

# 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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*A faith-based Community Center ministry empowering children, youth, adults and families in the Española Valley to succeed in school and in life*

February 2018

## *Cole library starts a new life as a Community Room*



*View of the new Cole Community Room and the McCurdy Graduate Gallery*

When McCurdy Ministries Community Center staff was asking local nonprofits about community needs one issue came up again and again. Space for community meetings in Española is desperately needed. As MMCC began updating of the Cole Adult Ministries Center plans were made to turn the old library into a Community Room complete with conference tables, serving area, sink and audio visual equipment so the room could be used for social events, conferences, board meetings, classes, programs and worship.

Thanks to our many volunteers and maintenance staff updates to the room included removing a door, stucco repair, painting, repair of the carpet, installation of new energy efficient shades, building a window wall to create a History Gallery, installing a smart TV, audio equipment, a sink and serving area. The crowning touch was mounting decades of McCurdy alumni class photos around the room to create a wonderful homage to our history.

### **Thanks to your generosity 2018 Giving Tuesday breaks records**

On Nov. 28, 2017, the McCurdy Ministries Community Center (MMCC) donors broke our **Giving Tuesday 2017** record by raising \$71,050 from 128 donors across the United States. "We are deeply grateful to the anonymous donors who provided \$31,000 of match for **Giving Tuesday 2017**. Knowing that if you give a dollar it will be matched really motivates our supporters," says Rev. Diana Loomis, director of development/church relations. In 2016 we raised \$62,355 so McCurdy received an increase of \$8,695 in 2017. The first year MMCC participated in Giving Tuesday was 2013 and we raised \$31,524. This year we more than doubled that amount thanks to our very generous donors.

Next year Giving Tuesday will be on Nov. 27 and MMCC will be looking for donors to contribute match to help the 2018 campaign be even more successful than previous years. At this point our 2018 goal is to raise \$75,000.

The first event held in the room was the McCurdy Board Retreat in October followed by the Board Kickoff of the Creating Hope, Empowering Lives Capital Campaign. Other events held in the room include a Christmas Open House for staff and community, the McCurdy Pre-K Holiday Program, staff meetings, a memorial service for long time McCurdy volunteer and supporter, David Milhouse, and a

Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration for the entire community. "We are so pleased with how the Community Room turned out and are excited to see how it is already being used by our staff and community as a much-needed gathering space," says Amanda Mountain, associate director of development at McCurdy.

As plans begin to unfold for an MMCC Nonprofit Hub we anticipate numerous events will be held in this room for the good of the community including Adult Education and Continuing Education classes and graduations as well as Literacy Coaching training events.



*Pre-K students perform their Holiday Program in the new Community Room.*



### **Look for a McCurdy booth at UMW Assembly!**

McCurdy staff, former missionaries and board members will attend the United Methodist Women Assembly in Columbus, OH, in May. Patricia Alvarado, executive director, Rev. Diana Loomis, director of development/church relations, Amanda Mountain, associate director of development/church relations, Bridget Cabrera, volunteer manager/director of the McCurdy nonprofit hub, Dee Dee Heffner, former missionary, and Tom Hoffman, Glenna Kyker and Ellen Lipsey, McCurdy board members will be present at Assembly in various capacities on behalf of McCurdy Ministries Community Center (MMCC). Rev. Loomis will be on a panel for the Legacy at Work workshop while Amanda Mountain will be speaking at the Deaconess and Home Missioner workshop about her calling and how this led to her current work at MMCC. McCurdy will also have a booth in the exhibit hall with information about our transition to a community center and our **Creating Hope, Empowering Lives Capital Campaign**. We would love to greet you, tell you more about the exciting things happening on campus, and just catch up, so please stop by and say hello! If you would like to set up an appointment to meet with any of our staff at Assembly please email Amanda Mountain at [amountain@mccurdy.org](mailto:amountain@mccurdy.org) or call her at 505-753-7221, ext. 233.





Patricia Alvarado

## Notes from the MMCC executive director

We just had the opportunity to witness, first hand, Our Father's beautiful creation through the Lunar eclipse along with the super moon and blood moon. People posted beautiful pictures and comments on social media about this rare phenomenon. On a daily basis, all of us come in contact with Our Father's beautiful creations in this world we live in. I am in awe every time I witness a beautiful sunset, a beautiful dawn, the snow caps on the Sangre de Cristo mountains, and yes, the moon rising and shining pure white amidst the star filled sky. I am

blessed to live in a place that allows me to be one with my surroundings, if I just make the time to slow down and appreciate these beautiful gifts.

