



McCurdy Ministries

MESSAGE

A Light in the Valley

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

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McCurdy Ministries creates hope and empowers the lives of children, youth, and families through education, life skills, and faith based programs in Española, New Mexico.

Congratulations to the 2026 McCurdy Foundation Scholarship Recipients

McCurdy Ministries is proud to announce the recipients of this year's scholarships. Victor Sanchez-Valdez has been named the recipient of the McCurdy Foundation Scholarship, and Eliseo Delgado has been selected as the recipient of the Pomeroy Family Scholarship. Each will receive \$1,500 to support their pursuit of higher education.



ABOUT ELISEO DELGADO

My name is Eliseo Delgado, and I will be attending New Mexico Highlands University in the fall to get a degree in Social Work, with the overarching goal of becoming a high school guidance counselor. I chose the path of a social worker because the work of a guidance counselor isn't just about academics, but also the mental and emotional well-being of their students. When I become a guidance counselor, I want to give back to Española by giving students the internship and leadership opportunities I was fortunate enough to have—and so much more!



ABOUT VICTOR SANCHEZ-VALDEZ

My name is Victor Sanchez-Valdez and I was born and raised in the Española Valley as well as Ojo Caliente. I plan to attend the University of New Mexico and pursue a degree in Electrical Engineering with a minor in Business Administration. My long-term goal is to establish an engineering firm in Northern New Mexico focused on explaining and improving electrical infrastructure in rural and under served areas and communities. Through innovation, leadership, and service, I hope to contribute to the economic growth and development of the region, while creating opportunities for future generations.

Scholarships change lives—they open doors to education, opportunity, and offer a brighter future for students to pursue their dreams. Your generosity can make that difference. To donate to the McCurdy Foundation and help support a student on their path to success, contact the business office at businessoffice@mccurdy.org to establish a gift.

Generosity in Action

School Supplies and Smiles at our Back-to-School Event



Thanks to the donations of school supplies from many area churches and donors throughout the summer, local students were able to start the year with the supplies they needed at our back-to-school event!

All donated supplies were distributed during the Día de los Niños Back to School Event on Sunday, August 2nd. The McCurdy Family Resource Center Lighthouse clothing bank opened its doors for

the families to shop for free back-to-school clothing, backpacks, and school supplies to help them prepare for the upcoming school year. Gabby Abeyta, our intern from the Commission for the Blind shared a special musical performance.

None of this would have been possible without the generosity and hard work of so many. A heartfelt thank you to our nonprofit partners, Village of Casitas, for their continued support and partnership

in making this event a success. We're also grateful to our dedicated staff, who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to organize and distribute donations. Thank you to everyone who donated school supplies, clothing, and backpacks and to the volunteers who sewed at the event. Your generosity made a real difference in the lives of local children and families as they prepared for the new school year.

Eggstravaganza at McCurdy



Our Eggstravaganza event was a huge success—made even more special by a visit from the Easter Bunny! Families enjoyed a fun-filled day with games, activities, treats, and community.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped make this event possible: CASA for face painting; United Way Future Leaders for egg dyeing;

Las Cumbres Grandparents Raising Grandkids for arts activities; the Brain Injury Advisory Council for providing free bike helmets; Chris, a veteran, for grilling hot dogs; LEER Children's Literacy for giving away free books; Manny and family for the delicious cupcakes and cake; the Northern Youth Project interns for serving as "bunny egg hiders"; Julie from Los Alamos United Methodist Church for the pinwheels craft;

Jane, Tim, Vicky, DG, and Gracie for volunteering; the McCurdy Charter School Service Learning Class and Carol, Veronica, and Gracie for stuffing eggs; and our wonderful McCurdy FRC angels—Capriza, Haley, and Veronica!

Thank you all for helping create such a fun and memorable celebration for our community.

Pre-K Director Sandra Trujillo Honored



Sandra Trujillo, McCurdy Ministries Pre-K Director, was recently honored as one of five recipients of the inaugural 2026 Rio Arriba County Heart & Soul Early Childhood Champion Award.

Presented by the LANL Foundation, the award recognizes outstanding early childhood educators who demonstrate extraordinary love, dedication, and care for young children and families throughout Rio Arriba County. Earlier this year, 17 educators were nominated by members of the community for the

meaningful impact they make every day. From those nominations, five women were selected to receive this special recognition.

According to the LANL Foundation, these educators are “shaping the foundation of lifelong learning for our youngest children,” and their work “truly makes a difference every day.”

