

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, Sept./Oct., 2022 youth, adults and families through education, life skills and faith-based programs in Española, NM



Above: McCurdy Volunteers in Mission decorating a new After School Care Program bulletin board; Right: After School Care fun on the playground



Giving Tuesday Season runs Nov. 1–30, 2022

For the tenth 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 \$25,000 for matching funds, 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 our children recover from all the ways that the COVID-19 pandemic affected our community. 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, Camp Stars and After School Care Program.



McCurdy has celebrated Giving Tuesday since 2013. Four years ago, we expanded the effort from one day to a season to make it easier for our donors to support our ministries. Last Giving Tuesday Season in November 2021, 261 donors gave \$89,456 which helped keep McCurdy and our ministries strong during a second very difficult year due to COVID-19! Pastor Sarah Allen, director of development says, “We have been so blessed by the prayers and support given by our faithful donors. We are excited that After School Care, Pre-K and Project Cariño programs are in full swing and had a wonderful Camps Stars program this summer, with students exploring God’s Wonder Lab with help from volunteers from the Los Alamos National Laboratory supplementing our staff and volunteers. Our Volunteer in Mission Program is back in full swing and already 7 teams are signed up for 2023.” Our theme for our Giving Tuesday Season is “Give light. Give love. Give life.”

To receive the match please give in these ways: **1.** Mail a gift to MMCC postmarked between Nov. 1–30, 2022. The check MUST be marked Giving Tuesday to count toward the match. **2.** From Nov. 1–30, go to <https://mccurdy.org/give-now/> to make a donation. Mark your donation Giving Tuesday to qualify for the match. **3.** On Nov. 29, 2022, you can go to <https://advance.ummission.org/p-596-mccurdy-ministries-community-center-formerly-known-as-mccurdy-school.aspx> to give through the United Methodist Advance. 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. Please call Pastor Sarah Allen at 928-691-6471, or email her at sallen@mccurdy.org if you want to make a matching donation or have any questions about McCurdy’s 2022 Giving Tuesday.

Fall: Perfect time to learn about Creation, How to Pray

By Angela Ortiz

We welcome back our new After School Care Program students and parents. Dorm Host Susanna Bailey volunteered with us in the month of September.

We have nine girls and four boys. The children are having fun and enjoy playing outside in the playground. Time passes so fast for them, and they are not ready to leave when parents come for them.

The children are reading the Bible out loud, and they have learned about Creation.

We are learning the “Our Father”. They pray it before snack time. There are only two children that know The Lord’s Prayer. Mikayla and Colten are two of our students who have been helpful with teaching other students how to pray. If students make a mistake they stop and correct one another.

The older children are so helpful with the little ones. They

help them with understanding what the word “creation” means. The children enjoy singing the creation song. Each child worked hard making the creation wind chimes and they were proud to hang them up on the classroom ceiling next to their chairs.

Mikayla enjoys teaching the girls to make hand bracelets. She has lots of patience with the little ones and is a wonderful role model.

We want to give thanks to our volunteers for the help and beautiful bulletin boards. We give thanks to all the kind people who were working on the grounds. Thank you, Sarah Allen, for delivering 3 boxes of art projects the children get to do, which were donated by First UMC in Clovis, New Mexico.



RIGHT: McCurdy Creation Care Wind Chimes

“I will sing to the LORD, because he has dealt bountifully with me.” Psalm 13:6 ESV



Patricia A. Alvarado,
MMCC Executive Director

Notes from the MMCC executive director

During those difficult times in our lives when we are faced with life's challenges, whether that be in our personal or professional lives, we can easily be swayed to a place of fear, desperation, and anger, even a state of hopelessness or feeling stuck and believing we cannot impact any outcomes that would benefit the solution to such circumstances.