I am reminded that God's most precious creation, our children, are to be appreciated, nurtured, supported, and given a hand in times of need or crisis. We are called to be present to them, to listen, to make time to let them know how special they are. Jesus has commanded us to, "Love one another as I have loved you." (John 15:12 NRSV) There are numerous accounts in the Bible telling of people sharing of their time, talents and special gifts given to them by God.

This month we celebrated the life of David Milhouse, who along with his wife, Martha, came to McCurdy for months at a time, for 16 years to help us raise money for our Gala. During those years the Gala raised over a million dollars to provide

mission school scholarships, and later the fundraiser supported Project Cariño, our mental health counseling program, the athletic program for McCurdy Charter School and the McCurdy Foundation endowment. He quietly and humbly answered God's call to serve and made friends all over Northern New Mexico. We may never know the far reaching impact his obedience to God's call has had on the Española Valley!

I was recently at two other celebrations of life for relatives who reached 99 and 97 respectively. In their own quiet and humble ways, they too served God well, helping to set an example for countless children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great-great grandchildren. All of us have the opportunity to answer God's call to be the hands and feet of Christ in our daily lives. Answering God's call to use the gifts we are given is an opportunity to "Love one another, as he has loved us."

I recently discovered this passage from author Roy Lessin and I would like to share it with you: ***Just think, you're here not by chance, but by God's choosing. His hand formed you and made you the person you are. He compares you to no one else—you are one of a kind. You lack nothing that his grace can't give you. He has allowed you to be here at this time in history to fulfill his special purpose for this generation. "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven." Ecclesiastes 3:1***

So, I invite you, dear friends, to fulfill his special purpose for YOU for this generation! May God's blessings continue to sustain you!

*Patricia A. Alvarado, MMCC executive director*

## Project Cariño is growing in the ways we serve

Project Cariño has been blessed with so many opportunities to serve! We have recently added Sally VanCuren, from Western New Mexico University, as a master level social work student intern to our staff. She provides counseling services for a small caseload of students and their families. Also, we have received support from various Volunteers in Mission Teams and individual volunteers who painted, laid floors, assembled furniture and set up our new space for Project Cariño clients. One individual volunteer, Dorothy Swalley, worked a few weeks as our Buddy Program Coordinator. We owe them all a huge thank you for helping!

For three decades Project Cariño has provided the services of licensed mental health professionals to McCurdy students, families and staff. Direct Services provided to MCS students and families by Project Cariño's two licensed mental health providers and four social work interns totaled 2,500 contact hours over the 2017 calendar year including therapy, crisis interventions, support groups and educational programs.

This month we will start facilitating two support groups to address anxiety and grief issues. Each group will meet every week for six weeks in our new "common building" which provides a warm and inviting atmosphere that has become a safe place for our students, counselors and interns to gather and share. Project Cariño also recently completed a series of classroom presentations on respect and relationships for approximately 380 students in kindergarten through eighth grade. Our presentations discussed self respect, respect for our peers, parents, teachers and staff. We demonstrated how respect is shared through behaviors such as using "I messages." Teachers shared the ways their students were heard practicing "I messages" as they interacted on the playground!

Collaboration conversations have also begun between Project Cariño and McCurdy Charter School to address bullying on campus. We will identify

specific interventions and propose a series of classroom presentations to combat this issue.

Our Buddy Program continues, with 16 matches made between high school students and elementary school students. They visit every week for an hour to play board games, sports, create art projects together, and sometimes the Bigs help the Littles with school work. Student intern Montana Marquez-DeYapp created a parallel process through which the Bigs are mentored by her so they in turn can mentor their Littles. Buddy helpers (also MCS students, but not in mentoring relationships) planned a Valentine's Day party for all Buddies including fun games, activities and delicious treats! An end of year field trip is also being planned.

To guard the confidentiality of the clients we serve we are sharing historical stories below that demonstrate the difference Project Cariño makes in the lives of those we serve:

*A middle school girl raised by her grandma because her parents were not capable of caring for her, was kicked out of the house when her grandma caught her smoking marijuana. The girl stayed with a friend, and trusted a Project Cariño counselor who helped negotiate a return home. Her treatment included finding healthy ways to cope with her very stressful life.*

*An elementary boy, whose mother was deceased and dad was absent, was rejecting all interaction with others. Project Cariño counselors worked with him to strengthen his positive communication skills and value himself despite his early life experiences.*

*Amanda Trujillo Gonzales, Project Cariño director*

Amanda Gonzales  
Project Cariño director

## A long term volunteer's reflections on her happy place

Being a long term volunteer at McCurdy has given me a special purpose in life, with special people in a special place, and is something I look forward to when at home in Indiana. I enjoy whatever needs to be done when I serve as a Volunteer in Mission. Since 2000, I have helped with the preschool and kindergarten classrooms, done computer input, processed the Campbell's Soup labels and Boxtops for Education, and was in charge of the Gala. The Gala, which raised over a million dollars in 19 years, was a fundraiser for the McCurdy Mission School, and later for McCurdy Ministries and McCurdy Charter School.