Sandra’s leadership, compassion, and commitment to early childhood education has blessed countless children and families in the Española

Valley through her work at McCurdy Ministries. We are incredibly proud of this well-deserved recognition and grateful for the care and dedication she brings to our Pre-K program each day. Amazingly, our newest Pre-K teacher at McCurdy was a student of Sandra. What an incredible legacy!

Congratulations, Sandra, and thank you for all you do to nurture and educate the children of our community!

STARS Afterschool Begins a New Year

STARS Afterschool Shining This School Year



Reading doesn't stop when the school bell rings. At McCurdy Campus, we believe a love of reading should follow kids well beyond the classroom door—and that's exactly what our STARS Afterschool program is designed to do.

STARS Afterschool, a program of the LEER Children's Literacy Initiative, is an afterschool program

that supports literacy, enrichment, education, and readiness. Every child deserves the chance to grow, learn, and thrive—and that's what we're here for.

STARS Afterschool includes:

- Homework help
- A healthy snack
- Time with our Reading Buddy volunteers
- Arts enrichment
- Gardening
- Lots of free play

Hours

- 3:30–6:00pm, Monday–Thursday

Where to Find Us

- KIDSPACE Building

Grades

- Kindergarten through 6th Grade

Cost

- \$150 per child, per semester (financial aid available)

Semester Schedule

- Semester 1: August 18–December 17
- Semester 2: January 4–May 13

Ready to give your child a supportive space to grow after school? Visit our website to register today—and if you'd like to give back, we're also looking for volunteers to support the program: mccurdy.org/starsoutofschool

And if you would like to sponsor a child's STARS experience, please give at <https://www.mccurdy.org/give>.

Camp STARS, Growing Deep Roots

A summer to remember at our 2026 Camp STARS!



Camp STARS was a beautiful success this summer, and an incredible blessing to the 46 children who joined us! From our special Book Fair, where kids picked out free books to take home, to our fun-filled Family Nights, every week was packed with reading, joy, and growth.

This year also marked the inaugural year of our live-in internship program.

College interns from the Española Valley, El Paso, and even Chicago lived on campus and each received a scholarship from the McCurdy Foundation. Their energy and dedication made a lasting difference for our campers.

Huge thanks to Kercida McClain, LEER Director, and Marcela Casaus, LEER Program Director, along with our

amazing interns and adult Reading Buddies, who truly helped transform children's lives this summer.

We're also deeply grateful to Los Alamos UMC for their generous donation of two projectors. We were so blessed to put these new gifts to use at the Camp STARS closing celebration!

Transforming KIDSPACE

We have been hard at work continuing to transform Kidspace into a place where children learn and play. This means updating the bathrooms, painting, and a beautiful new roof! Huge thanks to Manny, Sam, Michael, Ben, and Cosme on this amazing feat. Much of this work is behind the scenes and expensive. If you want to contribute to making Kidspace better, we would love for you to donate!



Memorable Moments



McCurdy Charter School students from the Service Learning class come to serve once a week at McCurdy Ministries.



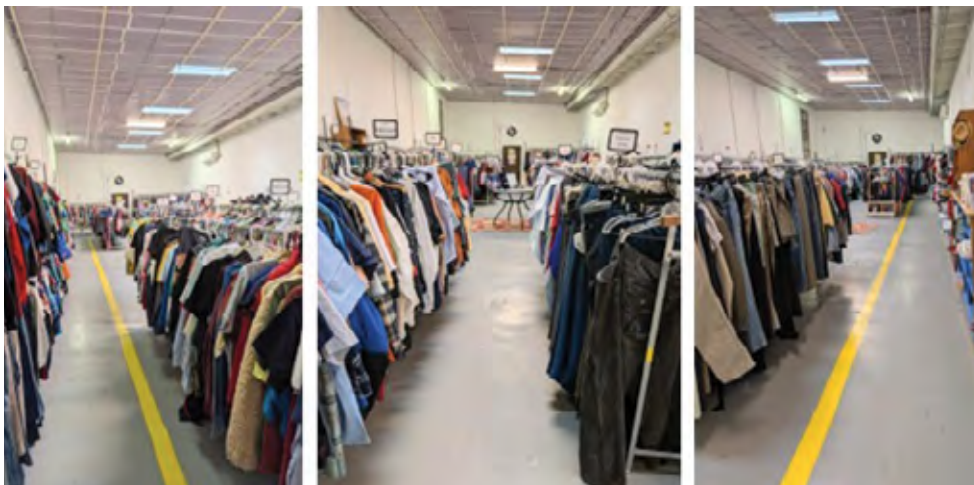
Congratulations to our 2026 graduating Pre-K class and all you have accomplished!



