

# 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. 7, #1

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



## For the fifth year MMC is celebrating Giving Tuesday this November

Celebrating **Giving Tuesday** on Nov. 27, 2018 is especially important as McCurdy Ministries Community Center (MMCC) expands our programs and lives into our new identity as a Community Center. McCurdy continues to make a difference for 500+ students every school day through Project Cariño, the charter school breakfast and lunch program, After School Care, McCurdy Preschool,

Camp Stars, our volunteer program and our Adult Education and Adult Education Childcare.

Since 2012, the Tuesday after Thanksgiving nonprofits like MMCC 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. We call that day **Giving Tuesday**. Last year, MMCC donors broke our Giving Tuesday 2016 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. In 2017, we more than doubled that amount thanks to our very generous donors. Giving Tuesday will be on Nov. 27 and MMCC is once again looking for donors to contribute matching funds to help

the 2018 campaign be even more successful than previous years. At this point our 2018 goal is to raise \$75,000.

Our theme for **Giving Tuesday** is “Give light. Give love. Give life.” We are making it easier for you to make a donation to McCurdy during our Giving Tuesday Event. Your gift up to \$2,500 for the General Fund will be matched as long as the match lasts. Please note the match is only for gifts to the General Fund not the capital campaign, the foundation or specific programs. To receive the match please give in one of these three ways:

1. Mail a gift to MMCC postmarked between Nov. 1 and Nov. 27. The check MUST be marked “Giving Tuesday” to count toward the match.
2. From Nov. 1 through Nov. 27 you can go to our website at [www.mccurdy.org/give.html](http://www.mccurdy.org/give.html) to make a donation. Again your donation MUST be marked “Giving Tuesday” to qualify for the match.
3. On Nov. 27, 2018, you can go to [https://secure3.convio.net/gbgm/site/SPageNavigator/gbgm\\_donate.html?type=1001&project=581479](https://secure3.convio.net/gbgm/site/SPageNavigator/gbgm_donate.html?type=1001&project=581479) to give to McCurdy through the United Methodist Advance. Only gifts given on Nov. 27 through this option will be applied to the match if it is still available.

Please call Rev. Diana Loomis at 505-753-7221, ext. 352 or email her at [dloomis@mccurdy.org](mailto:dloomis@mccurdy.org) if you want to make a matching donation or have any questions about McCurdy’s **2018 Giving Tuesday Event**.

## 2018 Camp Stars once again a huge success!

Camp Stars, McCurdy Ministries Community Center’s six week summer program combining Vacation Bible School (VBS) fun and service with STEM education, was a success again this summer! The theme for this year’s summer camp was “Rolling River Rampage: Experience the ride of a lifetime with God.” The 34 campers in kindergarten through 6th grade reflected on the overarching Bible verse from Isaiah 43:2, “When you pass through the waters, I will be with you.” Campers participated in four learning stations per day including science and engineering; social and emotional well-being, drama and music; VBS art and crafts; and math and technology.

Camp Stars staff worked collaboratively to provide enriching lessons within the science and math stations that were connected to the overall theme. Campers were provided nutritious breakfast and lunches in partnership with the Rio Arriba County Summer Food Program, and were given nutritional information handouts. Participants heard a presentation from Blue Star Mothers Inc. about supporting American troops and made over 100 Christmas themed greeting and thank you cards for the troops. They also heard programs from the Española Valley Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, STOP (Substance Treatment Outreach Program), the New Mexico State Police and Heifer International. Campers made cards and visited residents at the Rehabilitation Center, pledged to stay away from drugs and alcohol substances, collected \$5.82 for Heifer International, and even got to turn on the police siren during the visit from state police. They also took two field trips to a bowling alley and an outdoor pool for a day of fun. Camp ended with an open house and closing ceremony for parents to enjoy presentations, hear praise and worship songs and witness what their children learned during the summer. McCurdy thanks the Montei Foundation and other donors for their continued support of Camp Stars!



