



The McCurdy Ministries Message

McCurdy Schools of Northern New Mexico is a registered nonprofit corporation.
The corporation also uses the trade name McCurdy Ministries.

Vol. 5, # 2

Helping students and families in the Española Valley succeed in school and in life

Nov. 2016



For the third year McCurdy Ministries is celebrating Giving Tuesday Nov. 1-29

The Thanksgiving Season is almost here and so while you are making plans to give thanks to God for all you have been given and enjoy a wonderful Thanksgiving, we also hope you will think about McCurdy Ministries and the difference we make for 500+ students and their families in the Española Valley every school day. Every year we have a chance to celebrate Thanksgiving, followed by the shopping frenzy of Black Friday and Cyber Monday. Since 2012, nonprofits, like McCurdy, have joined together to give our donors a chance to give back to our communities in gratitude to God for all we have been given on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving and we call that day **Giving Tuesday**. In 2014 and 2015, we were grateful that Global Ministries provided match for donations given online through the United Methodist Advance on Giving Tuesday. Last year we received a total of \$62,362 through the Advance including \$14,265 in match from Global Ministries. While Global Ministries is once again promoting Giving Tuesday they are not providing match. Instead we are blessed with two anonymous McCurdy donors who believe in the difference that we are making in the name of Jesus Christ in Española, who have provided McCurdy Ministries with

\$20,000 of match for McCurdy's Giving Tuesday 2016!

We are so thankful for these anonymous donors that we wanted to share this good news with you. This year our theme for **Giving Tuesday is "Give light. Give love. Give life."** In addition, we are making it easier for you to make a donation to McCurdy during our Giving Tuesday Event. Your gift up to \$2,500 will be matched as long as **the match lasts** if you give in one of these three ways:

1. Use the envelope provided in this mailing to send a check to McCurdy Ministries marked Giving Tuesday.
2. The envelope must be postmarked between Nov. 1 and Nov. 29 and the check MUST be marked "Giving Tuesday" to count toward the match.
3. From Nov. 1 through Nov. 29, you can go to our website at www.mccurdy.org/give.html to make a donation. Again your donation MUST be marked "Giving Tuesday" to qualify for the match.
4. On Nov. 29, 2016, you can go to www.umcmmission.org/give.html to give to McCurdy through the United Methodist Advance. Only gifts given on Nov. 29 through this option will be applied to the \$20,000 match if it is still available.

Please call Rev. Diana Loomis at 505-753-7221, ext. 352 or email her at dloomis@mccurdy.org if you have any questions about McCurdy's **2016 Giving Tuesday Event**. As you prepare for Thanksgiving please remember the children who get a wonderful start to their education through our preschool, the hungry tummies fed through our breakfast and lunch program, the lives saved because of the listening ears of our counselors, the students who have a safe place to play and learn after school, the students who learn about science, math and Jesus through our summer camp and the volunteers who share love of Jesus and work hard around our campus. Your donation makes these ministries possible and we thank you!

You are invited to the

McCurdy Ministries Donor Appreciation Dinner

The McCurdy Ministries Board and Staff invites all our donors and a guest to join us for our first annual **Donor Appreciation Dinner** at 6 PM, Saturday, Feb. 25, in McCracken Gym. Please be our guests for our dinner and celebration of gratitude for your support! We will update our supporters on our Community Center plans which will expand the ways we help students and their families in the Española Valley. The dinner will be served by our Project Cariño Big Buddies and Peacekeepers and the students will share the ways that Project Cariño has impacted their lives. The catered meal will include beverages, salad, vegetables, rice or potato, salmon or steak and dessert. After dinner there will be time to discuss our future plans and answer questions. Donors who live within two hours of our campus will be sent personal invitations to attend the dinner but we would love for our donors from near and far attend so we can thank you for your support! To make a reservation call Eufemia Romero at 505-753-7221, ext. 210 or email her at eromero@mccurdy.org.

With the retirement of David Milhouse, Martha Milhouse and Helen Finch and a declining number of volunteers as well as financial support for the Gala, the McCurdy Ministries board determined that changes needed to be made to the Gala. The McCurdy Ministries **Donor Appreciation Dinner** was created in response to this need for change. We invite our Gala volunteers to return to McCurdy Ministries the week before the dinner to help prepare for the dinner, learn about McCurdy Ministries future plans for ministry on our campus, fellowship and worship together and help us share our news with our donors. To volunteer the week before the dinner please email Rev. Diana Loomis at dloomis@mccurdy.org.

