



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.

McCURDY HAS A NEW LOOK

Behind McCurdy's New Logo

We are thrilled to share something special with you—McCurdy Ministries has a fresh new look! Our updated logo is inspired by the beautiful Española Valley, the vibrant growth happening on our campus, and the deep sense of purpose that guides everything we do as "a light in the valley".

This new design reflects not only where we are headed, but also the heart of who we are: a caring community shining light and love

throughout the Española Valley. Our new logo is more than just a design—it tells the story of the many ministries that make up the heart of our work. Each color in the logo represents one of our vital programs, coming together to form a vibrant, unified symbol of hope, support, and transformation. Here is what each color stands for:

Teal—Family Resource Center
Yellow—The Light House and
Scrappy Sewing Ministries

Blue—Project Cariño
Green—Preschool
Magenta—After School
Red—Volunteers

By bringing all these elements into one cohesive design, we honor both the uniqueness and interconnectedness of the work we do. We hope you love this new look as much as we do—and that it serves as a reminder of the light we continue to shine together in the valley.



UNITED METHODIST NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE CELEBRATION

A Day of Joy & Community

Since 1912, McCurdy Ministries has been a place of faith, service, and community in the Española Valley. Now, we are honored to share an exciting milestone—our campus has been named an official United

Methodist National Historic Site! Many alumni, staff, and community partners joined us on October 11th for a joyful celebration and dedication ceremony in the McCracken gym. The day included a special worship

service, campus tours for family and friends, a silent auction and visits to the new McCurdy Historic Room and Gift Shop. Thank you for everyone who blessed us by joining in the festivities!

SHINING THE LIGHT

What’s Happening at McCurdy

The Family Resource Center is serving families by providing resources and support. Here is how we have been supporting our community this season:

- CAMP stars welcomed almost 40 campers with an incredible 6 weeks of camp and Reading Buddies.
- LEER’s Enchanted Forest of Reading is welcoming children to take a book and love reading!
- Scrappy Sewing Ministry created amazing book bags for each Camp Stars child to take their new books home.
- Our Gift Shop has a new location, and includes t-shirts with our new logo and items from many New Mexico artists.
- The Historic Room has moved to a larger location to share our beautiful history.
- Project Cariño is offering free mental health services to students and families.
- Our 5-star Pre-K had a waiting list for the fall.
- The Light House clothing closet is serving families to share light and hope (and clothing!).
- The Village of Casitas opened to other partner nonprofits, including CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates), Northern Youth Project, Las Cumbres: Grandparents Raising Grandkids, United Way, and NHLBA (National Hispanic Latino Behavioral Association).
- We also are welcoming Gerard’s House who offer grief support for children and youth.



NEW FOOD PANTRY & DIAPER BANK OPEN ON CAMPUS

Open to the Public at McCurdy Monday–Friday

We are delighted to announce the opening of two much-needed resources for families in the Española Valley—the McCurdy Food Pantry and Diaper Bank! They are now open in our Family Resource Center.

These new services are part of McCurdy Ministries’ ongoing commitment to supporting families and lifting up our neighbors during challenging times. The Food Pantry is open Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and provides essential staple foods at no cost to families in need. Thanks to our partnership with The Food

Depot and generous donations, shelves are stocked with nourishing items that help ease the burden of food insecurity and offer dignity and care to those we serve.

Alongside the pantry, we are proud to introduce the Diaper Bank, a new regional resource made possible through a generous start-up grant through the Los Alamos National Laboratory Foundation. For many families, access to diapers can be a persistent financial stress—and one not covered by public assistance programs. Through this new initiative, we aim to ease that burden and provide families with

the support they deserve. We are currently working closely with local pueblos and Rio Arriba County to ensure these resources reach those who need them most.

At McCurdy, we believe strong families build strong communities. We are excited to offer these new ministries as tangible expressions of love, hope, and practical care. Whether you are in need or looking for ways to help, we invite you to be part of this important work.