I have also enjoyed the friendships I have made over the years with the other volunteers who have served here—our parties in the dorm, going out to eat together, and playing games. I also enjoy working alongside the staff. They are welcoming and always glad to see me and others. They help us understand what is happening on campus. I am provided a place to stay, to cook my meals if I want, and to just enjoy life. McCurdy is my second home, and as some people say "my happy place". I love the people here, the blue sky, the mountains, just being here. ***Martha Milhouse, Volunteer In Mission from Indiana. Editor's note: Martha returned to campus in January and February of 2018 after David's death last summer to continue making God's difference for the children, youth and families of the Española Valley. She and David have been a blessing from God!***

Martha Milhouse, individual volunteer,  
with her late husband David Milhouse



## Preschool News\*Preschool News

Although the month of February is a short month, it is a very busy one in the Pre-K program at McCurdy Ministries Community Center! Valentine's Day gives the children the opportunity to share their feelings of love and friendship with their families and with one another. This year the children will be learning songs, poems and finger plays about love and friendship.

One of the poems I introduce every year is: *Roses are Red, Violets are Blue, Can you guess who loves you?* I am not at all surprised when the children respond "JESUS!" when I introduce them to this poem. In fact, over the years this has become a very common response! It warms my heart to know the children are secure in their relationships with God. This is as it should be!

One day during February afternoon preschool I witnessed God's love and teaching in action. We were talking about Jesus and the children from Mark 10:13-16. When I introduced the passage I showed the children a party invitation and asked "What is this?" I allowed the children to respond, then told them it was an invitation. I asked if anyone had ever been invited to a party and allowed the children to share their experiences of what it felt like to be invited or what it felt like to be left out. Then I told them the story when Jesus asks the children to come to him. I emphasized Jesus left no one out of this invitation which made the children very happy. We repeated this Bible verse daily in February.

One cold February morning as the children were unpacking their backpacks, a young boy came up to me and said, "Can you help me put these in all the kids' folders, so they can take them to their home today?" When I asked what it was and told him he did not have to put them in the folder but could set them on top of the cubbies for the children to pack up themselves, he replied, "Well Ms. Sandra, these are very important. That is why I want to put them inside the folder. They are some invitations I made for my friends to come to my party and I made sure not to leave anyone out just like Jesus." I immediately helped the child put the invitations into the folders. Everyday our preschool children are a perfect example of God's love in action.

*Sandra Archuleta, Pre-K director and lead teacher*



*Bridget Cabrera*

## Volunteers in Mission News

I am Bridget Cabrera and I am excited to serve as your new Volunteer Manager. In December we sent our last box of Campbell's Labels for Education. As you know, Campbell's has discontinued their program. Thank you to everyone who has ever sent in a label. Your diligence has helped raise

money for various needs on campus including the purchase of several vans. While the Campbell's Labels for Education Program has ended, we do still accept Box Tops for Education and are now accepting Tyson Project A+ labels. You can continue to mail them to McCurdy Ministries Community Center, 362A S. McCurdy Road, Española, NM 87532.

We are currently updating the Volunteer Program information on our website and over the next few weeks will be posting updated Individual Volunteer and Volunteers in Mission handbooks and application forms. You do not have to wait until the new forms are posted to apply. We are still accepting the old forms, so if you are considering volunteering be sure to be in touch and reserve your preferred dates.

I have had the pleasure of working with several individual volunteers over the last few months. It has been great to get to know our volunteers and hear the passion and love they have for McCurdy and the people of the Española Valley. Even though it is only February, we are hard at work preparing for our first Volunteer in Mission Teams and we are excited to welcome you. Don't hesitate to contact me with any questions at [volunteer@mccurdy.org](mailto:volunteer@mccurdy.org).