McCurdy Charter School students visited the Enchanted Forest of Reading. Some students attended elementary school in this class and they were amazed!

The Lighthouse Gets a New Look

Thanks to the staff and volunteers who have transformed the space!



Thanks to the hard work of the “dynamo” mother-daughter team of Angela Ortiz and Angel Hanrahan, along with our incredible maintenance team and dedicated volunteers, the Lighthouse clothing bank has been beautifully transformed into a welcoming and highly organized space in the former locker room of the Cole Family Resource Center.

One of the biggest improvements was the installation of new hanging racks along previously unused walls, dramatically increasing both the amount of clothing available and the visibility of items for families. Professional signage and a thoughtful layout now give the space a clean, store-like feel that is functional, inviting, and dignifying for those “shopping” for free items..

The newly arranged area provides Family Resource

Center families with easy access to “shop” for clothing and essentials in a dignified environment. On average, 75–150 families and individuals visit the Lighthouse each day specifically for clothing and personal essentials. Throughout the day, Lighthouse staff work diligently to restock and refresh the selection to ensure families can always find appropriate items.

Volunteer in Mission (VIM) teams can support this important ministry by organizing new underwear, socks, and shoe drives before traveling to Española. While on campus, team members can also assist with sorting and organizing donations.

In addition to clothing donations, the Lighthouse is especially in need of the following items:

New underwear for men, women, and children (all sizes). New or gently used shoes, especially work shoes for men. Men’s work shirts and pants. Hygiene products and toiletries such as shampoo, soap, deodorant, and toothpaste. Cleaning supplies for families such as detergent, paper towels, toilet paper, etc.

Every donation helps provide dignity, comfort, and practical support to families in our community.

This is a beautiful way we are shining the light of Christ in practical ways in the Valley.

Scrappy Sewing Ministry Creates Comfort for Families at the FRC



In late April, Frankie Long of Sand Springs Methodist Church in Oklahoma traveled to Española alongside Linda Polson, a member of the McCurdy Board of Trustees, bringing with her a generous collection of handmade items for children and families served through the Family Resource Center (FRC).

We were able to bless a family with 5 children who were escaping violence with blankets sewn with prayers and love. What a beautiful reminder to this family that they are literally covered in prayers.



Frankie delivered an abundance of lovingly crafted diaper bags, baby blankets, soft books, quilts, and other sewing projects created especially for FRC families.

Scrappy sewing is a way in which you can serve at McCurdy from your own church or craft room! If you enjoy sewing, we always welcome blankets, shopping totes, stuffed animals, or other hand-made items to share with friends who come to McCurdy FRC. One fun project would be creating Christmas sacks or stockings we could share with families at our upcoming Christmas store to collect their gifts.

During her visit, Frankie also worked with Vicente Romero to relocate the remaining sewing supplies from Bachman Hall into a new location.

Fall Fun on Campus

You're Invited to the McCurdy Fall Festival on October 31

Mark your calendars for the annual McCurdy Fall Festival on Saturday, October 31, from 3:00 to 5:00 PM!

Bring the whole family and join us for an afternoon of fun and laughter on the front lawn! We'll have trick-or-treating, games, and sweet treats.

This festive gathering wouldn't be possible without the generosity of our incredible non-profit partners,

whose support and collaboration continue to make events like this one a reality. We are deeply grateful for their commitment to strengthening our community and creating joyful, memorable experiences for local families.

Whether you're coming for the candy, the costumes, or just the chance to connect with neighbors,

we hope you'll join us on the lawn for an afternoon full of smiles. See you there!

We also need area churches and volunteers to come and share carnival-type games or crafts to help make this event a blast! Interested? Contact thollums@mccurdy.org.

McCurdy Christmas "Store" Returns

Donate a gift to be a part of the magic this holiday season

We're overflowing with excitement as we prepare to welcome families back for this year's McCurdy Family Christmas Store!

Building on the joy of our very first year, this beloved new tradition will continue to bless families in our

community—giving families the chance to "shop" for free gifts for their children and giving children the delight of picking out a special gift for their loved ones.

We can't wait to create more moments of connection, generosity, and joy for our neighbors. If you'd like

to be part of the Christmas magic, bring an unwrapped toy or gift to McCurdy campus by December 6, or visit our website to order directly from our wishlist and see a list of suggested gifts by age: www.mccurdy.org/christmas.