Donations of shelf-stable food and diapers are always needed.

OPEN TO ALL IN NEED

The Food Bank and Diaper Pantry are open to anyone in need of assistance. If you or someone you know needs assistance, visit us in the Family Resource Center on McCurdy Campus during our open hours from 9:00am–5:00pm, Monday through Friday at 362A S. McCurdy Rd, Española, NM 87532. Questions? Give us a call at 505-753-7221 or visit www.mccurdy.org/foodanddiaperpantry.



CAMP STARS STOPS SUMMER SLIDE

How We Made a Difference

We Stopped Summer Slide

This summer, Camp Stars, McCurdy's summer camp for rising 1st–6th graders, was in full swing—buzzing with energy, laughter, and learning!

Camp Stars welcomed over 40 campers with an incredible 7 weeks of camp and Reading Buddies. Children dove deep into friendship through arts, singing, recreation, STEM activities, faith, healthy habits, cooking class, free play, and—most importantly—literacy. With healthy breakfasts, lunches, and snacks fueling their days, campers were ready to learn, play, and grow together.

Why is this so important? Because of something called the “Summer Slide.” Researchers have long warned that children often lose significant ground in reading and math when school is out. The concept of the summer slide has been on researchers’ radar since at least 1996, when one of the first comprehensive studies on the phenomenon was published. Studies show that students can lose about 20 percent of their school-year gains in reading during summer break, with the effects compounding each year. But not at Camp Stars—here, summer is a season of growth!

28 Reading Buddies Made a Difference

This year, 28 Reading Buddies brought books to life for our campers. Together they laughed, sounded out new words, wrote sight words, got swept up in stories, supported, encouraged, and believed in children.

405 books were read during Reading Buddy time.

204 hours were donated by caring adults who showed up to read one-on-one with kids.

100% of children who regularly attended Camp Stars improved their reading level.

Every page turned was another step toward stronger reading skills and a brighter future.

About LEER: Growing Readers, Growing Roots

Reading helps us grow wide branches and deep roots. LEER (le-EHR, to read), a Children’s Literacy Program for the Española Valley, aims to improve children’s reading proficiency through access to books and helpers (Reading Buddies, vetted and trained caring adults), who read one-on-one with elementary students.

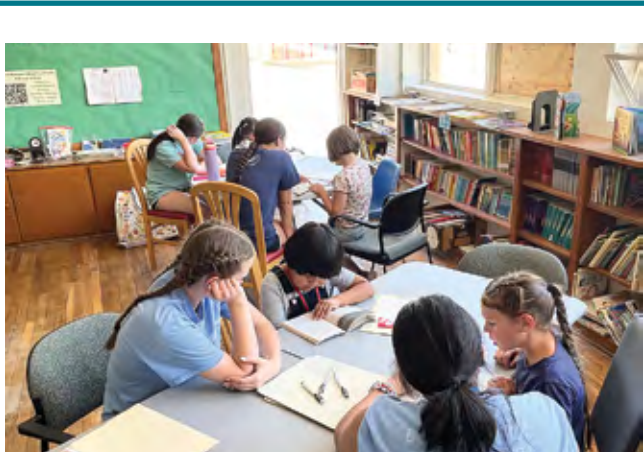
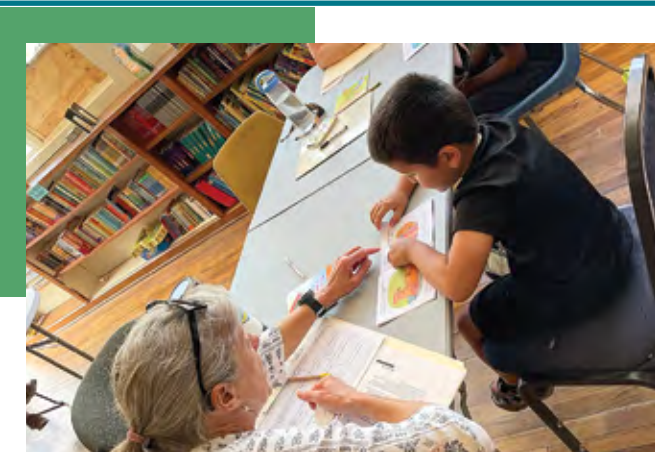
A student who cannot read on grade level by 3rd grade is four times less likely to graduate on time (American Education Research Association). Data from Española Public Schools for the 2023–2024 school year shows that 75 percent of grade 3–6 students were not proficient in Language Arts, and 80 percent of students in grades K–6 were below proficiency in reading at the beginning of the school year.

