

# 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

June 2023



## Successful Pre-K Site Visit

The annual FOCUS 4-Star Verification site visit took place on May 1, 2023.

We received the notice of Star-level 4 on May 18, 2023.

We thank Ms. Sandra Trujillo, Ms. Jennifer Gutierrez, and Ms. Theresa Romero for the work they put in this year to ensure the criteria for FOCUS 4-Star continued to be met in our program.

The notice of Star 4-Level verification was also shared with NM CYFD Licensing Unit.

## Major Pre-K Grant Award

We are pleased to announce that The Early Childhood Education and Care Department (ECECD) has informed us that our Grant Application to provide New Mexico Prekindergarten (Pre-K) program services has been approved as set forth in a letter dated June 9, 2023.

New Mexico Pre-K is a core program of ECECD and is a critical part of the early childhood education and care system. Pursuant to NMSA 1978, § 9-29-8(B), ECECD is mandated to “coordinate and align an early childhood education and care system to: (1) include child care, pre-kindergarten, early pre-kindergarten, home visitation, early head start, head start, early childhood special education and early intervention and family support; and (2) provide New Mexico families with consistent access to appropriate care and education services.”

The letter further stated that our role as a NM Pre-K provider is critical toward ensuring ECECD fulfills this mandate. New Mexico Pre-K Grant Award Information: The Pre-K grant award for McCurdy Schools of Northern NM Pre-K is for 20 Extended Pre-K Slots for 1080 Pre-K instructional hours as set forth in the contract we have signed.

We invite families to contact Denise London, business manager at McCurdy Schools of Northern NM by calling 505-753-7221, ext. 264 for more information and for the registration/enrollment packet. PLEASE NOTE that no fee will be charged for participation in the program. We run a 4-year old Pre-K program and as such, students must be 4 years old by September 1, 2023. No exceptions can be made. As of June 13, 2023, there are 11 slots available.

# Congratulations!

## Pre-K Graduates!

On May 27, 2023, McCurdy Schools of Northern NM held their 3rd parent event of the year, where we celebrated the 18 four-year old graduates of McCurdy Pre-K. We had over 100 family members participating and celebrating their children/grandchildren as they very successfully met all criteria for the New Mexico Early Childhood Education and Care Department (ECECD) for 4-year old children to successfully complete the program and ensuring that they are ready for Kindergarten.

The ceremony was held in the beautiful and beloved McCracken Gymnasium where the children welcomed their parents and family members, and were able to share with their families what they learned this year.

Refreshments were given out at the end of the program and families

expressed their appreciation and gratitude for the work the staff did in guiding the children, helping them develop and meet the criteria for an amazing beginning to their school careers.

Our appreciation and gratitude are given to our staff for their caring, nurturing, and commitment to our children.



**“The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.” Lamentations 3:22–23**



Patricia A. Alvarado,  
MMCC Executive Director

# Notes from the MMCC executive director

*“For everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.” Ecclesiastes 3:1*

Today I share that, after much prayer and discernment, I have submitted my letter of retirement and; therefore, resignation as Executive Director of McCurdy Schools of Northern NM/McCurdy Ministries Community Center. After almost 32 years (1989-2023) of being blessed to be a part of this faith community/family, I have found myself contemplating on the scripture verse I just shared. Words cannot express my gratitude for the opportunity to have been a part of McCurdy’s mission for so many years and for the support shown to me during all this time. Hired as a teacher in Middle School and then moving on to High

School Principal, all the while raising my children as a single mother, and watching them flourish; being a part of other children’s lives; and being a part of the staff and community collaboration that has transpired over my 30+ years at McCurdy has blessed me in ways too many to enumerate!

In 2010, I returned, after about 3 years from having left to direct a community-based Early Childhood home visiting program. As superintendent, at that point; and then; in 2012 as McCurdy School, the Mission, closed and made it possible for McCurdy Charter School to open its operations on our campus, becoming the executive director for McCurdy Ministries, I have experienced “...for everything, there is a season...”

At each juncture and each transition, there was never doubt in my mind that My Father was in control, and yet, as our human nature sometimes overwhelms us, I did struggle with thoughts that I was not doing enough or good enough to further His purpose and vision for those with whom He allowed me to be involved. The many people that He sent my way to help guide my own children, my work, and my leadership: co-teachers; administrators, board members, active and involved parents; community agency partners, and family; were my gifts from Him that provided strength and the “village that it takes to raise a child!”