All McCurdy supporters
are invited to a

Donor
APPRECIATION
DINNER



Notes from the McCurdy Ministries executive director



Patricia Alvarado
Executive Director

A few weeks ago, as I attended Sunday service, I was blessed to witness an act of love between two very unlikely “friends”. We had just sat down to hear the message when a man began walking back and forth in the main aisle of the church seeming confused and lost. I recognized him as a person who walks up and down McCurdy road picking up litter and cans. I do not believe he has family and probably lives alone. It was obvious some people were nervous and were probably wondering what this man was going to do.

I also noticed a young toddler walking in the aisle, daring to walk away from his parents, but staying close enough to check in with them. As the two met in the aisle, they both stopped and looked at each other for a few

seconds, neither saying anything. (The toddler’s mom did not notice because he walked behind their pew out of sight.) I watched the pair as the man reached in his pocket, without hesitation, and pulled out a crumpled dollar bill and handed it to the toddler. The toddler reached for it and gave the man a genuine, beautiful smile to which the man responded in kind!

They stood looking at each other for just a second longer then the toddler’s mom looked up, saw what was happening, reached for her child, pulled him into the pew and took the dollar from the child to give back to the man. But the man refused to take the money back and signaled for her to give it back to the child. Slowly he walked away and as he exited the church he tipped his hat to others in their pews. He was smiling and walking away with a purposeful gait.

The child, on the other hand, was hugging his mother’s leg and seemed very

happy and proud of the dollar he held in his hand. This interaction all happened within a minute’s time frame and immediately following this, the ushers began to pass around the offering basket. When they reached the child’s pew, without any coaching from anyone, the child took that dollar and placed it in the basket and looked at his mom for approval. Mom reached down and gave her son such an endearing hug and the toddler was ever so happy and proud.

I teared up as I sat there taking this all in! I cannot tell you what the message was that evening, but I can tell you I walked away with (and believe many who witnessed the exchange felt this as well) a feeling of awe and peace! I was blessed by a genuine exchange of kindness, love, and sharing that was immediately paid forward. This man, of little means, shared his love and caring. The toddler sensed this and in turn blessed the man with a feeling of peace and belonging. The mom reassured the toddler he was precious and in turn without prompting the toddler shared the love and caring his parents taught him with another!

I share this true story with you to encourage you to look for those small opportunities to share Christ’s love with one another. We never know what impact our sharing has on others, but our Father knows. He loves us unconditionally and is the reason Christ asks us to “Love one another as he loves us.”

During this time of giving thanks and as we move into a season of anticipation for the coming of the Christ child, I pray you all experience the blessings of love, kindness and genuine caring in your lives. As you experience this love, I pray you pay it forward to others so each day is lived to the fullest and with no regrets.

Yours in Christ, Patricia A. Alvarado



Please consider these creative ways to support McCurdy Ministries

McCurdy Ministries touches the lives of more than 500 students every school day. Your donations of prayer, time, talent and funds literally help us save lives, support their education and create a safe place for the children and youth under our care.

We ask you to prayerfully consider these ways of supporting our ministry: **Donate and encourage others to donate regularly to McCurdy.** Make a donation of cash, stocks, land or an appreciated asset. **Send us Campbell’s Labels or Tyson Project A+ Labels for McCurdy Ministries and Box Tops for Education for McCurdy Charter School.** 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 and come enjoy Northern New Mexico.** Remember McCurdy Ministries in your will and become a part of the Mellie Perkins Society. **Set up an endowed fund in the McCurdy Foundation.** If you purchase a new car, donate your old one to McCurdy for a tax deduction. **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.** Go to this link <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/85-0127907> on AmazonSmile and a percentage will be donated to McCurdy. **Pray for McCurdy daily!**

For information on making a donation to McCurdy Ministries please 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. She would love to hear from you!

At McCurdy Ministries we’d get a lot less done without our volunteers!



Above: a teen from Center Point United Methodist Church in Texas cleans chairs from the preschool in preparation for the start of school at McCurdy.



Left: a teen from Center Point United Methodist Church in Texas spray paints handicapped space symbols on a McCurdy parking lot.

Please use our new address which is 362A South McCurdy Road, Española, NM 87532 to mail McCurdy Ministries. If you use our old address your mail will be returned by the post office.



McCurdy Ministries

“For everything there is a season...