That is why our mission is clear: to instill a lifelong love of reading and improve overall reading proficiency of the children we serve by 10 percent each year.

At LEER, every child’s story matters. With your support, we are not just stopping the Summer Slide—we are helping kids climb higher, one book at a time.

LEER’s Enchanted Forest of Reading is now open to the public, welcoming children to take a book and love reading!





VOLUNTEER WITH LEER

Reading Buddies Needed for Fall & Winter

If you miss being in Kidspace and the Enchanted Forest of Reading, or hanging out in books, we would love your help.

Want to help now?

Come help us shift the library from a Reading Level Orientation to a genre-oriented one. We have inventoried over 3000 books in

the library that need to now be alphabetized and shelved. You can also continue the work of leveling and inventorying the books that still need to be included. Channel your inner librarian. We are setting up the “Open to the Public Hours” which will be Tuesdays, 3–7pm and Second Saturdays, 10am–1pm and need volunteers to staff those.

Want to keep being a Reading Buddy?

We will be introducing Reading Buddies at JHR Elementary in Española to read with 2nd graders during the school day on a weekly basis.

Want more details all in one place?

Visit www.mccurdy.org/leer.



MCCURDY FOUNDATION

Help Support a McCurdy Student

The McCurdy Foundation was originally created in 1971 to support students at McCurdy School. It has continued to be active, currently supporting students receiving educational services from McCurdy Ministries.

The Foundation presently manages ten accounts initially established to “Leave A Legacy” in memory of a family member or loved one. The present value of the Foundation exceeds \$500,000, which is invested with the Texas Methodist Foundation.

Who Does The Foundation Support?

The earnings of the Fund are used to support students needing financial assistance for:

1. After-School Care
2. Project Cariño (A Counseling Service)
3. Camp Stars (A Summer School Program)
4. A Scholarship to attend college
5. LEER Program (elementary student reading program)

The Foundation is managed by a

ten-member Board of Directors, five of whom are McCurdy School Graduates.

Interested in Supporting Students?

If you are interested in supporting students in the Española Valley and/or Leaving a Legacy in honor of a loved one, please contact Randall Partin, Director of Finance and Operations. An initial investment of \$10,000 is required to establish a separate fund, but all gifts will bless a student in the valley.



AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM JOINS PROJECT CARIÑO

& Welcomes New Director Larleen Rael

We are excited to share that Project Cariño's amazing therapist, Larleen Rael, has graciously offered to be the new Director of the After School program, which will now be a ministry of Project Cariño to better support our students.

The students will have time to do homework, occasionally visit the Enchanted Forest of Reading, have Bible Club time, and also

have social/emotional learning and activities. We are excited to see how this new focus can build community, and provide important support for the children and youth we serve.

This also will enable us to apply for more grant funding and lower the cost of the After School for families. It is incredible to see how God is working together so many details and needs with a clear and

beautiful synchronicity.

