

Love in action = charity and kindness

Good News from our programs

New Mexico Pre-K
Sandra Trujillo Director

In this month's newsletter, we were asked to share when we observed kindness and appreciation being demonstrated or observed. As part of our daily curriculum, these are areas that we focus on and help the children develop. This is all part of positive character and self regulation. These are traits that can be used in their daily lives. Being kind is a skill that we can practice just like math, or reading. It starts by helping our children recognize when a friend or family member is upset or needs help. Then, we can encourage kind behavior by suggesting ways to show compassion and help someone feel better.



Example #1

We recently had a child at school who

has been absent for several days, due to family illness, and grandparents being in a car accident. Upon returning to school the child was shy and apprehensive to engage with peers.

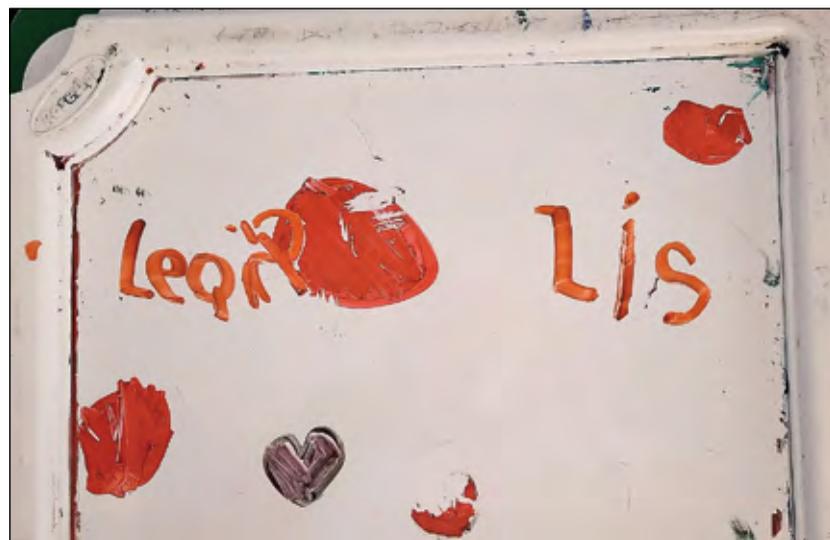
Another child recognized this and quickly went to greet, told him that he had been missed and drew him a picture, and said, "I'm so glad you're back." "We missed you. would you like to play with us?"

Example #2

Every day at dismissal, we have a child who before he leaves home for the day, will make it

a point to go to each teacher and tell them, "bye and thank you, I'll see you tomorrow."

Please, let's encourage our children to learn to be kind by pointing out when someone is kind to you and your family, and encouraging your child to explore all the ways we can be nice to others.



A child drew the picture above for her friend to show that she was happy to have him back at school.



2013-14 Buddy Field Trip to Ghost Ranch in Abiquiu, NM



Matilda Fernandez, MSW Intern

Good News for Our Students

Submitted by **Amanda Trujillo-Gonzales, Director of Project Cariño**

This spring semester has brought good news to Project Cariño, McCurdy Ministries Community Center and McCurdy Charter School! New Mexico Highlands University has announced the placement of a master-level student intern who is interested in continuing this practicum placement for three semesters!

Matilda Fernandez, MSW Student Intern, was born and raised in the Espanola Valley and decided to continue her studies at NM Highlands University after graduating from Northern NM College with an Associate's Degree. Matilda, like so many of us in northern NM, overcame several challenges as a child and young adult which helped her realize she wanted a career in the helping professions so that she, in turn, can help others facing similar struggles.

Through her studies and in-depth exposure to current social issues, Matilda has become more aware of the high importance of giving back to her community and helping others who are in need. While she has experience working with adults experiencing mental health and substance abuse issues, Matilda has chosen to focus on supporting children and youth this year through her internship at Project Cariño. Not only will it broaden her knowledge and work experience, but she will have opportunity to make a difference in these

young lives and maybe change the trajectory of their life experiences and outcomes.

