

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 July/Aug, 2022



Crafty Camp Stars

Camp Stars students marvel at science experiments as they enjoy crafts and singing while coming to a greater understanding of Jesus' miracles and God's miraculous love. Camp Stars is an amazing blend of Vacation Bible School and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) and this summer's program on God's Miracle Lab helps weave it altogether. Los Alamos National Laboratory volunteers through the Bradbury Sciences Museum make science fun and interesting.

Thanks to the following donors for making this program possible
Montei Foundation,
Texas Methodist Foundation
and Los Alamos National Laboratory Foundation.



Jumpstart

A Wonderful Way to Become Ready for Kindergarten this Summer

COVID-19 was hard on children's educational progress across the country and slowed children's learning due to the number of days that schooling was limited for so many reasons. Problems such as lack of internet, lack of time for other adults to give lessons prepared by our teachers because they still had to work, people being sick, and multiple students in a family needing attention all contributed to a slowdown in children's readiness to progress to the next grade level. The State of New Mexico helped bridge that gap by offering existing grantees of the State's Pre-K program the opportunity to provide a special educational program this summer.



McCurdy Ministries Community Center has been pleased to be able to offer Jumpstart to our Pre-K children to help them be ready to start Kindergarten this Fall.



For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Mark 10:45

Director of Development's Busy Summer

Sarah Allen's summer extra activities began with a 6,000-mile road trip to be able to attend and have a booth at the wonderful United Women of Faith's 2022 Assembly in Orlando, Florida. It was well attended and it was amazing and powerful how many people who stopped by the booth knew about McCurdy Ministries Community Center and our long history of serving in the Española valley. Sarah's trip also included numerous visits and conversations with churches in Texas, Alabama, West Virginia, Ohio, Missouri, Kansas, and Oklahoma. The trip was a way of saying thank you to churches, individuals and Foundations who have sent mission teams and program funding to help support McCurdy. It was a wonderful way to get acquainted with so many caring people across the country who help us make a difference.



Sarah was honored to be appointed as a Licensed Local Pastor by the New Mexico Annual Conference for McCurdy Ministries effective July 1. The Ordination/Commissioning ceremony was held at St. Paul United Methodist Church in Las Cruces with Bishop Schnase presiding. Sarah will be preaching at various churches in the conference helping more people know about McCurdy. She has already brought the message at El Calvario in Las Cruces and St. John's in Santa Fe and is scheduled to preach at Santa Cruz and Valley View in the Española area in the coming weeks.



The 2022 Class of Licensed Local Pastors was recently commissioned by the New Mexico Conference. McCurdy's Sarah Allen is pictured at right.



McCurdy Class of 1972 at 50-year Reunion. Sitting, L-R: Ms. Dee Dee Heffner, Marilyn (Martinez) McBane, Carrie Silva-Clark, Shirley (Rodriguez) Romero, Sandra (Martinez) Hull, Lynn (Yates) Chesky, Alveda (Gallegos) Pero, Joanne (Barber) Piskator. Standing, L-R: Charles Struck, John Buchser, Mark Cates, Mike Bell, Richard Hughes, Daniel Martinez, Frank (Hogan) Gaylor, Al Lopez, Mr. Bill Vicker, Steve Wiberg, Ross Villareal

Sarah has also been chosen to be part of the United Methodist Global Ministries Earthkeepers program this summer. This inspiring program helps United Methodists across the world learn more about God's joy in creating our planet and how we are entrusted to care for it. Each participant chooses their own project to impact their area. This group works jointly with the United Women of Faith, the Green Church Initiatives and many other groups to try to help churches and congregations find creative ways to save money and nurture our planet.

On Saturday July 20th, Sarah was able to tour close to 20 McCurdy graduates from the class of 1972, who had gathered to celebrate their 50-year reunion. Many of them shared stories about the difference that McCurdy had

made in their lives. Dee Dee Heffner, who had taught at McCurdy and is a current McCurdy Ministries Board member had been their class sponsor. She was also able to be present reliving the time that helped shape these lives. It was wonderful to be together and see that bonds formed have stayed strong through time.

Thank you to our volunteer teams, friends across the country, individual volunteers, foundations and grant makers. You make McCurdy Ministries possible. Every year close to 1 million dollars in support and untold hours of fundraisers, work on site, prayers and love comes from people, churches and foundations that allow us to make a difference in children and adults. Thank you for that love and trust.

