

# 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.



Vol. 12, #3

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

May 2024

## Project Cariño News New Director, William 'Bill' Clapp!

We are thrilled to announce that Bill Clapp, a long time therapist and the interim Director of Project Cariño has agreed to officially be the new Director of Project Cariño. Bill has been serving as the Interim Director of Project Cariño this past year and has served our mental health counseling program for the past seven years. Bill is a licensed LPCC and licensed school psychologist. He has been serving in the field for 49 years



Bill Clapp,  
Project Cariño Director

and also has completed 190 hours of doctoral work. Bill has lived in Northern New Mexico for almost 40 years.

Bill's specialties include working with children and adolescents with a special focus on play therapy, marriage and family therapy, and substance abuse work. Bill has served in the Dallas County schools as school psychologist, the New Mexico maximum security penitentiary, the High Plains Co-Op in Raton, NM, and has worked as a contractor with the Albuquerque Psychological services and the Northern New Mexico schools.

Bill is married to Julieann, who is a clinical nurse. In his free time, he enjoys working on cars, painting, and writing. Bill shared that he likes to "share what I know" with future therapists and is currently mentoring Master level counseling students from Highlands University who are working with Project Cariño. Bill shared that, "I wanted to be the person that could have been there for me when I was a child."

See page 3 to read more of the impact this incredible ministry is having on the lives of the children it serves.

## McCurdy Welcomes Locker #505



At left, Robyn Simon and Kim Kerschen, Locker #505 Executive Director, in front of the new Locker #505 McCurdy location; RIGHT: Kim, Robyn, and Tiffany at the Locker #505 ABQ.



We are beyond excited to announce that Locker #505 will be opening a location on McCurdy Ministries campus in the building we lovingly call the Teacherage!! Locker #505 will be open to bless students with free clothing before school starts August 2024!

Locker #505 is an incredible nonprofit student clothing bank in Albuquerque that has served thousands of families for the past ten years. They help students 'shop' for clothing in a way that helps the students leave with a deep sense of their beloved-ness and value!

## Sending Blessings to Rev. Diana Loomis

"Making God's difference through McCurdy Ministries Community Center has been the highlight of my 45 years in ministry. I have loved being part of a team making such a wonderful difference for the children, youth and families of the Española Valley!" says Rev. Diana Loomis.

After 13 years, 10.5 as McCurdy's development director and 2.5 years as public/private partnership director, Rev. Loomis has submitted her resignation, effective April 30, due to health reasons. During her tenure, she oversaw the raising of \$9.2 million for McCurdy, including \$785,500 for the capital campaign. In addition, during her time as public/private director, she secured \$1.9 million of grant commitments for the McCurdy "Live, Work, Educate, Recreate Planned Community".

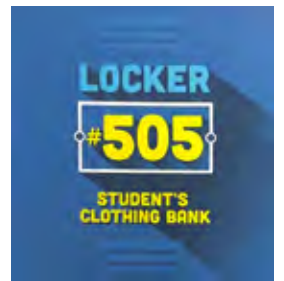


Rev. Diana Loomis,  
Partnership Director

We are now accepting donations of the items listed below:

### Items needed:

- Clothing all sizes for infant-adult 6xxl: shirts, pants, jeans, hoodies, shorts, skirts/dresses, pajamas, and coats
- New socks and underwear for children all sizes up to adult 6xxl
- New shoes or gently-loved shoes
- Games and Puzzles
- School supplies
- Toys, stuffed animals
- Plastic containers and storage items
- Books
- Toiletries
- Backpacks
- Shelving



You can help by sending items, donations, etc. to:

McCurdy Ministries  
ATTN: Locker 505 McCurdy  
362A S. McCurdy Rd.  
Española, NM 87532

Check out Locker #505 at  
<https://locker505.org/>

Loomis says that she is most proud of the trust and relationships she developed with donors and supporters across the country over the last 13 years. During her tenure, she spoke at five annual conferences, conducted spiritual retreats, devotionals and programs for countless local churches, districts, and conference UMWs, taught at two conference Mission U Schools, and preached at dozens and dozens of churches. She welcomed hundreds of McCurdy Volunteers in Mission in her home for chili con carne dinners. Diana reflects "I loved visiting with our donors, learning about their lives and faith, and updating them on the lifesaving difference McCurdy makes in the Española Valley. Over the last 13 years I, made deep friendships with many donors who have made a wonderful difference in my life!"