I want to share with you some passages in the Bible that have sustained me and helped reaffirm that my strength only comes through God’s grace! And that is true whether we speak of one’s individual strengths or a mission in service such as McCurdy. Our individual strengths complement each other and only through God’s grace and the gifts of the Spirit are we able to come together as a cohesive team in serving Our Father and doing so for His glory and honor!

It is in recognizing and acknowledging these important messages of God’s unconditional love that we can and will thrive, not only strive! As we acknowledge, we become grateful; and as we become grateful, we become **resilient** in His loving care and guidance!

## From Philippians 4:13:

I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

As we become resilient, we are more apt to be at peace with circumstances that surround us, especially where we have no control over someone else’s decisions. And our **strength** will lead to resolve.

## From John 16:33:

I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

As we experience our faith with **peace** in our hearts, we come to trust Our Father that His plans and His timing are what is important; not our plans and our timing. So then, in all things, we come to Him in supplication and offering our labor and our love in all we do. And our labor will lead to hope.

## From Jeremiah 29:11:

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

When we can reach this state of peace and sustain it in our hearts, we will be able to joyfully face any obstacles with **hope**.

## From Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in **hope**.

## From Romans 8:31

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

In any decision, we weigh the pros and cons. We do our due diligence in determining the purpose for our even considering our decision on any matter. What is our motive? Is it for self-fulfillment, for illuminating a light on our own accomplishments or is it truly fulfillment of God’s plan? And if it truly is **for God’s purpose**, then I invite you to remember that “...if God is for us, who can be against us?”

## From Joshua 24:15:

But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.

## From Psalm 28:7

“The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him.”

As I reflect on my years of being blessed to be a part of God’s plan for McCurdy, I lift you all in prayer that you will continue to support; in prayer and resources, God’s plan for McCurdy Ministries Community Center! I pray for **your hope** in His plan and **your joy** and **your peace** as you continue to be the hands and feet that will continue to lift and support the children, youth, and families of the Española Valley!

And with this, I say “Adios” and remind you that in Spanish: “Adios quiere decir, Vaya usted con Dios!”(Adios means **YOU** go with God) “Mi corazon se alegra, contigo voy señor!”(My heart is happy because **I go with God!**)

Patricia A. Alvarado,  
Executive Director

## A Farewell in the Deepest of Gratitude

While there are many issues that come before the McCurdy Ministries Board of Trustees, among the most critical are those centering on our staff. When we received the gracious letter of retirement from Ms. Alvarado, her words instantly evoked intense emotions and deep gratitude. How can one possibly offer sufficient expressions of gratefulness for the many ways in which she has touched the lives of so many across the decades of her loving, generous service? She truly is a conveyor of grace and hope, a builder of strength and vitality, a channel of wisdom and trust, a genuine disciple of Jesus Christ with ultimate faith in God’s presence, love, timing and possibilities.

While it is an audacious undertaking, I use this opportunity to express gratitude to Patsy on behalf of so many for the multitude of ways in which she has blessed us—boards, staff, faculty, students and families, alums, community service colleagues, educators and officials at a variety of levels, friends—and the list could continue. Hearing the name Ms. Patsy Alvarado anywhere around Española and the Valley brings a smile of recognition, warmth and appreciation. Then expand that to those across the country who have come to the McCurdy campus as volunteers to serve through the

ministries of the mission school and more recently the community center.

Patsy would be the first to step aside from accolades, but I feel certain she would sense the recognition of God’s presence and guidance through her decades at McCurdy. So, thank you, God, for the blessings that have come through your servant, Patsy, who has brought learning, joy, hope, possibilities, faith, strength, stability, vision and so much more to those of us who have been blessed by her presence.

In the transition ahead, we truly wish her Godspeed, a genuine and grateful farewell from our hearts.

**Sanford Coon**  
President of the Board of Trustees  
McCurdy Ministries Community Center



### Want to send a note of appreciation to Ms. Alvarado?

You are invited to send your expressions and remembrances to Ms. Alvarado with cards, notes and video messages as she completes her tenure at McCurdy. Address them to her at 362A South McCurdy Road, Española, NM 87532 or send a brief video. Contact Eufemia Romero at [eromero@mccurdy.org](mailto:eromero@mccurdy.org) for instructions regarding videos that will be assembled together as a remembrance for her. Please target July 15 for arrival.