As such, we are excited to announce that Matilda will focus on coordinating our Buddy Mentorship Program in collaboration with administration, staff and parents at McCurdy Charter School! She'll start the program from the ground up because it's been several years since we have offered the program due to the COVID pandemic. This semester Matilda will introduce students to the program and recruit high school students (Big Buddies) interested in becoming mentors for elementary students (Little Buddies). She'll accept applications from potential Bigs and referrals for potential Littles from teachers and parents, conduct interviews, and match dyads based on similar interests and experiences. Also, this semester, Matilda will guide Bigs through Safe Sanctuary Training and in developing mentorship skills so that Buddy visits can begin early in the fall 2023 semester.

With the three semesters Matilda will be onboard at Project Cariño, she can offer an extra semester of visits for the Buddies, longer than ever before, which will help the dyads become stronger and more effective! We're so excited to have the Buddy Program back online, and we know MCS students will be just as, if not more, excited since this has historically been a favorite among students going back to the '80s.

In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:16 NIV



Teacher LB Seeno recently shared this picture of her school's Kindness Activity on Facebook

Kindness 101

featuring videos from Steve Hartman

For years I have been watching the CBS segments "On the Road" (with Methodist) Steve Hartman. Teachers across the country have been using his segments in class. Many teachers even develop curriculum around the stories. Some teachers show the stories once a week in their classrooms, others every day during special times a year.

An "On the Road for Educators" group was started to connect this community. It is now available on Facebook at the link at the end of this article and in a few short weeks has had more than 45,000 teachers, families, and caregivers being part of "Kindness 101," named after Steve's series with his kids using the stories to teach lessons about character, compassion, and more. There are wonderful crafts, videos and other

lessons based on this common theme that are available for free as well as a catalog of all Steve Harman videos, which often seem to be modern day parables. I thought it would be a wonderful resource for Sunday School teachers, Youth groups and any who are caring for children. We are starting to incorporate some of the ideas shown here at McCurdy Ministries. The site says it is for teachers but they interpret that as anyone who cares for children. The site appears to have strict controls so I have never noticed anything that was not appropriate. I hope this may be a good resource for you. Kindness is contagious.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/kindness101?tag=YHF4eb9d17>

Our Volunteer Season is Starting in Just a Few Weeks

Thank you for all our Dorm Host Volunteers who are providing coverage at the Pilling Dorm for the entire Volunteer season. We still have space for several more teams. Contact Eufemia Romero, our VIM registrar to find out what dates are available at 505-753-7221 or eromero@mccurdy.org.

Random Acts of Kindness Day is February 17.

Surprise someone by doing an unexpected and kind act for someone on this day.

Free Lenten Study on Zoom

Ash Wednesday is February 22, beginning the season of Lent. On Sunday, February 26 at 4 PM Mountain, 5 PM Central, 6 PM Eastern and 3 PM Pacific we will gather together as we will begin our first Zoom Lenten book study based on Adam Hamilton's: Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts and Outlaws. If you are interested, please email Pastor Sarah Allen at sallen@mccurdy.org to register for the free zoom link and handouts. The book is helpful and is available at Cokesbury for \$11.49. Call if you need any more information or help 928-691-6471. The class is 5 weeks long starting on Feb 26 and ending on March 26.

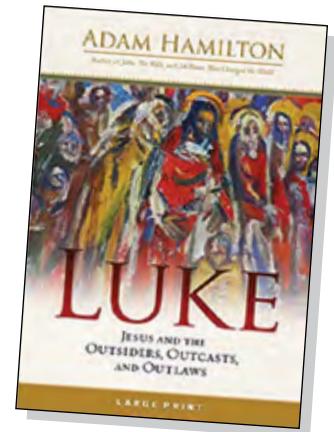
The New Mexico Annual Conference is providing a Certified Lay Minister and Advanced Lay Servant Continuing Education Certificate for those who attend all five classes.



From Birth to Resurrection in the Gospel of Luke

Jesus came to lift up the lowly. Throughout his ministry to his final days on the road to the cross, we find stories of his relationships with ordinary, flawed, and unexpected people. He met, dined, and traveled with people who were not perfect. Many of them were struggling, some were outsiders or even outlaws. Whoever they were, from those he healed to the outlaws with him at his crucifixion, Jesus brought the good news of God's kingdom to those who most needed to hear it.