On the McCurdy campus, she taught a living history independent study to help six seniors create a pictorial and video history of McCurdy for the Centennial Celebration, created the Camp Stars summer camp concept, developed a community wide mid-week ministry concept called

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Train children in the right way, and when old, they will not stray.—Proverbs 22:6

New Revised Standard Version

# Albuquerque United Women in Faith service day

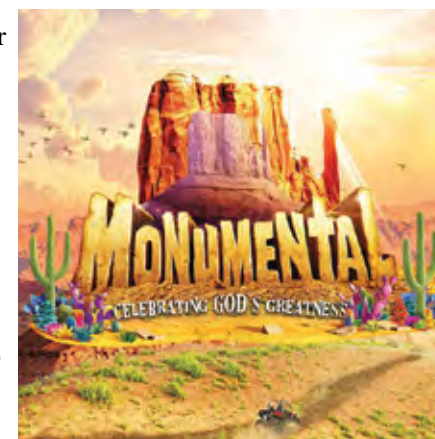
The United Women in Faith from Albuquerque, NM, came to serve at McCurdy on April 11th to help us to get ready for the McCurdy Ministries Estate Sale in May! They were busy washing science equipment and sorting costumes for our soon to come children and youth drama and art ministry! Other volunteers helped to move furniture from buildings on our campus to make room for new and exciting ministries, such as Locker #505, a Grandparents Raising Grandkids 'casita', and a Teen leadership Casita!



## Camp stars coming in July!!

It will be 'monumental'

Camp Stars is open for registration and will be July 8-12, July 15-19, and July 22-26 for elementary aged kids. We will be using supplies and curriculum which were graciously given last summer from churches and groups all over the country! Kids will learn and experience the monumental love of God and even create a play with kid-made costumes to share with their families the last day of camp. If you'd like to come and help and experience the fun of Monumental Camp, we would love to have you.



## After School is Putting on the Armor of God!!!

After School students used creativity and art to design their own "armor of God".

## Pre-K: Celebrating Easter

The Pre-K students celebrated Easter with a fun Easter egg hunt in the playground. The children have been working with the theme of "Growing and Changing and Spring!" and learning how living things and the environment change over time. Spring is a wonderful time to learn and to SEE how things come to life! As the children continue to learn and grow, they are also getting very excited about the Pre-K graduation coming in May. Soon, our students will be entering Kindergarten!

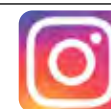
Pre-K students' Easter egg hunt



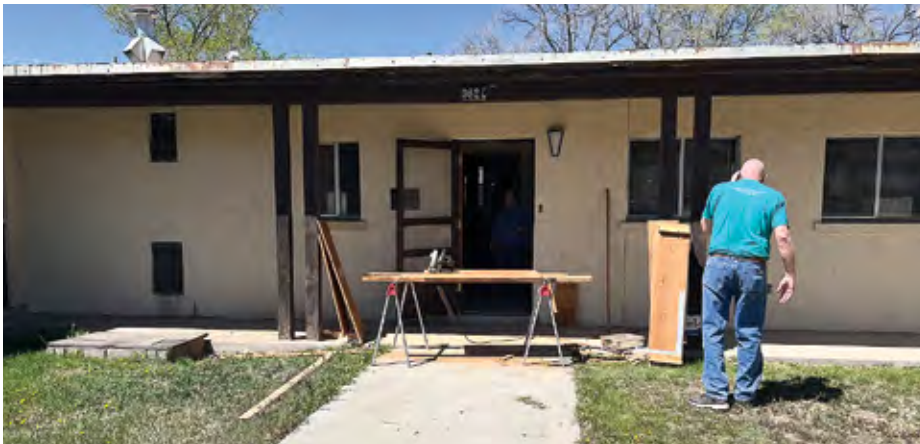
Follow McCurdy on social media... Exciting things are happening every day at MCCurdy



<https://www.facebook.com/mccurdyministries/>



Instagram: @mccurdyministries



Remodeling the Teacherage to welcome Locker #505

# McCurdy's incredible Volunteer in Mission Teams

## How you and your church help McCurdy

Currently, McCurdy staff and volunteers are working diligently to get the Teacherage ready for Locker #505 to open a new clothing bank, Locker #505 McCurdy, on our campus before school starts.