Project Cariño Restores Hope and Teaches Students about Peer Mediation

Not long ago, another family lost a parent to drugs, leaving behind several young children. It is an occurrence that happens all too frequently in the Española Valley. One of the children was already under the care of Project Cariño's staff for anxiety and disturbing dreams that were leaving the child withdrawn, emotional and scared. Death and loss can trouble each of us no matter what our age but with the help of the caring staff at Project Cariño this child is slowly recovering and beginning to smile again.

Intern Samantha Vigil helped create and train McCurdy Charter School students in Restorative Justice and Peer Mediation. These students received 19 hours of training in active listening,

verbal and non-verbal communications, identifying emotions and coming up with solutions.

Volunteer Dorothy Swalley, retired social worker, assisted the Camp Stars program this summer helping students recover from stress related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are grateful for the work of our staff and volunteers who have provided funding and manpower, creativity and love to help McCurdy Ministries Community Center through all the years. The Project Cariño area has been a special project for Boston Avenue UMC volunteers from Tulsa, Oklahoma who have returned again and again and helped to create this beautiful space to help our children in need to heal.



Standing: Juan Sanchez, Volunteer; Grace Lopez, Intern, Bill Clapp, Counselor
Seated: Samantha Vigil, Intern and Amanda Trujillo-Gonzales, Director/Counselor

**For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command:
"Love your neighbor as yourself." Galatians 5:14**



Patricia A. Alvarado,
MMCC Executive Director

Notes from the MMCC executive director

In the past two years, after going through the balancing act of dealing with COVID-19 and all the challenges that it brought; it has been an amazing blessing to have opened our doors to VIM teams again, to being able to operate our summer camp, and to once again, have our Summer Jumpstart program for Kindergarten age students who needed more one-on-one-time to get ready for Kindergarten this fall.

We have been blessed, at this time, to have had two youth groups with their adult volunteer team leaders come unto our campus and work so hard to spruce up our grounds, to make sure the grounds are not only clean and presentable, but they are safe for our little ones as they play on the playgrounds and go to and from their destinations. The heart and soul they put into the work they did, was inspiring indeed. I told the youth volunteers, that little ears are listening and little eyes are seeing; that they are speaking volumes to our little ones as they work with each other, as they show their caring and respect for one another and the joy with which they serve, will be a living example for years to come! We thank them for your giving of their own summer plans and possibly summer jobs to come to our campus and be God's hands and feet, serving the children!

We have continued to work behind the scenes in preparing for our vision of redeveloping our campus to better serve our community in providing opportunities for family services, training, and community-wide collaborative efforts to support parents and grandparents in raising our children!

The song that accompanied the devotional sent out by our Development Director, Sarah Allen on July 2, 2022, "I Believe," sung by Chancel Choir of Christ Church, Summit NJ / Music composed by Mark A. Miller spoke to me in such a profound manner! The words, anonymous, said to be found on a wall where Jews were hiding from Nazi persecution:

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

In all its simplicity, as I listened to the song, it helped me to sit in silence contemplating my own experiences with day to day challenges I encounter with my job or family.

What we may experience as a "CLOUDY" day, a "LONELY" day, or a period of time when we think "God is SILENT", are what may give us pause to draw closer to Our Father, to fully rely on Him, even when, in our human senses, we cannot seem to register the fact that He never leaves us alone, that He provides the Light, the Love, and the provision for what we need, not necessarily what we want, in His timing and His plans!

So I invite you all to contemplate, to sit silently, to experience the perceived stumbling blocks and KNOW that Our Father is there in the midst of all that is happening; holding us in the palm of His hand, that the vision, the work, the acts of kindness, the seeds planted, will not be void but will come to fruition according to His plan and in His timing.

Thank you for your continued support, prayers, and love!

May God's blessings continue to sustain you!

