](https://www.amazon.com/registries/custom/1EOD3JA3OX4EE/guest-view?ref=gr_search_page_result)

Your order of watercolors or Play-Doh will put a smile on a child's face and your order of disinfectant cleaner will help keep both the children and staff a bit safer. Thanks for your ongoing support of our ministries!

**"Love binds us together in perfect harmony." Colossians 3:14 NIV**

**Look Back in History:****Dr. McCracken was McCurdy's Superintendent from 1928–1965**

In 1927 Glen F. McCracken was chosen to fill the staff vacancy for high school principal. Within one year, due to the departure of Superintendent Overmiller, McCracken was appointed chief of the mission. For the next forty years this man was destined to mold and shape the entire mission.

By 1930 the Great Depression was upon the entire country. The mission school at Santa Cruz continued to grow with McCracken reporting a fall enrollment of one hundred eight. Also in 1930, a much needed mission school and church were started in Vallecitos.

In 1931, there was a great fire that destroyed the much-needed new gymnasium that was being built on the McCurdy campus. According to local folklore the one positive result was that the fire was the creation of the Espanola Fire Department. Rebuilt and dedicated in May 1940 as "McCracken Gymnasium," it was the only gym from Santa Fe to Taos. Area residents were both surprised and pleased by McCracken's generous ecumenical offer to share the new gym with both the Espanola public school and the Santa Cruz Catholic school.

A mission farm, orchard and barn had been built on McCurdy's campus by Dr. Overmiller previously and throughout the years Dr. McCracken gained fame due to the success of the farm and his prize-winning hogs.

Throughout the 40s and 50s summer Bible camps were set up in a number of communities and teaching student volunteers joined the McCurdy teaching staff from several colleges in Ohio. And in 1946 the Espanola Hospital was started with funding from the Packs of Ghost Ranch and under the direction of Dr. Zeigler.

Upon Dr. McCracken's retirement the Santa Fe newspaper the "New Mexican" included this telling statement in their glowing remarks: "We know that your Christian attitude toward all people regardless of racial origin is something real and not a show and it is precisely for this wonderful quality that people of all our three cultural groups in this Valley love and respect you."

Adapted from Robert H. Terry,  
"Light in The Valley"  
Sunstone Press, Santa Fe, 1984



Dr. Glen McCracken

**WATCH HOW YOU WALK**

*"Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; and walk in love. As Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us."*  
Ephesians 5:1-2a (KJV)



Irene Cole

In my early years at McCurdy, I had a room on the top floor of the girls' dormitory where I could look out to the west and see the inspiring beautiful sunsets as they spread their rose and golden colors across the mountain range. I could look down on the rear of the campus and, early on certain winter mornings see the boys who happened to be on laundry duty hanging out sheets, shirts, and jeans, often almost frozen stiff before they were on the line.

I observed early each morning a tall man (our superintendent) walking across the irrigation ditch toward the barn where he was headed to feed the pigs and milk the cows. Whether he was walking toward the barn to do early morning chores or across campus during the school day, even from a distance I could always be sure of Dr. McCracken's identity, for he had a very distinctive walk. As the years went by, I came to realize that his walk was easily recognizable not only in the physical sense but in the spiritual sense as well. It was the walk of a man in whom, through all his contacts with students and staff and people of the community, God's presence could be felt. I am grateful for his life and for the lives of many others who through the years have made a difference in my life because their walk was touched by the presence of God.

**Prayer:** Thank you, Heavenly father, for the beauty of the mountains and the world around us. Thank you for the beauty of those lives have touched our lives as they have walked with you. May we also reflect your love in our walk each day. Amen

**Thought for the day:** "If you care, move your feet." (African Proverb)

Irene Cole, Home Missionary  
Published in *Reflect Rekindle*  
*Renew-Meditations*

Shared by Deaconesses and Home Missionaries

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. 28 &  
Saturday, Oct. 29, 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.

Watch for exciting updates on our

**McCurdy Fiesta****McCurdy Creating a Positive Impact for 2132 and Beyond**

As we start 2022, we look forward to celebrating 110 years of McCurdy's positive impact in Espanola and the whole of Northern New Mexico in October. Looking back and honoring all that has gone before is a special part of McCurdy's strength. There have been so many wonderful volunteers, staff, administrators and especially students who have built, sustained and improved McCurdy through all these years. We stand today, 110 years later, because of the strength and love of their and your commitment to McCurdy.

Collectively we have embodied our motto. "And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man." Luke 2:52 All who have been part of McCurdy through the years, have helped, each in their own way. McCurdy has grown in wisdom and stature. Each time a positive lesson, event or story is created and passed on McCurdy increases in Favor with God and Man.

We all treasure our first 110 years and we are planning, creating and achieving for our next 110 years. We are glad of your continuing presence and support and of God's continuing guidance to ensure that, for now as well as in 2132, McCurdy will continue to be the bright light in the Rio Grande Valley. We will continue to work together with God's grace to provide strong shoulders for continuing McCurdy generations to stand on.

**"Let all that you do be done in love." 1 Corinthians 16:14 NIV**