Camp Stars students take part in a science lesson during Camp Stars 2018.



Patricia Alvarado

## Notes from the MMCC executive director

Imagine driving about and having the blessing of witnessing the beautiful landscapes, ever-changing sky, and amazing sunrises or sunsets! I have shared such experiences with you before and, once again, this past month as I have traveled around our beautiful state, I have been blessed with appreciating the variety of nature that God blesses us with, from the beautiful painted desert landscapes to the evergreen forests, the aspens already turning color, the misty early mornings filled with a beautiful rising sun and of course the blazing palette of color at sunset. Once in a while, an added bonus of a beautiful rainbow will grace us with its presence! We are coming out of a dry spell where

flowering plants were withering and grasslands were brown or almost nonexistent into beautiful blossoms and greenest of green pastureland after many blessed rain showers.

I liken our journey as McCurdy Ministries Community Center (MMCC) to this brief description of our surrounding landscapes. There are ebbs and flows to the work we do and the vision we are striving to enact. The partnerships we are forming and the collaborative work it takes to make a successful venture also go through ebbs and flows. The need is great and the work we are doing is complicated! The dry spells can have the impact of making us

believe that the roots are no longer salvageable but when we least expect it a much needed rain shower revives and renews, and the planted seeds or the withering plants come back stronger than ever.

And so it is with the many programs MMCC continues and the new ones we are adding. We are in the process of remodeling and repurposing our beloved and aging campus and in the midst of the hard work necessary to achieve our goals, the conviction to revive hope and empower our community to work together for the good of our children, youth, and families—ebbs and flows. For MMCC, we are blessed by all of you who give of your time, resources, and above all prayer with the conviction we are doing God's work, we are able to be his hands and feet on the ground, we serve one another in his name and we glorify of his name. The depth of your support ensures the ebbs are fewer and the flows are more abundant!

We are once again reaching out to you to prayerfully consider joining a work team to come for a week or to become a long term volunteer and assist in our programs, offices, or maintenance. As we have said before, "By multiplying funding efforts, by bringing together agencies/institutions, connecting families with one another, training children, youth, and families to advocate for themselves and believe in their own potential, McCurdy Ministries Community Center will help create hope and empower the lives of the people it serves."

I thank you, in advance, and pray that God will continue to bless and sustain you.

*Patricia A. Alvarado, executive director*

## Project Cariño staff is growing & making a greater difference!

Project Cariño is starting the school year fully staffed with six professionals, three therapists and three therapists in training, and we are ready to assist and support McCurdy Ministries Community Center and McCurdy Charter School students, families and staff toward a successful and healthy school year! Returning this year are Amanda Trujillo-Gonzales, LCSW and Director, and William (Bill) Clapp, LPCC and School Psychologist. Together they have approximately 50 years of experience in providing therapeutic services for children and families of the Española Valley. We are excited and proud to announce an addition to our therapy team, Marcos Castellano, LMSW, who has come back to his home community, Espanola, NM, to practice Clinical Social Work with the McCurdy community. Marcos shares about himself saying,

*"My name is Marcos Castellano and I'm a recent graduate from NMSU with my masters of social work. I was born and raised in the beautiful Española Valley. I spent both my undergraduate and graduate career at NM State University in Las Cruces, NM. I have returned home to serve the community that helped me become the person I am today. I had the great opportunity to complete my MSW internship at Project Cariño for the 2017–2018 school year and I feel blessed to be a full time therapist for the 2018–2019 school year. I chose this profession because I truly believe in giving, you receive and true happiness is found in the service of others. I am committed to serving the social and emotional needs of the McCurdy community and I look forward to growing both as a therapist and as a person throughout this coming year. I feel both blessed and honored to be a part of Project Cariño and McCurdy Ministries Community Center."*

Project Cariño is privileged this year to welcome three additional team players! They are all master-level student social work interns from NM Highlands University (NMHU), completing their last practicum experience with us. Their anticipated graduation will be in May 2019.