**McCurdy is scheduling Individual Volunteers and Volunteer in Mission Teams for the 2018-19 fiscal year. With McCurdy's transition to a Community Center we will have extra construction, building demolition and program development needs. Your help is critical! For information on bringing a work team or being an individual volunteer at McCurdy go to our website at [www.mccurdy.org](http://www.mccurdy.org), click on the VIM tab at the top of the page to locate the VIM Team Handbook, VIM Team Member Handbook and the Individual Volunteer Handbook. To schedule a team or to volunteer as an Individual Volunteer contact Eufemia Romero, our Volunteer Registrar, at [eromero@mccurdy.org](mailto:eromero@mccurdy.org) or 505-753-7221, Ext. 210.**

*Bridget Cabrera,  
volunteer manager/hub director*



*Cole Adult Ministries Building architectural rendering provided by FBT Architects*

## The Creating Hope, Empowering Lives Capital Campaign News update

Work on the McCurdy Ministries Community Center **Creating Hope, Empowering Lives Capital Campaign** to transform our campus into a Community Center, improve our space for programming, energy efficiency and handicapped accessibility continues at a rapid pace. Fundraising for Phase 1 of the campaign includes a \$1.7 million goal to update the old high school into the Cole Adult Ministries Center.

Currently, we are in the Leadership Phase of our campaign and I am pleased to share that 100% of the MMCC Board of Trustees and 100% of the McCurdy Foundation Board have made commitments to the campaign. Currently, our staff are making their prayer and financial commitments also. Leadership visits to major donors have begun to enlist their support for the campaign. This month McCurdy will make a presentation to the New Mexico Annual Conference Finance and Administration Team to gain their support of our vision for our campus and ministry.

We have also been recruiting a National Steering Committee to oversee the campaign. Additional members will be added to the steering committee over the next month. At this point, we have commitments to serve on this committee from a dynamic group of McCurdy supporters from across the country including:

- **National Campaign Chair:** Sid Strebeck, lay leader of the New Mexico Annual Conference
- **Honorary chairs:** Opal Lee and Dennis Gill, Los Alamos, NM; Sally Firestone, Kansas City, MO; Helen Finch, Española, NM; and Martha Milhouse, Franklin, IN
- **Committee members:** Tom Hofmann, Columbus, OH; Steve Trout, Los Alamos, NM; Susan Trumble, Denver, CO; Betty Jo Nye, Randall Partin, Dee Dee Heffner and Sanford Coon, Albuquerque, NM; Cheryl Ferguson, Odessa, TX; Janet Dennison, Santa Fe, NM; Helen Finch, Española, NM; and Jan Hathaway, Winfield, KS.
- **Staff members:** Patricia Alvarado, Diana Loomis and Amanda Mountain
- **Consultant:** Jennifer Tyler

Members of the steering committee and staff will also be attending the UMW Assembly in Columbus, OH, in May, to help share the difference McCurdy is making and will make, with our UMW supporters from around the country.

Amanda Mountain, our new associate director of development, has identified over 35 grants to apply for that will help fund our programming and capital improvements. No stone is being left unturned!

Most importantly, we ask your prayers as we seek to put hands and feet on the difference God is calling McCurdy Ministries Community Center to make in the Española Valley. With God all things are possible! With hope,

*Diana Loomis,  
director of development/church relations*







Amanda Mountain

## News from the development department

I am enjoying my work as the new associate director of development at McCurdy. My priority is grant research, writing, and reporting. Since joining the staff November 1, I have applied for two grants and am happy to report McCurdy was awarded both of those. In addition, I have researched and identified 35 grants we are eligible for and created a grant calendar to keep track of grant deadlines. With Diana Loomis and Patricia Alvarado's input we have determined which grants to apply for based on those best aligned with McCurdy's mission priorities.

One challenge is that many grants are funded by private family foundations that do not accept unsolicited grant proposals. This is where our development team could use your help as McCurdy supporters! Recently, Diana Loomis, traveled to Ohio to meet with the Monte Foundation, a private family foundation that usually does not accept unsolicited proposals or inquiries. McCurdy has been receiving support from the Monte Foundation since 2010 because one of our McCurdy volunteers referred us to the Monte Foundation and opened the door to a long term supportive relationship. McCurdy was invited to apply for a grant from the Monte Foundation as a result of this meeting, and I am happy to report that this is one of the 35 granting entities on my grant calendar to which we will apply! If you have or know of any contacts at other private foundations or granting organizations please do not hesitate to contact me. Together we can strategize how best to contact and make the connection with the grant maker. This is not an uncommon practice in the grants management world and one McCurdy could greatly benefit from as we strive to continue and expand our work with the children, youth, adults and families in the Española Valley.