One way you can help support and encourage the students in the Project Cariño Clubhouse is to donate prizes. Each week, children can earn Bible Bucks and get prizes! Prizes such as Pokemon cards, small toys, fidget toys, Play-Doh, etc. are listed on our Amazon list or send items to McCurdy.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Become a Volunteer McCurdy Ambassador

Are you interested in helping others learn about McCurdy Ministries? The new McCurdy Ambassadors Program will be recruiting volunteers to help churches and Annual Conferences across the country increase their understanding and commitment to the mission of McCurdy Ministries. Our Volunteer Ambassadors will visit local churches in their area and display information at their respective Annual Conference Meetings. The displayed information will increase knowledge and support of McCurdy Ministries and will help us to share the love for the Española Valley.

Volunteers and VIM Teams Needed

There are still several weeks that are open during the 2025 work season for Volunteer in Mission (VIM) teams

and local volunteers (and the 2026 season is quickly filling up!).

There are many different projects for multiple skill levels, such as organizing clothing for the Light House and items for the Food Pantry and Diaper Bank, sewing with the Scrappy Sewing Ministry, leveling books for the Enchanted Forest of Reading, and painting and beautifying our campus.

VIM Teams can be any size. We will find a task to fit your skills! And remember, local groups are always welcome to schedule a workday or two as well.

To schedule a VIM team, contact Eufemia Romero by phone at 505-753-7221, ext. 210 or by email at: eromero@mccurdy.org.

THANK YOU

& Blessings to Retiring Board President, Sanford Coon



Blessings and thank you to Sanford Coon as he retires as the President of the McCurdy Ministries Board of Trustees after over a decade of faithful, prayerful, and selfless service. The Board honored Sanford with children’s books given in his honor to LEER’s Enchanted Forest of Reading. Thank you, Sanford, for being such a blessing to McCurdy.

VOLUNTEERS

Make a Difference

Volunteers are at the heart of all the work we do here at McCurdy Ministries, and we are so grateful for their time and talents. This summer, both Volunteer in Mission (VIM) groups and local volunteers helped make the Light House and the Enchanted Forest of Reading come to life!

We are especially excited to highlight a new ministry for

volunteers: our Scrappy Sewing Ministry. This creative group takes fabric from clothes donated to The Light House and gives them a second life. Here, volunteers are pictured with the tote bags they lovingly made for our food pantry visitors and for students to carry their books. You can also volunteer from home to make tote bags or baby blankets!



YOU'RE INVITED TO THE

MCCURDY FALL FESTIVAL

OCTOBER 25

2:00PM - 5:00PM

MCCURDY FRONT LAWN
362A S. McCurdy Rd
Española, NM 87532

Bring the whole family and join us for an afternoon of fun and laughter on the front lawn! We'll have Trunk or Treat for the kids, lawn games, kid-friendly activities, and sweet treats. It's the perfect way to spend time together, celebrate, and connect with the non-profits that make up the McCurdy community. We can't wait to see you there!

Las Cumbres
Community Services

Children, Youth & Families Department
STATE OF NEW MEXICO

CASA
Child Welfare Services
FOR CHILDREN
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

NORTHERN YOUTH PROJECT

UNITED WAY
Northern New Mexico
SERVING LOS ALAMOS AND LOS ALAMOS COUNTIES

McCurdy Ministries

WFW POST 5610

BE A PART OF OUR FALL FESTIVAL

October 25th from 2:00–5:00pm on the Lawn and Casita Village at McCurdy Campus

You are invited to the McCurdy Fall Festival on October 25th from 2:00–5:00pm on the McCurdy front lawn! Bring the whole family and join us for an afternoon of fun and laughter! We will have Trunk or Treat for the kids, lawn games, kid-friendly activities, and sweet treats. It is the perfect way to spend time together, celebrate, and connect with the non-profits that make up the McCurdy community. If you are interested in being a part of the Trunk or Treat fun, please reach out to Eufemia at eromero@mccurdy.org or call the office at 505-753-7221. We cannot wait to see you there!



GOD SHINES HIS LIGHT AT McCURDY

A Devotional by McCurdy's Executive Director, Tiffany Hollums

Psalm 77:11-12 "I will remember the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember your wonders of old. I will ponder all your work, and meditate on your mighty deeds".