"The best laid plans..." as the saying goes, can be derailed by things that are beyond our control and how we react will determine those outcomes, in the long run. I am reminded, at times, of Moses in the desert for forty years, waiting for the promise of "The Promised Land" and the tremendous responsibility he must have felt to

have led his people out of Egypt and into the desert, hearing them complain and seeing them lose heart and lose faith! I think of Job and his battle in staying faithful and believing that God would be faithful to him despite all the physical evidence to the contrary! I think of Jonah and his refusal of God's command and where that landed him!

We all go through similar life's circumstances that challenge us at different seasons of our lives and we can all relate to examples for us of those who have gone before us that have struggled and yet, found their grounding again in the faith of God's faithfulness to us! In His timing and in His plans for our purpose all for the honor and glory of His name; this is what keeps us committed to following through in our service to others; regardless of our FEELINGS of inadequateness, fear,

exhaustion, etc. If we but open our hearts and beings to asking for and receiving help from those that Our Father has given us, our yoke will be made lighter!

So it is with our vision and our mission at McCurdy Ministries Community Center! The journey has seemed long as we plan and work toward revitalizing our physical campus, the relationships we continue and want to renew, and engaging in a community-wide work to collaborate and serve our children, youth, and families. We could not continue to do the work if it were not for all of you that offer your prayers, encouragement, expertise, and support each and every day!

I feel blessed to continue to be a part of this work and blessed to be a part of this fellowship locally and across the country and around the world in honoring Our Father by using the gifts He has given us to serve one another; to "Love one another as He has loved us!" Let us not forget to be grateful for all the blessings He bestows on us, in the good times and the bad times.

I want to share my own prayer with you: "I wake up this morning praising God for the fact that He has blessed me with the parents He gave me, for my brothers and sisters and my children and my sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law and my sons-in-law and my daughters-in-law, for my grandchildren and my nieces and nephews, for our tios(uncles) and tias(aunties) and our many cousins, for my friends and the friends of all my family members, for all the people He has made it possible for me to work with and collaborate with for the purpose of lifting the children and nurturing them; for our gifts and talents that He bestowed on each and every one of us and I pray that those gifts and talents that He has bestowed on all these people will be used to further His kingdom here on earth, according to His will, His timing, His purpose!! All for the honor and glory of God!

May God's blessings continue to sustain you!

Patricia A. Alvarado, Executive Director

—Project Cariño News and Updates—

This new school year is off to a running start, as expected! Bill Clapp, LPCC and I are working hard to design our school-based counseling program so that we can offer services that meet the social and emotional needs of as many McCurdy Charter School (MCS) students and families as we can, with just the two of us on staff.

We're fortunate to have the help of our Volunteer in Mission (VIM), Dorothy Swalley, who is helping us update our resource list of services in Española and surrounding areas which we will use when drawing on off-campus resources to help us meet the needs of some students. Her husband, Larry, has helped Project Cariño with various, smaller (but very important) needs while he's been on campus and we are thankful for his help too! We have been blessed with support from some of our favorite VIMs including Church of the Messiah in Westerville, OH and Boston Avenue out of Tulsa, OK; and later this week we're expecting another favorite from First United Methodist Church in Claremore, OK. We are beyond blessed to have support from these teams, as they help us with chores we can't get to and often with finances we need but don't have for our supplies and materials, but mostly because they keep us in their prayers. They're our inspiration and our heroes, the wind beneath our wings, so to speak!

Every year, Project Cariño School-based Counseling Program offers a variety of services for MCS students and their families including individual, family and group emotional therapy. Some modalities we

use include Child-centered Play Therapy, Sand Tray, Solution Focused, Crisis Intervention, Narrative, and Cognitive Behavioral Therapies. In addition, we offer our Buddy Program that helps students with service learning ideals. This program is very similar to the national Big Brother/Big Sister Program, though we here match high school students with elementary students and help them develop mentorship relationships. Ultimately "Littles" are better able to navigate social situations with guidance from their "Bigs" and in re-

turn, the Bigs get to know themselves in these helping relationships and, hopefully, will choose to continue to serve others throughout their lives.