Patricia A. Alvarado, Executive Director

Public/Private Partnerships help redevelop campus

In McCurdy Ministries Community Center's (MMCC) 110 year history we have learned the importance of the maxim, "Everything takes longer than you think it will!" Despite our learnings our board, staff and supporters have a tradition of pursuing God's will for our ministries that has meant a school and a hospital where there was none and more recently a new charter school when it was needed. McCurdy brings these learnings to the process of updating our Campus Master Plan with the City of Española and the Public/Private Partnership's work to redevelop our campus to better impact the entire Española Valley. As Patricia Alvarado says, "All in God's timing. All in God's timing!" I am excited to report a number of important developments have occurred since February's newsletter including:



Diana Loomis,
Partnership Director

1. MMCC applied for Congressionally Directed Spending to fund a \$15.6 million USDA Community Facilities Grant/Loan for Phase 1 of our campus redevelopment and a \$1.05 million HUD grant to increase the amount MMCC receives from the sale of our northern 10 acres and decrease the cost to Homewise thereby making the new housing built more affordable. MMCC received word from Sen. Ben Ray Lujan's office that the senator is supporting both of our applications for funding through the Senate Appropriations Committee. Receiving this grant/loan will mean \$8,580,000 grant combined with a 40 year interest free loan for the remaining balance to complete construction of our new Program Building and rehab of Bachmann into a new Retreat Center. In addition, the HUD grant will mean \$1.4 million in additional funding once the land is sold to Homewise to help finance Phase 1 campus redevelopment.

2. McCurdy was notified that we did not receive the EPA Cleanup Grant. This grant program is very competitive and twice as many applications were received as could be funded. In response, the EPA continued our Financial Technical Assistance Grant, will pay for the Remediation Assessment of our buildings in Phase 2 and informed us there will be another EPA technical assistance grant aimed at nonprofits like McCurdy. Through this technical assistance grant we may be able to secure remediation/demolition funding so Phase 1 work can begin next winter. The best news is that when the New Mexico Environment Department Brownfield Office learned MMCC was not approved for the EPA Grant they reached out to inform McCurdy that they have set aside funds in next year's budget to assist with remediation costs which is another reminder that God is always working for good even when we don't know it!

3. McCurdy was awarded a \$25,000 Planning Grant from Anchorum-St. Vincent to fund the Public/Private Partnership work during the 2022-23 fiscal year.

Anchorum is also joining the partnership, will be scheduling a site visit to campus in August and has invited MMCC to apply for an additional \$25,000 federal grant writing award after July 1, 2022.

4. Progress is being made on MMCC's submission of our Revised Master Plan to the City of Española Planning Commission. McCurdy, Homewise and FBT Architects made an introductory presentation of our plans to the Planning Commission on July 14 and we anticipate requesting approval for the Revised Master Plan in September.

5. Enterprise Bank (formerly Los Alamos National Bank) and the New Mexico Finance Authority have expressed an interest in working with MMCC on a New Market Tax Credit process which will mean that we will receive tax credits seven years after our mortgage begins that will decrease the principal by 20%. Both Enterprise and NMFA have joined the MMCC Public/Private Partnership.

As always in living life with faith we have had bad news and good news to share, but our blessings far outweigh our problems and we are daily blessed to see the ways God is working in our midst!

With hope,

Rev. Diana Loomis, Public/Private Partnership Director

Other ways to support McCurdy

If you would like to help support McCurdy on an ongoing basis, please consider one of the following ways to help maintain this vital ministry to the children, youth, and families of the Española Valley:

- Set up a monthly online donation using the DONATE button on the McCurdy website: <https://mccurdy.org/give-now/>
- Set up your AmazonSmile account and designate your support of McCurdy Schools of Northern New Mexico (McCurdy Ministries Community Center's legal name). The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the non-profit organization you select.
- Select an item or two each month to purchase from McCurdy's Amazon Wish List. (It operates like a wedding registry site.) Just be sure to select McCurdy Ministries Community Center on the address list at checkout so your items will ship directly to Española. https://www.amazon.com/registries/custom/1EOD3JA3OX4EE/guest-view?ref=gr_search_page_result
- Set a time to pray daily for the McCurdy staff and for the future of the ministry as they work to provide services to the Española community for 2022 and many more years to come.

Thank you for your support of our ministry!

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. 1st Peter 4:10

Look Back in History:

Early Years of Mellie Perkins' ministry

As we get ready to celebrate the 110th birthday of the founding of McCurdy Ministries Community Center it is a time of looking back at the very early years of Mellie Perkins ministry starting at Velarde. As quoted from an article published in the Women's Evangel Vol. XXXII, No. 9 September, 1913, Mellie described that "sometimes a day's work went this way."