...a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to break down, and a time to build up...” Ecclesiastes 3:1-3 (NRSV)

McCurdy Ministries is living out the seasons of our ministries

As Ecclesiastes says there are seasons and rhythms to our lives and to the lives of institutions like McCurdy. For the last 104 years McCurdy has had generation after generation of leaders who were willing to ask, “What is God calling us to do in this time and place?” Those leaders were willing to make changes and take risks in response to God’s vision for McCurdy and the entire Española Valley.

It was just such a risk that led Mellie Perkins, a United Brethren deaconess to found McCurdy School in 1912 and led McCurdy Superintendent Dr. Glen McCracken, to build McCracken Gym in 1933. McCracken Gym was the only gym between Santa Fe and Taos when it was built and when the gym was nearing completion it burned down. But McCurdy leaders never stopped dreaming. In response they started the first fire department in Española, rebuilt the gym and then opened it to the whole community for recreation. The first medical clinic and the first collegiate nursing program in Española were started on the McCurdy campus by United Brethren missionary doctors and nurses. The Española hospital was started by those same missionary doctors and nurses with the financial support of the Pack family whose son is a McCurdy graduate.

McCurdy leaders made the decision to open McCurdy Charter School on our campus in August of 2012 expanding the number of students from 237 when the mission school closed to 532 students this school year. It is this same spirit of leadership that has led the McCurdy Ministries Board of Trustees to approve McCurdy Ministries’ transition to a Community Center over the next several years which will mean the continuation of the services we provide to the charter school and an expansion of the services we provide to the community.

Every generation of McCurdy leaders has been willing to look at the changing needs of the community and make changes to our ministries to meet those needs which means we are *living out the seasons of our ministries* in response to God’s call in Española. Rev. Diana Loomis, McCurdy Ministries director of development says, “With each new generation of leadership McCurdy Ministries has taken the best of the old, put it with the best of the new and moved into the future with hope. In this 2015-16 McCurdy Ministries Annual Report we seek to celebrate McCurdy’s past, present and future. We celebrate all of McCurdy’s seasons!”



Charter School construction update



In every season of life there are joys and there are sorrows especially when you have helped to “birth” another organization and they become independent. Late this summer McCurdy Ministries donated land, rent and buildings valued at \$1.4 million to McCurdy Charter School so that a new school could be built.

Immediately the construction company began clearing the land for a new 38,000 square foot classroom building. On Sept. 9, 2016, groundbreaking was held. As the photo above shows construction is progressing rapidly. The foundation has been poured and the structure is being erected. Some have asked McCurdy Ministries staff, “Isn’t it bittersweet to see this transition occur?” It is bittersweet to know McCurdy Ministries will never be a K-12 school again, but it is also exciting to see 532 students thriving in school and even more exciting to know that as a Community Center McCurdy Ministries will have an equally powerful impact on the Española Valley.

McCurdy Ministries’ Community Center Plans



In the seasons of human life and the seasons of organizations like McCurdy Ministries there are fallow times and growth times. Any tree farmer will tell you the best time of year to plant a tree is after hard frost in the fall. When planted in the fall the roots have time to grow and become stronger over the winter. On the surface it looks as if nothing is changing but come spring a strong root system means a strong tree that will thrive.

This fall and winter McCurdy Ministries is going through a fallow time. On the outside it looks as if nothing is changing MCS students are attending classes in our buildings and our preschool, after school care, breakfast and lunch, mental health and volunteer programs are running efficiently. Over the last five months Patricia Alvarado, executive director, and Diana Loomis, development/church relations director, have been meeting with area nonprofits, government agencies and service providers to share our plans to become a Community Center and to ask, “What are your needs? How can McCurdy Ministries Community Center help you make a difference in the valley?” We have met with over 18 nonprofits, service providers and agencies over the last several months exploring ways to cooperate to strengthen the Española Valley. Our Community Center plans have been met with great excitement. In addition, FBT Architects (who designed the new MCS building) are working pro bono to create a new master plan for our 29 acre campus so we will have buildings and spaces that will help us turn our ministry plans into reality.

McCurdy Ministries is helping students and families in the Española Valley succeed in school and in life.