VIM team members from Calvary UMC and University UMC in Wichita, Kansas, worked to remodel closets and

install additional shelving for displaying shoes and clothing items.

Locker#505 McCurdy will begin taking referrals for children and youth for a special 'pop up' pilot event a few Saturdays before school begins in August 2024. If you are interested in volunteering or giving to Locker#505 McCurdy, please contact Tiffany at [thollums@mccurdy.org](mailto:thollums@mccurdy.org).

### Interested in Serving?

Bring Volunteers in Mission team...

Schedule a Service Day...

Serve as a Long Term Host

# Project Cariño brings hope and healing to children and their families

## Stories from Project Carino with Bill Clapp, the new Director of Project Carino

### Communicating Through Play

Late in their 4th grade year, a child was referred to Project Cariño because he had been constantly daydreaming and blocking out reality. He was isolating himself from others and no longer doing well on school work. Unfortunately, it was to the point where he couldn't or wouldn't focus on class work or real life. The one thing that seemed to bring joy to his life was Marvel superheroes. He even would create his own using tape and glue and crayons to bring them to life. He took to making special arm bands to wear claiming that they bestowed on him superpowers and force fields for protection. He was escaping daily into a dream world of his own making.

The therapist joined the student in his fantasies involving the Marvel Universe as he acted out his stories in the playroom. He was communicating through his play.

Bill shares, "Child play therapy is a way of being with the child that honors their unique developmental level and looks for ways of helping in the "language" of the child—play. Licensed mental health professionals therapeutically use play to help their clients, most often children ages three to 12 years, to better express themselves and resolve their problems. Play therapy works best when a safe relationship is created between the therapist and client, one in which the latter may freely and naturally express both what pleases and bothers them."

Slowly, our now 6th grader has learned to balance out his life and better handle some of his personal experiences. He is still very creative and imaginative, but now he has been able to work on his personal issues. He is getting along much better with fellow students and at home. By using play therapy, this student was able to blend reality with imagination and creativity to be able to reach deeply into his concerns and find help in a more balanced approach.

### Group Settings and Individual Counseling for Older Students with Anxiety

One day, a sophomore student was referred to Project Cariño in a crisis situation. He would go in cycles, it was related, and about every six months he would become suicidal, truly wishing he were dead. This was one of those times. He was a sensitive and introspective student and had been adopted earlier in his life.

After being seen individually for several months, his counselor felt he might benefit from a new small group that was being offered. It was specifically for teens aged 6th grade through 10th grade, dealing with issues of anxiety. For 8 weeks, the students met

and learned more about anxiety. Topics such as:

- What is anxiety?
- When is anxiety a good thing, reminding us what we need to do, and when is anxiety unproductive?
- Learning techniques on deep breathing and what to do when a panic attack comes.
- How to handle severe stress.

The counselor had the students draw their anxiety, give it a name, and speak to it, taking control of the situation instead of being controlled by it. It was explained that anxiety was like a spirit, it can protect you, so you can thank it for that role in your life. But there comes a point when it is too demanding, when you don't need it interfering in your life any longer and it is time to let it go.

Some students were not yet ready to let go of their feelings of anxiety after 8 weeks. They needed more time to come to terms with this part of their life. In this particular student's case, that was exactly where he was.

He continued coming to Project Cariño and returned after about six months very changed. He related that he was now managing his life much better and the feelings of depression and anxiety had resolved. He was blossoming and engaging others in his life. He reported he was happier, more relaxed, and enjoying life.

At Project Cariño, our counselors and student interns take time to know the children and teens that have been placed in their care. It takes time—they never know how long is needed—so they are patient and they are there for each one of them. At Project Cariño, there is time for each student because so many people help us make that gift available.