"The day was very cold, with snow flurries flying frequently. I went to the chapel at 8:00 A.M., as usual to build my fires and put the rooms in order to be ready to receive the pupils as they came. At 8:45 a call came to go and visit a sick child. Leaving the school in charge of one of the older boys, I went and did what I could for the child, returning to the school at ten. At 10:45 another call came to visit a very sick lady. I dismissed the school and again went to "cure" the sick. Found her very ill, and did not get back until 12:50. I hastily ate lunch and again took up my duties and continued to work without interruption until 3:45, when I was called to visit a very sick baby.... As I... (returned home) I was very weary, but I thought of one of my pupils whom they told me was quite ill from what I supposed to be a sore throat, and I felt I really ought to go and see him yet, so I replenished my bag and started out. It meant a climb of a mile and a quarter uphill, all the way through sand, snow and slush. I finally reached the house and found my boy was very ill, indeed, not sore throat ... His face and head were so swollen that no one would have recognized him. I didn't know what to do, as I had never had any experience with that disease. I had taken antiphlogistine for his throat, and his face being so swollen and hot, I thought it would do no harm, so after urging in vain for the father to get a physician, I proceeded to plaster his face and forehead with that, and left an ointment to be used the next day if he still lived, for I fully expected him to die before morning. I left him with a sad heart and again took up the journey home, which I reached at 7:00 P.M., cold and hungry, but I thanked God for the privilege of ministering, as I realized more fully the Scripture, 'Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these my brethren, ye have done it me' Perhaps it might be well to add that none of my patients died. Strange!"



Art added to McCurdy Ministries Community Center Historical Collection

Sculpture and Photographs

David Yates and family have donated a bronze bust of Glen McCracken, his grandfather and Superintendent at McCurdy from 1928–1965. It was created by his nephew, Robert Coffee, who was a well-known artist and sculptor in Austin.



David Yates



Swann's Auction

Galleries of New York

on April 7 had 27 McCurdy and Velarde photos available for bid. Unfortunately, we were not able to win the bid and it went to a private collector.

Luckily, we have copies of the photos posted on their website.

In 1912, United Brethren missionaries founded a mission school in remote Velarde, NM, between Santa Fé and Taos. An additional campus was launched in 1915, several miles downriver in the town of Santa Cruz, NM, which became known as the McCurdy Mission School. These photographs depict the buildings, staff, and students at both schools. They were apparently collected by Mary Esther Brawner (1893–1977), an Illinois native who taught at the Velarde school as a missionary from 1916 to 1925. The large-format photographs bear several generations of captions, but the captions written in blue ink match Brawner's period of service, and beneath some of them a later owner has written "Miss Bronner."



Photographs of two United Brethren mission schools in the upper Rio Grande Valley. 27 photographs, circa 1916–1925

2022 McCurdy Fiesta

We hope you are making plans to attend the McCurdy Fiesta scheduled for Saturday, October 29, 2022.

Current planned activities include:

- view new film about McCurdy
- an antique car show,
- volunteers dressed in period costumes,
- games on the lawn,
- "Trunk or Treat" for the kids,
- a Silent Auction,
- a Virtual 5K walk/run,
- a special anniversary celebration presentation,
- dessert for all,
- and much, much more.

Stay tuned as work continues for many fun-filled activities to celebrate McCurdy's 110th anniversary!

McCurdy design contests

We are looking for some creative ideas for the design of a special tee shirt or a 2023 calendar to help commemorate McCurdy's 110th anniversary this year. You are invited enter these design contests by simply submitting artwork or a photograph reflecting the various seasons in the Española Valley or the various places McCurdy has had schools throughout its history (Santa Cruz, Velarde, Alcalde, and Vallecitos).



All entries must be artist's original work or photograph and no more than two entries per individual. Everyone is eligible to enter, no matter the age. Entries must be received by August 1, 2022. Winners will be announced by August 31, 2022.

Prizes for winners:

The winner of the tee shirt design contest will receive a McCurdy tee shirt, a McCurdy 2023 calendar, and a \$50 gift card.

For the calendar contest, there will be one winner for the calendar cover who will receive a free calendar, a McCurdy tee shirt, and a \$50 gift card. Their entry will also appear as the graphic for one month. In addition, there will be 11 monthly winners who will receive a free calendar and a \$25 gift card.

Contest rules: For the full list of entry rules and a contest application form, go to the McCurdy website: <https://mccurdy.org/>.

Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people. Ephesians 6:7