Contact us at McCurdy Ministries, 362A S. McCurdy Road, Española, NM 87532, 505-753-7221, www.mccurdy.org



“For everything there is a season and a

“...a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up wh

Anticipating the possibilities of new life



After the fallow time of winter there is nothing more exciting than seeing the trees, shrubs and plants begin to leaf out and bloom in spring and as Christians we know the realities of new life are amazing! At McCurdy Ministries we are anticipating the first signs of our new Community Center ministries just like we anticipate Easter and spring. And we will share those first signs of our new ministries at our first annual **Donor Appreciation Dinner** at 6 PM, Saturday, Feb. 25, in McCracken Gym. We will invite our donors to be our guests for dinner to thank them for their generosity to our ministries. That night we will share in-depth our future plans for ministry with our guests. In addition, we will unveil the new master plan for our 29 acre campus which is being created by FBT Architects on a pro bono basis. The evening will be an exciting time to share our answer to the question, “What is God calling McCurdy Ministries to do in the Española Valley?” We believe the planning we do in the next five years will make a difference in the valley for the next 100 years. Find more information on the **Donor Appreciation Dinner** on page one of this newsletter.

Enjoying the fruits of our labors



After all the planning and dreaming described in our fall, winter and spring seasons the final growth phase is summer and that is when we will begin to see the fruits of our labors take shape. As we struggled for four years to secure financing for the new McCurdy Charter School building it sometimes felt that McCurdy Ministries would never get to celebrate the strengthening of our existing ministries and the launch of our new Community Center ministries. The good news is we anticipate we will be ready for a “soft launch” of several ministries during the 2016–17 school year including the expansion from half day to full day for our free four year old CYFD funded preschool, the launch of Wednesday Comunidad a mid-week ministry including dinner and faith based programming for adults, youth and children in cooperation with Santa Cruz and Valley View UMCs and the launch of our GED classes with childcare. Then by fall of 2018 we plan the Grand Opening of the McCurdy Ministries Community Center. At that time our programs will include all of our existing programs outlined on this page and the opening of the Adult Ministries Center, the Teen Center, the Nonprofit Hub, the Children’s Ministries Center.

At McCurdy Ministries we are entering into a time of planning and change. We ask you to be in prayer for our ministries, our students and our staff as we seek to live out God’s will for our future.



Preschoolers enjoying play ground equipment donated by the Sunday School children of Good Shepherd UMC in Colorado Springs

A time for early childhood education

McCurdy is committed to preschool because the top indicator whether or not a child graduates from high school is early childhood education. Unfortunately, there are only classroom spots for 39% of the preschoolers in Española so keeping McCurdy’s Preschool Program strong is critical. For the 2016–17 school year we are continuing our free morning and low cost faith based afternoon preschool. During the 2017–18 school year we plan to expand to an all day free four year old preschool. Thanks to the New Mexico CYFD and many individual donors who support the preschool.

A time for healing our students

For 32 years Project Cariño has provided therapy free of charge to McCurdy students and their families. Currently, we have two full time therapists and one master’s level student intern on staff. During the 2015–16 school year our counselors and intern shared over 2,600 contact hours with students doing therapy, classroom presentations, crisis interventions, the Big Buddy/Little Buddy Program, the Peer Conflict Mediation Program and the Celebrate Survival Program. Student therapy includes play therapy for younger students, talk therapy for older students and family therapy when appropriate. We believe Project Cariño plays an important part in McCurdy Ministries and MCS students succeeding in school and in life and is an integral part of the McCurdy formula to support our students. We thank the Montei Foundation, the Northern New Mexico United Way, the Con Alma Foundation, the McCurdy Gala and the individuals, churches and UMW units who make this priceless ministry possible.

McCurdy Ministries Big Buddies, Little Buddies and the McCurdy Ministries’ counselors and intern enjoy a field trip together to the New Mexico Museum last May.



McCurdy Ministries is helping students and families

362A S. McCurdy Rd., Española, NM 87532, www.mccurdy.org. For more information contact

time for every matter under heaven...”

...a time to be planted; a time to break down, and a time to build up...” Ecclesiastes 3:1-3 (NRSV)



Two ASC students enjoy a craft project. (Photo by Rich Saxon)

A time for safe fun

The number one time that children get in trouble with drugs, sex, alcohol and the law is 3 to 5 PM so fun, educational faith based After School Care is critical to the safety of our students. McCurdy Ministries cares for 23 preschool to 6th grade students every school day through this faith based program. We look forward to the day when we have additional space to expand this program. At After School Care students experience free play, snacks, homework help, educational games as well as faith building art, crafts, drama and Bible study. A small tuition is charged to help support the program but families that qualify for Free or Reduced Lunch are eligible for financial aid. We are grateful to the donors and volunteers that support After School Care and help keep our students safe while having fun, learning and sharing the faith.