In *Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws*, pastor and best-selling author Adam Hamilton explores the life, teachings, death, and resurrection of Jesus as told in the Gospel of Luke. Through Luke's stories we find Jesus' care and compassion for all as he welcomes sinners and outcasts. As we study Luke and see Jesus' concern for those who were considered unimportant, we hear a hopeful and inspiring word for our lives today. Join us on our ZOOM Lenten study on Sunday afternoon/evening from Feb. 26 until March 26. Email Pastor Sarah Allen sallen@mccurdy.org for the Zoom link and handouts.



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 craft 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

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.

“What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.” James 2:14–17 NIV



Patricia A. Alvarado,
MMCC Executive Director

Notes from the MMCC executive director

I would like to share with you a message that was sent to me at a time when I had experienced the loss of my mother.

*The trees of the LORD are full of sap,
The cedars of Lebanon which He planted,
Psalm 104:16 NKJV*

Reflection: Without sap the tree cannot flourish or even exist. Vitality is essential to a Christian. There must be life—a vital principle infused into us by God the Holy Ghost, or we cannot be trees of the Lord. The mere name of being a Christian is but a dead thing, we must be filled with the spirit of divine life.

This life is mysterious. We do not understand the circulation of the sap, by what force it rises, and by what power it descends again. So, the life within us

is a sacred mystery. Regeneration is wrought by the Holy Ghost entering into man and becoming man's life; and this divine life in a believer afterwards feeds upon the flesh and blood of Christ and is thus sustained by divine food, but whence it cometh and whither it goeth who shall explain to us?

What a secret thing the sap is! The roots go searching through the soil with their little spongioles, but we cannot see them suck out the various gases, or transmute the mineral into the vegetable; this work is done down in the dark. Our root is Christ Jesus, and our life is hid in Him; this is the secret of the Lord. The radix of the Christian life is as secret as the life itself. How permanently active is the sap in the cedar! In the Christian the divine life is always full of energy—not always in fruit-bearing, but in inward operations.

The believer's graces; are not every one of them in constant motion? But his life never ceases to palpitate within. He is not always working for God, but his heart is always living upon Him. As the sap manifests itself in producing the foliage and fruit of the tree, so with a truly healthy Christian, his grace is externally manifested in his walk and conversation. If you talk with him, he cannot help speaking about Jesus. If you notice his actions, you will see that he has been with Jesus. He has so much sap within, that it must fill his conduct and conversation with life."

This message helped me when my own vitality was seriously waning!

Public/Private Partnership Update

Years ago, when I served as a local church pastor and congregational redevelopment consultant, I learned the truth of the maxim, "Everything takes longer than you think it will!" As my work as the Public/Private Partnership Director continues into its second year, I have been reminded of that lesson many times. On the road to redeveloping and right sizing our campus for the 21st century and beyond, we have experienced some potholes that have slowed our progress down, but as Ms. Alvarado always says, "God's timing, Diana! God's timing!" With the dawn of the New Year we have worked out the resolution to several issues that have slowed down our progress and have received some amazing news as well.

First, due to Sen. Ben Ray Lujan's hard work, with the approval of the 2023 Federal Budget McCurdy Ministries Community Center (MMCC) will receive a \$1,050,000 HUD grant in 2023. (See the federal grant article above for more information.) Then in January, the EPA contacted McCurdy to discuss McCurdy's EPA grant application to help fund the remediation of lead paint and asbestos and demolition of six buildings on our campus that was not funded originally. EPA representatives told McCurdy that Española had been chosen by EPA Region 6 as THE special project for the region which they indicated could mean more federal resources for our project. The last week in January, McCurdy, EPA Region 6 and the New Mexico Environment Department will be meeting to discover ways to cooperate in furthering our project and the overall health of Española. The good news is that the EPA has already offered two technical assistance grants to McCurdy to help move our campus redevelopment along.

Third, McCurdy and Homewise will be approaching the City of Española soon to seek approval of our revised Campus Master Plan. Once approval is secured then McCurdy will apply for the USDA Community Facilities Grant/Loan Program which is a program that funds projects like the MMCC campus redevelopment with a 55% grant combined with a 45% loan interest loan. Conversations are also continuing with other government agencies, foundations and businesses that may mean great things for MMCC and Española. I encourage you to keep the redevelopment of our campus in your prayers.