Volunteer in Mission Teams Needed



There is still time to register a Volunteer in Mission (VIM) team for the 2026 volunteer season at McCurdy Ministries, and the 2027 calendar is already filling up! Churches, youth groups, families, and individuals are invited to prayerfully consider organizing a team to serve in Española and support the many ministries that make a difference in the lives of local children and families.

VIM teams can be any size and include participants of all ages, as there are a wide variety of meaningful ways to serve across campus. Whether your team enjoys hands-on projects, organizing, sewing, landscaping, or working directly with families, there is a place for everyone to contribute.

Available weeks for the 2026 volunteer season include:

- October: 25–31
- 2027 dates are also filling quickly
-

Volunteer teams may assist with a variety of projects:

- Leveling books for the Enchanted Forest of Reading

- Sorting and organizing clothing for the Lighthouse
- Assisting in the food and diaper pantry
- Sewing bookbags and comfort items for children
- Helping maintain campus buildings
- Mowing and caring for campus green spaces
- Campus-wide painting
- New projects, such as a kitchen in Cole

These projects provide critical support to McCurdy Ministries programs, while also offering volunteers an opportunity to build relationships, grow in faith, and serve alongside the Española Valley community.

To schedule a volunteer team for 2026 or 2027, please contact Volunteer Registrar, Eufemia Romero, at 505-753-7221, ext. 210, or by email at eromero@mccurdy.org.

Additional information and registration links can be found on the McCurdy Ministries website at www.mccurdy.org/missionvolunteers.

United Women in Faith Tea



McCurdy had a beautiful United Women in Faith tea this summer thanks to the incredible UWF New Mexico women. The tea cakes were divine, the decorations were exquisite, the teams treats were yummy, and the

company was lovely. We were also inspired to work on beginning a Mccurdy UWF group. More detail details to follow.

4 Ways to Support Valley Families



Concha Brown and her church community in Bethel, MN sewed quilts to give to families in the Española Valley, that they will deliver during their next long-term stay.

Young people in the Española Valley thrive when they are surrounded by caring adults, safe spaces, educational opportunities, and a community that believes in their future. McCurdy Ministries has spent more than a century investing in children, teens, and families through education, counseling, literacy programs, food support, clothing assistance, and youth enrichment opportunities.

If you are looking for meaningful ways to make a difference in the lives of local youth, here are four impactful ways to get involved:

1. Become a Reading Buddy

Literacy changes lives. Through the LEER Children's Literacy Program, community volunteers read one-on-one with students to help improve reading confidence and proficiency. The program also works to increase children's access to books throughout the valley.

Research shows that students who struggle with reading early in life face greater challenges later in school. By becoming a Reading Buddy, donating books, or supporting our LEER literacy program, you help open doors for children across the community.

2. Donate Essential Items

Many families in the Española Valley face challenges accessing everyday necessities. Donations of clothing, food, diapers, hygiene supplies, cleaning supplies, backpacks, and school supplies help ensure children can focus on learning and growing. Programs like the Lighthouse Clothing Closet, Food Pantry, and Regional Diaper Bank provide practical support for families year-round. Community donations help these resources continue serving local families with dignity and care. Visit our website to shop directly from our Amazon Wishlist: <https://www.mccurdy.org/give>.

3. Support Mental Health and Family Wellness

Youth need emotional support just as much as educational support. Project Cariño has provided free mental health counseling services for children and

families for decades, helping young people navigate challenges and build resilience. Looking for a place that your gifts can make a lasting impact? Supporting programs that care for mental and emotional health helps create stronger families and healthier communities. Financial contributions, volunteer support, and spreading awareness about available services all make a difference.

4. Invest in Community Programs for Children and Teens

From preschool and after-school care to summer camps and family resource programs, youth-centered initiatives provide safe environments where children can learn, grow, and build confidence. McCurdy Ministries now serves as a Family Resource Campus, connecting families with education, resources, mentorship, and community support. You can support these efforts by donating financially, participating in community events, sharing resources with families, or advocating for programs that strengthen opportunities for local youth.

Supporting youth in the Española Valley does not always require a large commitment—even small acts of generosity can make a lasting impact. Together, we can help create a community where every child feels valued, supported, and empowered to succeed.

GIVE ONLINE

Every gift, big or small, helps us give children and families across the Española Valley the tools they need to grow, learn, and thrive. Giving online is quick and easy: simply scan the QR code to visit our website, or contact our Business Office to set up a recurring gift. Thank you for believing in our mission and investing in the future of our community.