(This devotional was written in preparation for the October 11th celebration of McCurdy Ministries being named a United Methodist National Historic Site).

We are preparing for an incredible celebration on October 11th as McCurdy has been recognized as a National Historic United Methodist Mission! I often wonder if Mellie Perkins, a young EUB deaconess, could have ever dreamed that we would be celebrating this ministry that began over 113 years ago in this beautiful valley. I try to imagine what she must have seen when she first arrived to begin a school for the children. It is fascinating and overwhelming for me to consider that we stand in such a long line of faithful souls who followed the call of God to this special place nestled in northern New Mexico. And it never ceases to deeply touch my heart to hear how this place, this

ministry, has impacted the lives of so many throughout the years.

I wish that I could adequately express how much this legacy and ministry is forming MY own life and story.

I do know this: God orchestrated all of this! God must smile as we attempt to recall all that He has done throughout the generations through this ministry. Each of the faces, He knows personally. Each of the stories He has helped to write. And God has truly performed mighty deeds, whether through classes and teachers who made a lasting impact on a child's life to bringing hope to the families who are walking through the doors of the new Family Resource Center. Even in those times in which leaders might have worried whether McCurdy would continue to shine in the valley, God has never

stopped performing miracles. In fact, I am sure He has performed a few just this week!

As we gather together on October 11th for this celebration with past and present staff and Board members, alumni, volunteers, community partners, and churches, we come together to remember all that God has done and is doing through McCurdy to shine His light in the valley. We come together to praise God and to say 'Thank You' for continuing to surprise us here at McCurdy with His creativity, love, and goodness. We come together, in person and in our hearts, to give thanks for all that God has done, and to tell Him 'Thank you' for the beautiful gift He has given us in McCurdy and the valley.

Rev. Tiffany Hollums
Executive Director
McCurdy Ministries

McCURDY FAMILY CHRISTMAS STORE

Donate Gifts by December 6th

Be a part of the Christmas magic! This Christmas season, McCurdy Ministries is opening our Family Christmas Store to bless families in our community. Families will be able to choose free gifts for their children, and children also will have the joy of picking out a special gift for their loved ones.

You can help make this Christmas extra special! Visit our website to see our Amazon store and ship gifts directly to McCurdy, or drop off donations in person at 362A S. McCurdy Rd., Española by December 6.

For more details and to see suggested gifts by age group, visit mccurdy.org/christmas.



HELP SUPPORT McCURDY MINISTRIES

5 Easy Ways to Provide Support

Participate in Giving Tuesday on December 2nd

The tenth annual Giving Tuesday is on Tuesday, December 2, 2025. On this day, people are encouraged to give generously to local or favorite charities. We would love it if you chose McCurdy Ministries as your place to donate this Giving Tuesday!

Donate Clothes to the Light House

Donate new or gently used clothing, shoes, or new underwear and socks to The Light House, McCurdy's clothing bank. Items are needed for all ages and all sizes. Donations can be mailed or dropped off at: McCurdy Ministries, 362 S. McCurdy Road, Española, NM 87532.

Donate Books to the LEER Literacy Program

Donate new or gently used children's books to LEER, our Children's Literacy Initiative. For purchasing new books, LEER has cultivated an Amazon book list to establish a leveled library. The book list is located on our website at www.mccurdy.org/leer.

Purchase Items from McCurdy's Amazon Wish List

Every month, new items are added to the McCurdy Amazon Wish list.

These items include supplies needed for McCurdy's child-focused programs, including After-School Care, Pre-K, Project Cariño (mental health counseling), and the Family Resource Center.

Just be sure to select McCurdy Ministries on the address list at checkout so your items will be shipped directly to Española. You can find the Amazon Wish list at www.mccurdy.org/give.

Give Online

Thank you for your generous support of all our ministries and programs! Scan the QR code to make a donation online.



Follow us on Facebook for news, events, prayer and new needs for the Family Resource Center and ministries.