With hope, **Rev. Diana Loomis**, McCurdy director of the public/private partnership



Diana Loomis,
Partnership Director

I also wanted to share this message with you ... Philippians 2: 5–11

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore, God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

This has been in our student handbook at McCurdy Mission School since 2000 when I was still fairly new as a principal, and our new guidance counselor, at the time, had brought it to my attention.

It has helped me throughout the past 20+ years and it has helped me remember all that Christ did for us and still humbled himself! So, in gratitude, I ask you to join me today, that whatever you do, think, or say, the rest of this month and the rest of this fairly New Year, it will be in humility and in praising The Father, the Son, and The Holy Spirit!

With renewed faith, vitality, and humility, we cannot help but flourish in God's gift of grace!

May God's blessings and grace continue to sustain you! **Patricia A. Alvarado, Executive Director**

McCurdy awarded new federal grant

With the passing of the 2023 Federal Budget McCurdy Ministries Community Center (MMCC) learned that a \$1,050,000 HUD Grant had been awarded to the "Live, Work, Educate and Recreate Planned Community" that McCurdy is developing in partnership with Homewise, a Santa Fe County nonprofit home developer. "We are very grateful to Sen. Ben Ray Lujan's office for inviting MMCC to apply for Congressionally Directed Spending and to Sen. Lujan for his tireless work in advocating for McCurdy and all New Mexico on the federal level," said Rev. Diana Loomis, McCurdy public/private partnership director.

McCurdy is partnering with Homewise, to develop the first new subdivision of homes on the northern part of the MMCC campus in Española in 30 years. The neighborhood will be affordable for purchase by teachers, nurses, government workers, law enforcement and middle-class citizens of the community. Up to 70 single family and townhomes with attached garages and yards will be built. A park and walking trails will be included in the community.

The grant will be used to increase the

amount MMCC receives for the sale of the land and decrease the amount that Homewise pays for the land which will reduce the cost of purchasing the new homes by interested parties. Homewise defines its mission saying, "We provide homebuyer education, individualized financial coaching, real estate services, and mortgage lending services to help New Mexicans achieve their dream of homeownership. Our mission is to help create successful homeowners and strengthen neighborhoods so that individuals and families can improve their long-term financial wellbeing and quality of life."

As a result of Sen. Lujan's support and the partnership with Homewise, MMCC will yield \$1,400,000 from the sale of the land which will be applied to redeveloping the McCurdy campus into a smaller, more energy efficient footprint. The building program will include right sizing McCurdy's operations into a new two-story program building, rehabilitating Bachman Hall into a new retreat center, moving and renewing the maintenance building and remediating and demolishing several empty buildings which are past their useful life.



Architectural rendering provided by FBT Architects depicts Bachman Hall updated into a new retreat center on the left and the new two-story program building on the right.

"As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead." James 2:26 NIV

From As I Remember:

The McCurdy School Clinic

McCurdy School—75 Years in Mission Published in House, October, 1987

by Dr. Samuel Ziegler (Describing when they came to McCurdy Schools in September, 1946)

The McCurdy School Clinic Building was really the first Mission Hospital preceding the Española Hospital by a little less than two years. Miss Moffatt was the McCurdy School nurse.

When I arrived with my family, there was no home available for us. We stayed with Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Pack at Ghost Ranch until living quarters could be arranged. As it worked out, Miss Moffatt had a room at the north end of the clinic building, and Mrs. Ziegler, our two boys, then three and four years of age, and I occupied a ward and a small sitting room at the south end of the building. We all shared the kitchen. The remaining rooms were used as hospital room, and there was one small room near the front entrance which was used for consultation and examinations.



The Clinic Building Hospital soon became a very busy place, filled with McCurdy students and patients from the community. It soon became necessary for us to move out of our bedroom into our small living room, as we needed the extra ward space for patients. Whereupon, both boys promptly developed severe cases of measles. The measles rash had hardly subsided before chicken pox appeared. Fortunately, these were lighter cases.

Word soon reached the surrounding areas that there was a physician at the clinic who was trained in surgery and modern obstetrics. Within a few weeks of our arrival at Santa Cruz, one night about 10:00p.m. there were footsteps outside our window and obvious sounds of someone in labor. Our obstetrical business grew rapidly, and we did the best we could with crude equipment, using ordinary beds as delivery tables and bassinets made from orange crates—a trick Mrs. Ziegler learned during the years serving in the Army.