Sadly, we will not have staff we need to be able to sponsor our Buddy Program this year. Most every year we have student interns from colleges and universities in NM come on board for the whole year to practice providing clinical services, but this year we weren't so lucky. Consequently, counseling and therapy services will be our focus this year. Already, we're putting together support groups for students experiencing anxiety and grief this fall; and Bill will be continuing two social support groups for 9 students in the seventh grade he started last year. These groups are psycho-educational in nature, and provide information and guidance for participants in social situations at school.

At the time of this writing, Project Cariño has received 12 new referrals, and together with cases that have carried over from last year, we have 22 active cases we are serving, which is a record breaker for Project Cariño! Last year we had 16 cases by this time, and the average number of cases throughout the years is 15. With more than 500 students enrolled at MCS at any given time, we both keep pretty busy!

We are excited for this school year, and especially happy to fall back into relationship with our colleagues both at McCurdy Ministries and McCurdy Charter, working collaboratively and helping our community toward successful outcomes.

Amanda Trujillo-Gonzales,
Project Cariño Director



Project Cariño angel and planter were newly rebuilt by a VIM team from Boston Ave UMC, Tulsa.

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:"
Ecclesiastes 3:1

Public/Private Partnership Update on Campus Renewal

I continue to be amazed at the ways God is working to bring the redevelopment of McCurdy Ministries Community Center campus to fruition. Every time we have a setback a new creative solution comes to the forefront that brings us a step closer to making these plans a reality!

Work continues on securing the funds to remediate the asbestos, lead paint and mold in Hovermale, Herrick, Blake, Library Annex, the old kindergarten and Bachman. In 2023, \$185,000 of remediation funding has been allocated by the New Mexico Environment Department and New Mexico State Capital Outlay funds have been allocated by Sen. Jaramillo and Rep. Herrera for demolition of all the buildings except Bachman which will be rehabbed into our new Retreat Center during Phase 1 construction. I am currently working on raising an additional \$300,000 to \$400,000 so that we will be able to complete the demolition of these buildings during the summer of 2023. This will be a great benefit to the annual McCurdy budget picture because we will no longer have to insure buildings that cannot be used and the number of buildings that rely on our steam plant will be reduced thus lowering our utility costs. Please note before demolition occurs some programming that occurs in Hovermale will be moved to Cole Building until Phase 1 construction is complete.

Last spring we applied for Congressionally Directed spending through Sen. Ben Ray Lujan's office. We have been notified by Sen. Lujan's office that a grant of \$1,050,000 has been approved by the Senate Finance Committee and included



*Diana Loomis,
Partnership Director*

in the 2023 Federal Budget. The final step is now the approval of the 2023 federal budget so we ask your prayers that the Federal Budget is approved by congress with this grant included! The grant is intended to increase the purchase price McCurdy receives for selling our northern 10 acres to Homewise and decrease the amount that Homewise pays for the land. The result is that the cost of developing of affordable houses for purchase by community members will be greatly reduced and the funds from the sale of the land will be used to help fund Phase 1 construction.

We also received a planning grant from Anchorum-St. Vincent to help fund the Public/Private Partnership Director position during the 2022–23 fiscal year. Anchorum has expressed an interest in becoming a major partner with McCurdy and has become an active member of our Public/Private Partnership.

Our plan was for Homewise and McCurdy to jointly submit the revised McCurdy Campus Master Plan to the Española Planning Commission in October. We presented this plan to the commission in July, but due to the recent tragic death of Muhammad Hussein, Española City Director of Planning, we anticipate the approval may be delayed. Please keep Mr. Hussein's family in your prayers as they grieve his death.

To view our revised Campus Master Plan and learn more about the "Live, Work, Educate, Recreate Planned Community" McCurdy is developing please go to our website at:

<https://mccurdy.org/liveworkeducatecreateplannedcommunity/>

With hope!