A time for summer learning

The “summer slide” is the well documented loss of learning that occurs over the summer break if a student doesn’t participate in a summer learning program. Camp Stars which was created to combat the “summer slide,” is our six week, 35 hours per week, summer educational enrichment camp which includes STEM education (science, technology, engineering and math) learning and faith sharing through Vacation Bible School fun and service. This year 31 campers from kindergarten to 6th grade participated in this camp which includes science experiments, math exercises, field trips, service projects, art, drama, crafts and singing all while learning more about God, Jesus and our Christian faith. We thank the Montei Foundation for being the major donor to Camp Stars for the fourth summer and our donors who make this camp possible.



Two Camp Stars students demonstrate their science project.



A time for volunteering

Our United Methodists who come to McCurdy as individual volunteers or on Volunteer in Missions Teams are critical to our ministry. With a full time staff of 15 and six part time staff members McCurdy Ministries simply cannot do all the work necessary to keep our ministries strong without volunteer help. Volunteers help in classrooms and with programs, do maintenance and construction projects and help with administration. We have tasks for every ability, energy level and interest. Most importantly they share the love of Christ with our students and staff every day. Our volunteers show our 500+ students what it means to be the hands of Christ every day. We are grateful for and thank all of our volunteers who come to McCurdy work hard and donate funds to support all aspects of our ministries.

A McCurdy volunteer waters the garden at the retreat center (Photo by Rich Saxon)

A time to feed hungry students

McCurdy Ministries is the vendor for the MCS Breakfast and Lunch Program and we feed our preschoolers every school day. Although the majority of meal cost is reimbursed by USDA, McCurdy Ministries financially supports this program because federal reimbursements are not enough to feed our children the healthiest of meals. For the 2015-16 school year we fed 6,055 breakfasts and 56,566 lunches to our preschool and K-12 students. Research shows that hungry children don’t learn and many of our children don’t get regular meals at home because they live in poverty so we know this aspect of our ministry is critical. More importantly our Breakfast and Lunch program reflects the importance of Jesus’ command to, “Feed my sheep.” Through this



program we are acting as the hands of Christ to feed our precious children and youth. We are grateful to the donors that generously helped make sure there are not hungry students on our campus.

...in the Española Valley succeed in school and in life.

Rev. Diana Loomis, director of development, 505-753-7221, ext. 352, dloomis@mccurdy.org.



“For everything there is a season...

...a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to break down, and a time to build up... Ecclesiastes 3:1-3 (NRSV)



Mellie Perkins Society recognizes donors who remember McCurdy in every season of their lives



The dream to start McCurdy began 104 years ago when children in Velarde, NM, asked a visitor, Mellie Perkins, a United Brethren deaconess who later became McCurdy’s founder, “Will you come be our teacher?” What an audacious, full of hope question that was! Mellie responded by learning Spanish, convincing the United

Brethren Mission Society to buy an abandoned school building in Velarde and starting a school. What many McCurdy donors do not know is Mellie not only started the school, she also started Velarde UMC and since she was trained in healthcare she acted as a nurse for the community. McCurdy Ministries’ plans to expand our ministries and become a community center harkens back to the beginning days of our founding by Mellie Perkins.

Recently, while sitting in a meeting with FBT Architects working on the new master plan for the McCurdy campus, Diana Loomis received a call from the personal representative of a McCurdy donor. We were sad to hear that this donor who had faithfully given to McCurdy every month for years recently passed away. The donor’s representative called to tell us McCurdy Ministries was the primary beneficiary of her estate. This was a woman who was a school teacher for 38 years, was raised United Brethren and lived modestly yet faithfully. To our surprise her gift to our ministries and the children of the Española Valley will total approximately \$500,000! Her generosity, in the midst of our plans to become a Community Center, felt like a blessing from God. This blessing reminds us when we seek to do God’s will, God will make

a way. It is blessings such as these that inspired the McCurdy Ministries board to start the Mellie Perkins Society to recognize our donors who make McCurdy a part of their estate plans. If you have remembered McCurdy in your will, made McCurdy a beneficiary of an insurance policy, a bank account or an IRA, set up a gift annuity or endowment with McCurdy as beneficiary, remembered McCurdy through your trust or made a donation to the McCurdy Foundation we invite you to be a member of the Mellie Perkins Society. Please contact Rev. Diana Loomis, director of development/church relations, at 505-753-7221, ext. 352, or email her at dloomis@mccurdy.org to let her know your intention and she will send you a Bequest Information Form to fill out and return to McCurdy. We list the members of the Mellie Perkins Society in our Annual Report in thanksgiving for the ways each donor has blessed God’s ministry at McCurdy.