Juan Sanchez grew up in Cordova, NM, a village 12 miles east of Española. He is a graduate of Española Valley High School and he is a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps where he served his country for 20 years. Having retired five years ago, Juan went back to school and chose to study the field of social work because of its diverse careers. He intends to dedicate his service to educating and supporting the younger populations hoping to break the cycle of drug and alcohol abuse that has impacted generations in the Española Valley. Juan believes that Project Cariño will help him gain valuable experience working with the Valley's youth in collaboration and receiving guidance from seasoned therapists.

Crystal McDonald grew up and still lives in Santa Fe, NM and has had all of her educational experiences there, until this year when she chose Project Cariño as the place from which she will work with youth in the Española Valley. Crystal feels that her educational and professional goals are consistent with our mission in service to children and adolescents. She is excited to learn about the various counseling modalities used at Project Cariño, including child-centered play therapy and to be a part of "this great team of passionate professionals."

Stephanie Camfield grew up in Arlington, TX and came to northern NM in 2015 to be a residential manager for a dance academy in which her daughters were enrolled. She eventually enrolled in the School of Social Work at NMHU because she feels Social Work affords her the skills and experience necessary "to affect positive change through personal and community transformation by the creation of policies and laws that make the world a healthier, happier and more just place to live." Stephanie chose Project Cariño because she believes she will receive valuable experience that will help her become a wiser, more skillful practitioner.

Project Cariño staff are excited for the new school year with the children, youth and families of the Española Valley!

*Amanda Trujillo Gonzalez,  
Project Cariño director*



*Pictured left to right: Bill Clapp, Crystal McDonald, Marcos Castellano, Stephanie Camfield, Juan Sanchez and Amanda Trujillo Gonzalez*

## Preschool News\*Preschool News

The morning McCurdy Schools of Northern New Mexico Pre-K and the afternoon McCurdy Ministries Community Preschool kicked off their first day of school on September 5. The photos below from their first week of learning show how exciting their first school experiences were.



*Above: Pre-K students intently listen to their teacher in one of their first circle times.  
Below: Preschool Director Sandra Trujillo leads the students in the pledge of allegiance.*



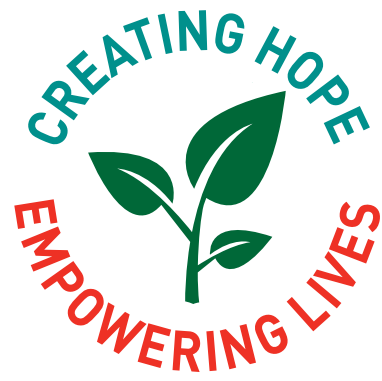
## Volunteers in Mission updates

The summer season when McCurdy Ministries Community Center has the most volunteers and the most work for volunteers is winding down. This summer, over 150 volunteers with 12 sets of work teams from seven states across the country visited McCurdy and worked on a variety of fun and helpful projects on campus.

McCurdy is **now scheduling** Individual Volunteers and Volunteer in Mission, Emergency Response and NOMAD Teams for the 2018–19 fiscal year. Remember, you can bring a volunteer team or come as an individual volunteer 12 months out of the year! To volunteer at McCurdy, please contact Eufemia Romero to reserve your time. With McCurdy's transition to a community center we have construction, building demolition and program development needs. Your help is critical and maybe you can drive a tractor!

For information on bringing a work team to McCurdy or coming as an individual volunteer, go to our website at [www.mccurdy.org](http://www.mccurdy.org), click on the VIM or Volunteering tab at the top of the page to locate the VIM Team Leader 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.

*A volunteer from Reynoldsburg UMC in Ohio levels ground with a tractor in front of the Project Cariño buildings.*



## The Creating Hope, Empowering Lives Capital Campaign

Across the country this fall, McCurdy Ministries Community Center is inviting churches, UMW units, VIM Teams and individual donors to support our Creating Hope, Empowering lives campaign by becoming a Campaign Spiritual Vision Partner.