**“Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!”**  
Psalm 27:14

# Plans moving forward for our “Live, Work, Educate, Recreate Planned Community” on campus

Dear Friends,

The good news is growing in getting the redevelopment of the McCurdy campus started! First, we owe thanks to Sen. Ben Ray Lujan for securing a \$1,050,000 HUD affordable housing grant for 2023 to reduce the amount that Homewise, a nonprofit home developer, will pay for McCurdy’s northern 10 acres and increase the amount we receive to \$1,400,000. In addition, for 2024 we have been informed that a \$1,500,000 grant to the USDA Community Facilities Program on McCurdy’s behalf is a priority for the senator so now we are praying that the Senate Appropriations Committee agrees with Sen. Lujan and our project makes it into the 2024 Federal Budget! Please consider adding this grant to your prayer list! These funds will be applied to the construction of the new program building and the rehab of Bachman into a new retreat center.



*Diana Loomis,  
Partnership Director*

At the beginning of the year, President Biden issued an Executive Order to the Environmental Protection Agency, requiring each EPA Region in the United States to choose a rural community that has Brownfield, EPA Superfund Sites and Water Bureau Projects and bring all EPA resources, while coordinating all Federal resources, to bear on the community. Due to the work McCurdy has been doing with the EPA, Española has been chosen as the rural community for Region 6 and we are already seeing the fruits of this partnership. The EPA set up meetings for McCurdy with the NM Drinking Water State Revolving Fund and the Clean Water Revolving Fund which in cooperation with the City of Española can provide significant grants and funding for the redevelopment of McCurdy’s campus.

The first sign of major changes on the McCurdy campus will be remediation and demolition of seven buildings including Blake, Herrick, Library Annex, the elementary

school and several smaller buildings. These buildings are past their useful life and their removal will make the development of a right sized and energy efficient campus for McCurdy possible. Many, many thanks to the New Mexico Environment Department who granted \$186,000 to pay for the remediation of these buildings, to the Anchorum/St. Vincent Foundation who granted \$100,000 to pay for demolition, and to State Sen. Leo Jaramillo and State Representative Susan Herrera who allocated a \$200,000 Capital Outlay Grant for this project. At this point, the EPA is helping McCurdy secure the remaining funding to start the remediation and demolition of these funds. What a demonstration of “it takes a village!”

McCurdy has also been chosen to participate in a Brownfield Brightfield program which will help us develop a plan and secure funding to decommission the campus steam plant and install solar, wind, battery storage and energy efficiency systems that will greatly reduce the utilities McCurdy pays and create a smaller green footprint for our campus.

In June, I submitted a Lever for Change \$1,000,000 grant which will provide funds for new programs and capital updates to our campus. In 2024, 250 \$1,000,000 grants will be awarded to nonprofits like ours that have budgets between \$1,000,000 to \$5,000,000 and are doing racial, environmental and economic justice work. Feel free to add this grant to your prayer list as well!

The next step will be applying to the USDA Community Facilities grant/loan program in July and August. We are making progress and I very much appreciate your interest, prayers and support of this work!

*Blessings, Rev. Diana Loomis,  
Public/Private Partnership Director*

## Beginning Our New Beginning

First stages of Deconstruction to make room for additional programs and beautiful new buildings.

As you may know the oldest buildings at McCurdy are over 100 years old. We will be able to save and modernize several key buildings, such as the Chapel and Bachman Hall, but several others will need to come down because they are no longer safe spaces or cannot be modernized effectively.

To begin our progress, volunteers from four churches in Kansas, with specialized skills, took down an adobe garage across from the administration buildings. By removing the garage and realigning the fence, we are able to increase our parking for the Cole Building by 30 percent. This makes the Cole Building much more user friendly. Thanks for the great work, Kansas volunteers from the following Wichita District Churches: University UMC, Andover UMC, East Heights UMC, and First UMC Wichita!



*Students enjoy sharing their Jesus and Me artwork. Playtime during May After School Care.*

## After School Care Program Has Another Successful Year

We want to thank Ms. Angela Ortiz and Veronica Martinez for the great job they did in running the After School Care Program. Ms. Angela worked solo sometimes and received help from some long-term volunteers in the first half of the year until Ms. Veronica joined McCurdy in the second half of the school year. The children have certainly grown in their knowledge of and in relationship with Christ, thanks to their experiences in After School Care Program. We thank the staff for their dedication and commitment for the nurturing and caring they give the children. God’s blessings on the two of them!



**“But you, take courage! Do not let your hands be weak, for your work shall be rewarded.”  
2 Chronicles 15:7**