The Project Cariño angel

**Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!**  
**—2 Corinthians 5:17**



Terry Langehennig, a long term volunteer, replacing pillows

## McCurdy LOVES its volunteers

McCurdy Ministries is so blessed to have amazing volunteers, teams. UWF groups, churches, and long term volunteers who sacrificially give of their time, money, and service. Just this month, special 'angels' Sue McCuiston (Tyler, Tx), Terry and Alice Langehennig (Amarillo, Tx), and Jane Goding (Grand Island, Nebraska) blessed the dorm with 72 new pillows! We would love for you or your team to come and serve and sleep on our fluffy new pillows this summer! If you are interested in coming, please contact Eufemia at [eromero@mccurdy.org](mailto:eromero@mccurdy.org).

**RIGHT: Sue McCuiston, a long term dorm host, with new pillows for the dorm!!!**



## Eclipse at McCurdy

Good times seeing the eclipse with McCurdy volunteers

## How YOU can Help McCurdy Ministries Community Center

Your prayers, volunteer work, and donations have made it possible for *McCurdy Ministries Community Center* to make a significant difference in the lives of children, teenagers, and adults in the Espanola Valley who have survived through incredibly difficult times with minimal to no resources. We continue to create hope and empowerment through education, life skills, and faith-based programs in Española, New Mexico, as we have since 1912.

**PLEASE PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR MINISTRIES:**

*Personally donate and encourage your church to donate regularly to McCurdy.*

**Donate needed supplies for McCurdy Programs (Camp Stars, After School Care, or Project Cariño) directly on our Amazon Gift Registry.**

*Hold a Volunteers in Mission Event for a church program, dinner, or worship service and invite the McCurdy church relations team members to participate via Zoom.*

**Make a donation of cash, stocks, land, or an appreciated asset.**

*Donate a gift annuity to the ministries to earn income during your life and bless the ministries with a donation after your death. Gift annuities currently pay at a higher interest rate than CDs.*

**Remember McCurdy Ministries in your will and become part of the Mellie Perkins Society.**

*Set up an endowed financial aid account in the McCurdy Foundation which is held by the Texas United Methodist Foundation.*

**Donate to McCurdy through the UMC Global Ministries Advance #581479**

*And please remember to pray for McCurdy Ministries Community Center!*



To give to McCurdy, simply scan this QR code!



## Blessings to Rev. Diana Loomis

*Continued from page 1*

Wednesday Comunidad (which she still hopes will come to fruition), created a partnership with First UMC Los Alamos, which resulted in many Thanksgiving and Spring Festivals, and created a partnership with the NM Conference United Women of Faith to plan and hold several October Fests for the entire community. Diana oversaw the Gala, Centennial Celebration, 110 th Anniversary Celebration, and donor dinners. She was responsible for updating and expanding McCurdy communications efforts including the *McCurdy Message*, Facebook page, website, blast emails, and Volunteer Newsletter edited by Linda Polson. During the pandemic, she began publishing a weekly devotional sent out to 2,000+ volunteers, donors, and supporters to help share hope during a difficult time and created a digital Volunteer in Mission experience conducted through zoom meetings with local churches, mission teams, and United Women of Faith groups.

Diana was born in Oklahoma, raised in Albuquerque, and has always considered

Northern New Mexico her home. Her family owned a cabin in Angel Fire for 35 years. She first began spending time in the Española Valley when she was in elementary school. She loved traveling to Española during Christmas to see the Explorer Scouts line the streets and walls of the town with farolitos. She attended college in Missouri and, there felt the call to ministry in 1977. She received Masters of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees from Saint Paul School of Theology in Kansas City and served local churches in the Missouri Conference of the United Methodist Church from 1979 to 2011. During her ministry, she was a Global Ministries congregational redevelopment consultant and developed long range strategic planning, church growth, and nonprofit redevelopment skills which she employed across the country her entire ministry. In 2011, she retired from the Missouri Conference to move home to NM where her two brothers live and began work at McCurdy. In retirement, she continue to reside in Santa Fe.

***He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear the Lord and put their trust in him.—Psalm 40:3***