This means you will pray for our vision for ministry inspired by God and you will invite your church, Sunday School class, alumni class, UMW unit, friends and family to pray for our campaign.

The good news is that commitments made for Phase One of our campaign to update the Adult Ministries Center (the former high school) are approaching the half way mark and we are excited that once we have raised half of the needed funds Jennifer Tyler, our capital consultant, has identified a grant from a foundation that helps nonprofits raise up to 50% of their capital goals. We have plans to apply for a grant from that foundation soon.

In addition, in September we are kicking off Phase Two of the campaign to fund improvements to the Children's Ministries Center (the former elementary school) in the New Mexico Annual Conference. In June the conference voted to embark on a conference campaign to support McCurdy. The first events will be six Clergy & Spouse Events across the conference which will be held in the following places.

### Albuquerque District events attended by Rev. Craig Cockrell

*3 PM, Sunday, Sept. 9, Dessert Reception at RiverStone UMC,  
808 N Monterey Ave., Farmington, NM 87401.*

*6:30 PM, Tuesday, Sept. 11, Dessert Reception at St. John's UMC,  
2626 Arizona St. NE Albuquerque, NM 87110. Bishop Earl Bledsoe will attend.*

### Clovis District events attended by Rev. Ernie Vineyard

*6 PM, Sunday, Sept. 16, be our guests for a Clergy & Spouse Dinner  
at KBob's Restaurant, 1600 E Mabry Dr., Clovis, New Mexico 88101.  
NMAC Lay Leader Sid Strebeck will attend.*

*6 PM, Monday, Sept. 17, at First UMC in Roswell, 200 N. Pennsylvania Ave.,  
Roswell, NM 88201. DS Rev. NMAC Lay Leader Sid Strebeck will attend.*

### El Paso District events attended by Rev. Eddie Rivera

*6:30 PM, Tuesday, Sept. 18, Dessert Reception at First UMC,  
415 North Lee Ave., Odessa, TX, 79761.*

*11:30 AM, Wednesday, Sept. 19, be our guest at a luncheon  
at Trinity First UMC, 801 N. Mesa Street, El Paso, TX 79902.*

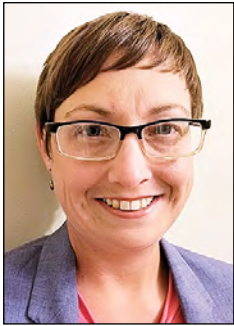
If you or your organization are interested in being a Spiritual Vision Partner for this campaign we are preparing a tool kit of resources that will be able to be downloaded from the McCurdy website. In the meanwhile, please call me at 505-753-7221, ext. 352 or email me at [dloomis@mccurdy.org](mailto:dloomis@mccurdy.org) for more information on being our prayer partner for this campaign so important to God's ministry in the Espanola Valley.

*Diana Loomis, director of development/church relations*

## MMCC's Adult Education Program celebrates one year anniversary

MMCC's newest program, the Adult Education program with free childcare, celebrates its first year and continues to expand. This fall we are excited to partner with the Rio Arriba Adult Literacy Program (RAALP) who have started providing literacy coaching with free childcare in our Adult Ministries Center on campus in the evenings and weekends when the library is closed.

In addition, our adult education partnership with Northern New Mexico College is expanding its programs to include more students. Classes offered to help students achieve their High School Equivalency (HSE) include ESL (English as a Second Language) 1 and 2, Math 1 and 2. Participation in these classes is growing.