Our gratitude to the following persons who remembered McCurdy Ministries in their estates during the 2015–16 fiscal year:

Ruby Hale Estate, Rev. Sam and Juanita Hahn Estate, Floma Taylor Estate, Myrle Miller Estate, Seitz Memorial Trust

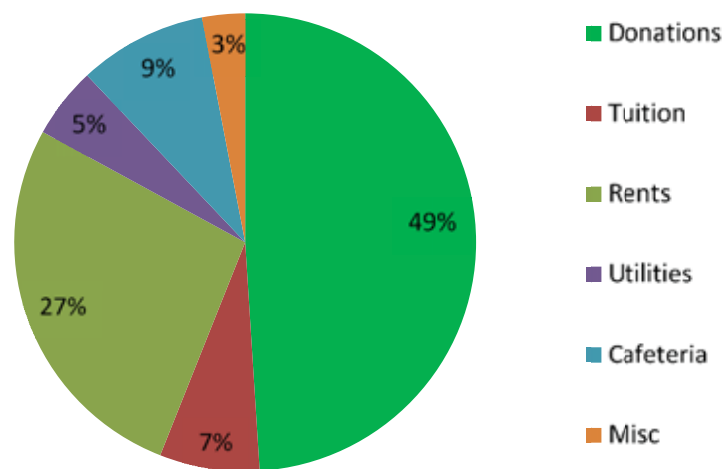
Our gratitude to the following persons who have informed us McCurdy has been remembered in their estate plans:

Pat Alexander, Marijean Backman Ambrose, Rev. Chuck Chipman, Rev. Sanford and Mrs. Mary Ellen Coon, Fern Heim, Doris Higgins, Tom and Sandy Hofmann, Betty Letzig, Rev. Diana Loomis, Holly Ludlam, Virginia McQuiston, William and Carol Mead, Virgil and Irma Jean Sancken

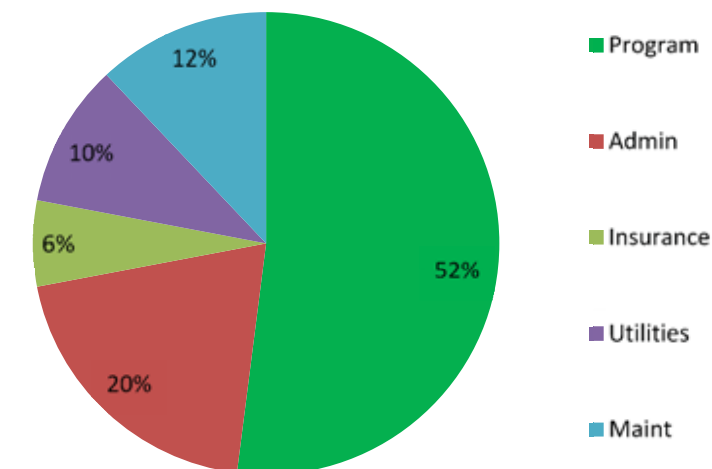
McCurdy Ministries 2015–16 finances at a glance

For McCurdy’s 2015-16 fiscal year which ran from August 1 to July 31, we had 1,089 active donors and our total donor revenue was \$783,344. We received donations from individuals, churches, UMW units, annual conferences and foundations from across the country with the majority of donations coming from New Mexico, Ohio, New York, Iowa, Colorado, Texas, Indiana, Minnesota, Kansas, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Wisconsin, Oklahoma and Missouri.

McCurdy Ministries 2015–16 Income



McCurdy Ministries 2015–16 Expenses



McCurdy Ministries is helping students and families in the Española Valley succeed in school and in life.

Contact us at McCurdy Ministries, 362A S. McCurdy Road, Española, NM 87532, 505-753-7221, www.mccurdy.org

Project Cariño news



Amanda Trujillo Gonzales,
Project Cariño Director



United Way
Community Partner

The Big Buddy/Little Buddy program got off to a great start thanks to the efforts of Dorothy Swalley, a Volunteer in Mission from Lewisville, TX. Dorothy and her husband, Larry, volunteered three weeks at McCurdy Ministries this fall and her experience as a social worker was a big benefit to Project Cariño! Dorothy not only interviewed and trained our Big and Little Buddies, but she also revamped old forms and made sure all the program's paperwork is in order. Thanks Dorothy—we couldn't have done it without you! She was able to provide great support to help get the program off the ground. We are now coordinating with McCurdy Charter School to get the Big Buddy/Little Buddy visits begun.