*Diana Loomis,
McCurdy Public/Private Partnership Director*

Sarah Allen Completes EarthKeepers Training

Global Ministries EarthKeepers is a program to train and support United Methodist laity and clergy to address local environmental concerns and the systemic structures that give rise to those concerns. Pastor Sarah Allen, Director of Development and Church Relations for McCurdy Ministries has completed the EarthKeepers Training in 2022.

During their training, the EarthKeepers discussed eco-theology and United Methodist entry points into environmental stewardship. They articulated their senses of calling to this ministry, identified community assets and local environmental concerns, and developed project plans to address those concerns. The training was led by staff from Global Ministries, with resources from other United Methodist agencies.

Global Ministries will commission this cohort of EarthKeepers in an online commissioning service on Tuesday, Sept. 27 at 8 p.m. ET.

Posted in the New Mexico Annual Conference News September 6–12, 2022 Issue

If you currently don't have someone from your church or conference involved with this United Methodist Global Ministries program, please consider it. It is a very worthwhile program to



Sarah Allen enjoying nearby Ghost Ranch.

both enhance the well-being of your church and property as well as your community. <https://umcmmission.org/earthkeepers/>

Earthkeepers Program Requirements:

- Membership or active participation in a United Methodist Church in the United States
- Support from a conference-level leader
- Interest in or experience with environmental issues
- A specific project idea to be developed during the training
- Commitment to participate in the entire training
- Curiosity about environmental justice and anti-racism
- Positive attitude about learning online
- Minimum internet bandwidth of 600 kbps
- Webcam, microphone, and speaker
- Age 13+



Pre K First Day of School picture taking background

Our NM Pre-K Started up the Fall Season refreshed, Ready for a Great Year

As we prepared to welcome 18 beautiful new children into our program this Fall, we had the pleasure of having a volunteer team from the Church of the Messiah in Westerville, Ohio, come in and help with some classroom set-up.

Ms. Nancy and her team of friends were very helpful, not only did they copy and prepare all the consumable books for the children, but they also washed and sanitized all our floormats; they are sparkling! We are especially grateful for the beautiful backdrop they created for us to use for the children to take their first day of school pictures.

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” Galatians 6:9 NIV

Look Back in History:**A Time for Change**

The following is an excerpt from a manuscript created by Virginia Frank McQuiston who had been on the faculty and the librarian at McCurdy Schools of Northern New Mexico from 1960 through 1967. She is generously in the process of donating "Fellow Workers For God, The Story of the New Mexico Mission Schools Of the Evangelical United Brethren Church 1912-1967" to McCurdy Ministries Community Center. This information is from the years 1918-1920 in a chapter entitled "A Time For Change."

Miss Kendig, after stopping at Dayton to make plans for the future, returned to Santa Cruz, bringing with her Miss Ruth Smith. A number of last minute changes were put into effect and on September 9, 1918 school was opened for fifteen pupils. Miss Kendig taught the upper grades and was kitchen supervisor. Twelve girls lived in the boarding school during the year.⁽³⁵⁾ The boys were boarding at the school in Velarde as a result of decisions made in Dayton. Many more community people were beginning to come to the school and things in general were beginning to look encouraging.⁽³⁶⁾

The tasks related to boarding the boys in Velarde seemed nearly impossible as the teachers made preparations. The Luckeys had left the mission, but Miss Bertha Wolheiter had come to serve in their place. Life was anything but dull and routine for these workers with thirteen boys living in the home, helping with the laundry and dishes and often singing Spanish songs and hymns while they worked.

Before the year was over, the flu epidemic hit the schools causing Velarde to close and the boys to be sent home. The workers came to McCurdy to help at the "young hospital".⁽³⁸⁾ After the epidemic subsided, the schools were reopened and classes reconvened.