How we longed for better equipment! In the early days of our experience at Santa Cruz, we were deeply involved with the design of the hospital and ordering its equipment, realizing arrival of equipment

would be some time hence. However, God answered our prayer for a delivery table in a strange and roundabout way. How they ever found out, I do not know, but one day the Sister Superior of the hospital in Gallup, New Mexico called me, out of the clear blue sky, and said they had a very useful delivery table which they were replacing and they would sell us their old one for \$5.00, if we would pick it up.

About 5:00 p.m. that same evening, Wayne Corbin, the School Principal and one of the McCurdy boys took off in the old McCurdy truck and headed for Gallup. The Sisters there had cleaned the table thoroughly and rubbed it down with antiseptic. At twelve midnight, a young lady arrived at the clinic in rather active labor. It was her first child, and we rather wished, of course, to have a real delivery table. Her labor progressed rather rapidly, with Mrs. Ziegler and I standing by. Mrs. Ziegler acted as mother to our children, nurse and anesthetist in those days and did a beautiful job. Two a.m. arrived and we were beginning to think about starting some light anesthesia when we hear the crunch of truck tires on the gravel of the drive outside. It was Wayne and his helper. In great excitement, we moved the heavy table into the area we had prepared for a delivery room.

The table was again wiped down with antiseptic. We then moved the mother onto the delivery table, and a beautiful baby arrived under a much safer and more comfortable situation. God had answered our prayers. This was really a thrilling episode in the early days of the development of the Española Hospital.

As a footnote, many deliveries took place in the Clinic Building before the first baby was born at the new hospital on May 28, 1948. It was a nine-pound boy born to Eloisa Martinez, on a bright, new and very modern delivery table. In spite of the handicaps we worked under at the clinic where approximately 130 babies were delivered, we did not lose one mother or baby at delivery. A fine start in the history of medical missionary work in the Española Valley.



After School Care Program Students Share Bits of Joy and Kindness

by Angela Ortiz, After School Care Program Manager

I wanted to share with you some of the acts of Joy and Kindness shared or witnessed in our classroom.

Azariah and Shane's family bought an Oreo cake to celebrate Christmas in a personal way. They prayed and celebrated Jesus' birthday. They sang Happy Birthday Day to Jesus. "Then they blew kisses to Jesus and sent him balloons up high." For New Year's Eve she took her Jesus doll to church and they sang Jesus songs.

Brianna went to church with her family and prayed to Jesus for the New Year. At her church they were singing "Jesus Loves Me."

The month of January the children learned about The Three Wise Men. January 6 was a special day when we celebrated the three kings traveling from long distances to worship at the feet of the baby Jesus. The Three Kings Day is considered the end of celebration of Christmas. Marileya, said: "the three kings followed the star to Bethlehem, bearing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh and they gave these gifts to baby Jesus on this day. The Kings knew he was special."

Alexa shared how kind The Three Wise Men were to baby Jesus. Azariah and her brother Shane shared the act of kindness

they did with their mother, Amanda. Azariah said they had gone to the local Super Walmart shopping with her mom at night when a young man approached them asking for food. The man said that he and his brother were hungry. Azariah said the men just wanted something to eat. So the mother had given the two men two of everything: two oranges, two bananas, a loaf of bread, ham, and two drinks. The two men replied, "thank you so much."

When I shared with Azariah's mother, that Azariah had told the classroom the story of sharing food with the two homeless men, she replied it was a true story. Azariah and her brother Shane now want to do a packet filled with good things for the homeless sometime this coming month.

Cruzito shared how he saw this homeless man in Albuquerque. He had a dollar in his pocket and he gave it to him. It's so amazing to see the children share their special kindness stories. Cruzito's mother, said she was so proud of Cruzito for helping the homeless man. The children are proud to help someone else.

Colten and Justin hold the door for the After School Care children. They make sure that their backpacks with wheels don't get stuck on the door. They are incredible helpers. Kindness matters.

**"So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you,
for this sums up the Law and the Prophets." Matthew 7:12 NIV**