Amanda Mountain

## A message of hope for McCurdy

I recently celebrated my 40th birthday and have been taking time to reflect back on the past 40 years and what I would like the next 40 to look like. There is one word that keeps coming to the front of my mind and popping up randomly in my prayers during reflection, hope. Over this past weekend, I was browsing the Santa Fe Artisan Market and stopped at one of my favorite artist's stands who creates jewelry with various inspirational phrases and words on them. I have been looking at her pieces most weekends over the past year, dreaming of having the funds to afford such intricately handmade pieces. As I browsed a display of necklaces this past Saturday,

I came across one with a single, small green stone. Attached to the stone was an even smaller piece of metal with the word "hope" inscribed in the center. I heard the artist's voice say, "That one is on clearance today for only twenty dollars."

Hope has been a constant theme in my life and is a word that has been at the forefront of my time at McCurdy. Some days our tasks on campus seem insurmountable as we continue to live into what it means to be a community center in ministry with the children, youth, adults and families in the Española Valley. Repeating "hope" to myself in these times has become a mantra and spiritual practice.

MMCC brings hope to those with whom we are in ministry, and with hope in God anything is possible. I am so grateful for my short time at MMCC. I have felt my grandmother, Alma Mountain's presence with me as I have learned invaluable professional skills in grant writing, donor communications and gift tracking, email marketing and how to integrate a CRM database with an email marketing system. These tasks may seem mundane to some, but each person on staff at MMCC brings their own gifts and works every day towards the common goal and mission to empower the lives with whom we are in ministry. I thank the staff and the board of MMCC for their support over the past year and in their support of my decision to follow my spouse to Detroit for their dream job! I will miss MMCC and everyone I have met during my time here. I am leaving having gained new professional skills and with "hope" engraved on my heart. Thank you. *Amanda Mountain, associate director of development.*



## After School Care News

Our students are in school after summer break and are excited to come back to After School Care. This summer After School Care moved into the former elementary school building. The children are thrilled to be in a different building with new computers, new school supplies, old friends and new friends. One student said, "This is my family, I missed you guys." When asked to share what they did during their summer vacation, one student shared about how great their camping trip had gone. While another shared about their trip to Colorado and how great it was seeing the beautiful green mountains. Two other students shared about how much fun they had at Camp Stars (MMCC's summer camp program). During the students' bible study, the children read the Bible verse aloud, "*Lord, please help me to not make the wrong decisions.*" Psalm 32:8 Then they prayed that this verse would guide them to make good decisions at school and help them focus on their class work this year.

*Angela Ortiz, After School Care provider*

## McCurdy website & media updates

This fall the McCurdy Ministries Community Center website is going through a major overhaul and update. We are working with a web designer to make our website user friendly and resources more easily downloaded. The project should be finished by late October, so we invite you to go to [www.mccurdy.org](http://www.mccurdy.org) and check out our new look then. Meanwhile, to keep up on the latest McCurdy happenings, please like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter and Instagram. We invite the churches that support us to like our pages also!

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

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

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

## Please support McCurdy Ministries Community Center!

McCurdy Ministries Community Center touches the lives of more than 550 students, adults and families every school day through our Northern NM Pre-K programs, Project Carino, After School Care, Adult Education with childcare, Camp Stars, volunteer programs and preschool. By becoming McCurdy Ministries Community Center, we are impacting more lives every day. Your donations of prayer, time, talent and funds literally help us save lives, support 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, 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](mailto:dloomis@mccurdy.org).

**For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**

**Matthew 6:21**



## Tyson & Box Top 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. A \$111 donation was earned in 2017-18 school year.

**Thank you for your support of McCurdy Charter School by collecting Box Tops for Education.** This school year we have raised \$8,083 and since we began these efforts in 2012, we have helped the school earn over \$85,879.

**Thank you for years of support by donating Campbell's Labels.** As of Dec. 31, 2017, the program was ended by Campbell's. We can no longer submit labels so please throw away any you have.

Please continue to send in your Box Tops and Tyson Project A+ labels to McCurdy Ministries Community Center, 362-A S. McCurdy Road, Española, NM 87532. Your support in this simple way makes a big difference.