After a year of boarding the boys at Velarde and the girls at Santa Cruz, it was decided that this was not as good an arrangement as had been hoped. During the year two of the boys had become ill, and a doctor had to be called from twenty miles away. This and other circumstances caused the workers to consider carefully other possibilities. After much prayer it was decided to move the boys to McCurdy School and build a new large dormitory for the girls and teachers and to enlarge the first mission building to house the boys, the pastor and his family⁽³⁸⁾ "And what a victory that was. Surely God was leading."⁽³⁹⁾

Plans for a new dormitory were drawn up by the Board of Missions and the contract given to Mr. Anderson of Colorado Springs. How the staff and students enjoyed the thrilling moments of watching the new building going up and knowing that the mission was growing!

During the winter of 1919-1920 Miss Smith took sick and had to be in bed for several weeks so Rev. and Mrs. W.E. Dye, in addition to the work as pastor and dorm matron, also had to help with the school work.⁽⁴⁰⁾

Many students could not pay the \$50 needed for the boarding students' tuition,

so they would work at twenty cents an hour during the school year and into the summer to help pay their way. Often the parents would bring a load of produce to be applied on their tuition payment.⁽⁴¹⁾

At the end of that year Manuelita Martinez graduated from the eighth grade.⁽⁴²⁾ Manuelita was one of the first students to enter the boarding school, and the teachers were very proud of her accomplishment. During the commencement exercises, a playlet entitled "Sleeping Beauty" was presented by the students.⁽⁴³⁾

Several years previous to her graduation, Manuelita had written an article for the Women's Evangel entitled "Thankful for the Mission School."

"It would have been very impossible for me to learn anything if it hadn't been for the mission. My mother died when I was eight years old, so I have no one to teach me but the mission teachers.

"I live about three miles away from the school and about eight miles away from a Protestant church. When I went to the missions, I couldn't talk but a little bit of English. I learn to read my Bible and pray to God every day... "

"... I learn to love each other and many more things in the Home. When I finish my education, I will give God back the very best I have to give, and even now I am ready to do what he wants me to do. I am so glad to know all these things..."

"I was eleven years old when I went to the mission at Velarde; I stayed there eight months. That was my first school I went to. ...I surely love all my teachers, and I know they are good to me."

"...I want to be a teacher after I have finished my education. We live very far from people. Oh, how I wish we could have a church here!"⁽⁴⁴⁾

³⁵ Our Work in New Mexico. P.15.

³⁶ Edith McCurdy Mission. p.7.

³⁷ Letter from Mrs. Lillian Kendig Cole to Rev. Richard C. Campbell.

³⁸ Letter from Miss Mary E. Brawer to Miss Virginia Frank.

³⁹ Edith McCurdy Mission. p.9

⁴⁰ Letter from Mrs. Lillian Kendig Cole to Rev. Richard C. Campbell.

⁴¹ Edith McCurdy Mission. p. 9

⁴² Interview: J.M. Martinez with Miss Virginia Frank. -19-

⁴³ Sources present an unresolved conflict of information. Mrs. Kendig Cole, in the article "Three Great Days at Edith Mrs. Cole list these two graduating in 1921 but lists Leona Johnson and Margaret Elsworth as members of the 1920 eighth grade class and also receiving diplomas. Mrs. Victoria Cruz and Mr. J.M. Martinez, who were in school at the same time, remember only Manuelita Martinez graduating in 1920 as the first eighth grade graduate.

⁴⁴ Manuelita Martinez, "Thankful For the Mission School," Women's Evangel, XXXVI (November, 1917) no page given.

Celebrate McCurdy's 110th anniversary!

Plan to attend the McCurdy Fiesta, Saturday, October 29, 2022. Activities include:

- View new film about McCurdy
- Antique car show
- Volunteers dressed in period costumes
- Games on the lawn
- "Trunk or Treat" for the kids
- Silent Auction
- Bounce obstacle course
- Alumni events
- Cookie Decorating
- Special anniversary celebration presentation
- Dessert for all
- ...and more!

2022 McCurdy Fiesta

"The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." Matthew 9:38 NIV