Training and orientation has been provided for our new counselor, Teresa Chavez. She is gradually building a caseload, and is becoming familiar with her new role as a Project Cariño therapist with

McCurdy Ministries. Teresa and I have been attending to the business of Project Cariño by providing services that support the social and emotional development of MCS students and their families. Referrals are coming in from school staff, students and parents and our caseloads are continuing to grow. I am grateful to have Teresa on board and contributing her vast knowledge and skills to the benefit of our clients.

In addition, Sally VanCuren, our intern who is working on her masters degree in social work from New Mexico Highlands University, has taken on a caseload under the supervision and guidance of Teresa and I. She is receiving excellent clinical experience in the field of social work. Together, Teresa, Sally and I have become a great team providing services for our clients and supporting each other through what can sometimes be difficult and emotionally charged work. Having a strong team equates to providing strong services for those we serve.

Another project we are working on is updating our resource list so that we can offer current information to students and families in order to supplement the services we provide on campus. One example of this collaboration is with Rio Arriba County's First Born Program who presently has a representative come to Project Cariño once a week to provide individual support for an expectant couple. We are also exploring the possibility of providing both grief support and girl's empowerment groups in order to expand the individual services and crisis intervention we provide.

Over the past month Project Cariño participated in the MCS Homecoming Activities. We sat on the judge's panel that selected which 7th through 12th grade class created gym decorations that most reflected the spirit of the McCurdy Bobcats. While all the classes had great displays, this year's award went to the seniors who created an enchanted forest complete with fog, ponds and moonlit sky. We appreciate interacting with students in light-hearted fun as well! *Amanda Trujillo-Gonzales, Project Cariño director*



ASC student enjoys the monkey bars (Photo by Rich Saxton)

After School Care news

At After School Care we are blessed to witness random acts of kindness and generosity. After a couple of fundraisers held by McCurdy Charter School, a first grade boy bought pizza and drinks for a few of the students at After School Care. Not once did I hear this boy complain or tell anyone that they had to pay him back. Then one day a fifth grade boy and a sixth grade boy walked in to After School Care and told me that since our first grader is always buying food for everyone they bought candy to share with everyone because they wanted to pay our first

grade boy back. This caught me by surprise. It was very heartwarming and nice to know that these children know the importance of giving back. *Flor Cordova, After School Care Provider*



Box Tops, Campbell's Labels & Tyson updates

Thank you for your continued support of McCurdy Ministries through the Labels for Education Program. Our goal is to accumulate 1.6 million points before this program ends at the end of the 2016-17 school year, so continue to collect and submit these important UPCs. In October, McCurdy Ministries deposited 22,200 points into our account at Campbell's, which brought our total points up to 622,131 points so we only need 977,869 points for the new seven passenger van we would like to acquire. Keep on collecting and sending UPCs quickly! **Please note: All UPCs now MUST HAVE the "Labels for Education" wording or logo to be valid.**



The collection of Tyson Project A+ for McCurdy Ministries benefit has gotten off to a slow, but steady, start. We appreciate our faithful and generous donors who read our newsletter and respond by sending us labels because **we receive 26 cents for every Tyson label which is used to support McCurdy Ministries programming** as opposed to the 10 cents per label we receive from Box Tops which benefits McCurdy Charter School students. Remember that the Tyson Project A+ label is only on frozen item packages. Tyson does not put the A+ labels on fresh Tyson chicken products. Please visit www.projectaplus.tyson.com for more information, or visit our website.



McCurdy Ministries continues to help McCurdy Charter School through coordination, clipping, counting and submitting the Box Tops for Education you submit each month. Through your faithfulness, we have submitted \$5002 so far this school year. Since MCS opened in August 2012, you have helped raise \$69,440! MCS is ranked #1 in New Mexico, and is ranked #21 in the U.S.A!

Please Mail your labels to McCurdy Ministries new address at 362A S. McCurdy Road, Española, NM 87532.

Volunteers in Mission News

"That is why we labor and strive, because we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all people, and especially of those who believe." 1Timothy 4:10

Happy fall, and joyous Thanksgiving season to everyone! At McCurdy Ministries, we are thankful for the many volunteers who grace our campus each year. Young, old, couples, singles, all volunteers bring their spiritual gifts and share their love of God through work, laughter and prayers on our campus. Whether you volunteered at McCurdy for a week or several months we thank you!