McCurdy is also expanding the types of programming we do as we transition into a community center. Now we are eligible for a wider variety of grants from foundations and organizations because we are doing secular **AND** faith based programming. While we remain committed to being the hands and feet of Christ in the Española Valley, some of our programs like the High School Equivalency Program are not faith-based but are ways we help folks transform their lives. Programming areas we are expanding into are early childhood education, adult education, community based mental health services and after school programs. We are also developing programming for low income economic development, youth, arts education, capacity building for nonprofits, capital funds for renovation, energy efficiency and accessibility improvements of our buildings.

With your help we can make McCurdy's strategic plan a reality, strengthening McCurdy Ministries Community Center to better help the children, youth, adults and families of the Española Valley succeed in school and in life. I believe McCurdy has and will continue to be the empowering presence in the valley, where individuals and families have access to the resources they need to live their fullest lives in Christ. Thank you for your continued support of McCurdy Ministries and please do not hesitate to contact me or Rev. Loomis with any questions, suggestions, and possible connections as we work together to increase McCurdy's empowering impact in the Española Valley. You can reach me by emailing [amountain@mccurdy.org](mailto:amountain@mccurdy.org) or calling 505-753-7221.

*Amanda Mountain, associate director of development*

## Please support McCurdy Ministries Community Center!

McCurdy Ministries Community Center touches the lives of more than 550 students every school day and with our expansion into Adult Education with childcare we will impact even more lives every day. Your donations of prayer, time, talent and funds literally help us save lives, support their education and create a safe place for all the persons under our care. Here are ways you can support our ministry: Donate cash, stocks, land or an appreciated asset. Donate a gift annuity to earn income during your life and bless McCurdy with a donation after your death. Organize a Volunteers in Mission Team from your church. Remember McCurdy Ministries in your will and become a part of the Mellie Perkins Society. Set up an endowed fund in the McCurdy Foundation. Make McCurdy a beneficiary of a life insurance policy. Invite the McCurdy church relations team to your church program, dinner or worship event. Donate to McCurdy through Advance #581479. Pray for McCurdy daily!

For information on making a donation to McCurdy Ministries Community Center call Diana Loomis at 505-753-7221, ext. 352, write her at 362A S. McCurdy Road, Española, NM 87532 or email her at [dloomis@mccurdy.org](mailto:dloomis@mccurdy.org).

## McCurdy is now on social media!

Did you know McCurdy Ministries Community Center is now on social media? Make sure you like us on Facebook, and follow us on Twitter and Instagram so you can keep up with all of the exciting things happening on campus! You can find those pages here:

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

Twitter: [@McCurdyMinistry](https://twitter.com/McCurdyMinistry)

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/mccurdyministries/>  
(@mccurdyministries)



*After School Care students enjoy the playground slide together.*

## After School Care News

*"Love one another as I have loved you."* John 15:12, NRSV

During the month of February, the students in the After School Care Program are reflecting on this passage from John and what it means for their lives. The children are expressing their love for their parents and friends by using glitter and creating cards of hearts. They are so excited to share what they feel when it comes to Valentine's Day! A student told his friends he thinks Valentine's Day means love, and an appreciation of his parents and brother. He pointed out to the other students, he wants to model Jesus' teaching to, "Love one another as I have loved you." Other children expressed his excitement as they learned more about the meaning of Valentine's Day. For instance, another student walked over to her friends and told them she loves them like they are her own sisters, because she always wanted sisters. Valentine's Day is a great time for our students to apply Christ's teachings to their relationships with others.

*Angela Ortiz, After School Care provider*

## Box Tops and Tyson updates

*We are receiving more and more Tyson Project A+ labels and we thank you!* Each label is worth a whopping 24 cents which compares to 10 cents per Box Top received. Our last submission earned a \$60 donation.

*Thank you for your support of McCurdy Charter School by collecting Box Tops for Education.* This school year we have raised \$3,931 and since we began these efforts in 2012, we have helped the school earn over \$83,873.

*Thank you for years of support by donating Campbell's Labels.* As of Dec. 31, 2017, the program ended our final balance is 566,858 points which will translate into \$6,424 of prepaid Visa cards to spend on McCurdy Ministries Community Center programming. We can no longer submit labels so please throw any you have away.

Please continue to send in your Box Tops and Tyson Project A+ labels to McCurdy Ministries, 362A S. McCurdy Road, Española, NM 87532. Thank you! For more information on our labels programs please email our Volunteer Manager Bridget Cabrera at [bcabrera@mccurdy.org](mailto:bcabrera@mccurdy.org).