Our need for volunteers continues and NOW is the best time to make a reservation for next summer to bring a Volunteer in Mission Team from your church to McCurdy. As we get closer to the completion of the new charter school building we are making new plans for the way McCurdy Ministries will use the currently occupied buildings. The buildings vacated by MCS will need to be painted and made ready for McCurdy Ministries to use. Our board and staff believe the work our board, staff and volunteers do in the next five years on McCurdy Ministries' behalf will make a difference in the Española Valley for the next 100 years! Please consider recruiting a Volunteer in Mission Team for this year. We also need individual volunteers to come for two weeks or the entire school year.

Individual volunteers who stay for two weeks or longer receive free board in our retreat center. If you enjoy working with children and are willing to stay six weeks from mid-June to the end of July you can volunteer for Camp Stars. We are recruiting volunteers with skills in science, technology, engineering and math, drama, music and storytelling to work with Camp Stars. There is also a volunteer liaison position who works with VIM Teams and our maintenance staff.

For information on bringing a team or becoming an individual volunteer at McCurdy go to our website at www.mccurdy.org and click on VIM tab at the top of the page to locate the VIM Team Handbook or the Individual Volunteer Handbook. To schedule a team to come to McCurdy contact Eufemia Romero at eromero@mccurdy.org to volunteer as an individual contact Vickie Luviano at vickie@mccurdy.org. You can call Eufemia or Vickie at 505-753-7221 or call Vickie on her cell at 505-927-3683. *Vickie Luviano, volunteer manager*

McCurdy Charter School news

Construction on the new McCurdy Charter School building is rapidly progressing. The photo on page three of this newsletter was taken on October 28 and the photos below were taken on Nov. 4. Progress is being made! The construction foreman indicates that the build is on schedule to be completed next spring. Please keep the construction and construction workers building this new building for our children and youth in your prayers.



The building framing showing the second story starting to go up. Pictured from the southwest exposure.



The building framing and sheathing for the first and second stories from the western exposure.



Volunteers are key to getting our ministry done at McCurdy



Above: volunteers from Reynoldsburg UMC in Ohio serve in the cafeteria and build storage.

With 36 buildings, 29 acres of land, a full time staff of 15 and a part time staff of six our volunteers are a critical part of maintaining our buildings and grounds and providing quality ministries to our community. This November we will begin sending out a volunteer newsletter monthly by email to all past McCurdy volunteers, to all the jurisdictional and conference VIM coordinators in the United Methodist Church and to local church mission teams. Our volunteers will be even more critical as we move back into our buildings, update them and launch new ministries. To receive these blast emails we must have a current email address for you and your VIM Team so please email Vickie Luviano your addresses at vickie@mccurdy.org and we will make sure you receive these communications.

McCurdy Pre-K news

McCurdy Pre-K is blessed to have welcomed 20 beautiful children to our classroom this year including 14 boys and 6 girls. Teachers Sandra, Jennifer and Angela have enjoyed discovering all the individual needs, interests, and personalities of each child. The children themselves have also had to learn that when God created us, we were all made with our own set of unique qualities, but he loved us even before we were born, and that we are all special to him. A few examples come to mind:

- A child in our fold has a severe peanut allergy. The children are all aware of this and always ask & make sure that there are no traces of Peanuts or tree nuts in the snacks they share with the class. Parents will state, "He made sure that I knew his friend could not have that."
- Two of the children in our fold have to use braces on their feet, other children are always trying to help them, or make sure that they keep up with the group by asking if they want to hold their hand, or by helping them up. A new student arrived and was curious about the braces and asked, "What are those, Why do you have that?" Other children spoke up for the boys and said "because they need them to help walk and everybody is different and that's how Jesus made him. And God loves everybody, right Ms. Sandra? I am different because I have missing teeth see, but Jesus likes me." The curious child was very content with this answer and has not mentioned it again.
- One of our students is a non-English speaker and because he did not have the words, would often parallel play with the children instead of playing with the children. That however that did not last long, as the other children all found their own way to communicate with him and include him in the mix. He has picked up so much language and is now using some English words to play with the children.

All the children are very kind and accepting of others and their differences and try to help respect one another. Why can't it be that easy for all of us? **Sandra Archuleta, McCurdy, Preschool Director**



A preschooler enjoys hopscotch on the preschool playground. (Photo by Rich Saxon)



McCurdy Ministries Pre-K students enjoy playing on their playground with equipment donated by the Sunday School children from Good Shepherd UMC in Colorado Springs. It is obvious this donation was a gift of love and a big hit with our preschoolers!