



# 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.

## A Day of Celebration

**McCurdy Ministries Recognized as United Methodist National Historic Site #581**



Since 1912, McCurdy Ministries has been a place of faith, service, and community in the Española Valley. On October 11, we were honored to celebrate an important milestone in our long history by officially being named a United Methodist National Historic Site!

Bishop Carlo A. Rapunut, alumni, staff, longtime friends, and community partners gathered in McCracken gym for a joyful

celebration and dedication ceremony. We were especially delighted to welcome alumni and to connect with new community members and partners who are becoming part of the McCurdy story.

The day was filled with meaningful moments: a special worship service, campus tours for family and friends, a silent auction, and visits to the new McCurdy Historic Room and gift shop. Alumni celebrated

and reminisced afterwards with a dinner at Santa Cruz United Methodist Church. It was a day of remembrance, hope, and gratitude—honoring our past while looking ahead to the future God is shaping for us.

Thank you to everyone who blessed us with their presence and helped make this milestone celebration truly unforgettable.



# Fun at the Fall Festival

## A Day of Fun, Friendship, and Laughter at our Annual Fall Festival



The McCurdy Fall Festival was a joyful success, bringing families from across the community together for a day of fall fun.

Laughter and excitement filled the campus as children painted pumpkins, jumped in the bouncy house, received treats at the Trunk or Treat, played games, explored the Enchanted Forest of Reading, selected free books to take home,

and ate hotdogs generously grilled by the VFW.

Events like this remind us how powerful our community can be. The Fall Festival would not have been possible without the dedication and teamwork of our wonderful McCurdy staff; our partner churches; and our incredible on-campus collaborators, including CASA First, United Way, Las

Cumbres, Northern Youth Project, and the VFW. Each partner helped create an atmosphere that families could enjoy and feel welcomed in.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who helped make this year’s Fall Festival such a meaningful and fun-filled gathering. We look forward to continuing these traditions that celebrate this beautiful community.

# Halloween Fun at the Project Cariño After School Clubhouse and in Pre-K



Halloween week was full of smiles, costumes, and fun across the McCurdy campus this year! One of the highlights was the celebration hosted by the Project Cariño After School Clubhouse, where students enjoyed an afternoon filled with games, activities, a chance to carve pumpkins with their families, and plenty of opportunities to show

off their Halloween costumes! The Halloween spirit did not stop there—our Pre-K students also joined the fun with their own adorable celebration. The little ones loved dressing up, sharing treats, and participating in age-friendly activities with thier classmates and loved ones. These celebrations not only create lasting childhood

memories but also strengthen the sense of community and belonging that makes McCurdy such a special place. We are grateful to our Project Cariño team, Pre-K teachers, and everyone who helped make Halloween both safe and magical for our students.



# A Letter From Our Director

As the Christmas season approaches, our world fills with familiar signs of celebration—twinkling lights, festive music, beloved films, and joyful gatherings. All around us, the “Christmas spirit” is on full display. Yet at its heart, that spirit is so much more than holiday cheer. It is a sacred reminder of the birth of Jesus Christ, our Savior, and the call to embody His love through generosity, compassion, community, and peace.

At McCurdy Ministries, we see these values lived out every day. The support we receive from faithful Christians across the country allows us to serve, uplift, and walk alongside those in need. Your gifts—of prayer, donations, time, and encouragement—are powerful expressions of the true meaning of Christmas. Through you, we witness the joy of giving, the blessing of helping our neighbors, and the hope that comes from nurturing a community rooted in Christ’s love.

During this season of reflection and celebration, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude. Thank you for helping make McCurdy an exceptional place where lives are changed, families are supported, and the love of Christ continues to shine brightly.

May this Christmas remind us all of God’s abundant grace and inspire us to share that grace with others. From our McCurdy family to yours, we wish you a blessed Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

With gratitude,  
*Tiffany Hollums*

Executive Director  
McCurdy Ministries

## Free Classes Now Offered at the McCurdy Family Resource Center

### Find a Class for You This Winter

We are thrilled to announce that, for the first time, the McCurdy Family Resource Center is offering free classes to the public—both in person on our campus and online via Zoom. These new learning opportunities are designed to support, equip, and empower families and individuals in our community.

Our winter class offerings will include:

#### **MONEY & ME**

A practical and encouraging class that helps build confidence in managing finances. Learn how to budget, save, and make informed choices that support personal and family goals. Whether just beginning a financial journey or looking to strengthen money habits, this class provides tools and guidance for every step.

#### **PARENTING CLASS**

Gain practical strategies for navigating the joys and challenges of raising children. Each session focuses on positive parenting techniques, communication skills, and ways to strengthen family relationships. Connect with other caregivers, share experiences, and grow in a supportive community.

#### **COMMUNITY LIVING SKILLS**

Hosted by New Vistas, this fun and empowering workshop is ideal for individuals with disabilities as well as anyone interested in building independent living skills. Participants learn practical tools, build confidence, and take meaningful steps toward greater independence.

As we continue to grow our Family Resource Center, we hope to expand our class schedule with even more

offerings that reflect the needs and interests of our community. Have an idea for a class you would like to see? We would love to hear from you! Please reach out and share your suggestions.

**Learn more about classes at the Family Resource Center, see the winter schedule, and register to attend in person or online. Visit our website: [www.mccurdy.org/FRCClasses](http://www.mccurdy.org/FRCClasses).**

# We Are Excited to Open the Doors to the McCurdy Family Christmas Store



We are filled with excitement as we prepare to welcome families to the very first McCurdy Family Christmas Store this holiday season! This new initiative is designed to bless families in our community by giving caregivers the opportunity to choose free gifts for their children—and



giving children the joy of selecting a special gift for their parents or loved ones. Our hope is that this experience becomes a treasured tradition for years to come. Our maintenance elves surprised us by decorating the Christmas room



with an enchanted fireplace for staff and Santa’s Outhouse. As we open our doors for the first time, we look forward to creating moments of connection, and joy for our neighbors.

# Join Us for Las Posadas at McCurdy Ministries Campus on December 19th



Experience the beauty of this beloved Christmas tradition as we walk alongside Mary and Joseph in their search for a place to welcome the Christ child.

Our Las Posadas celebration will be held on McCurdy Ministries Campus on December 19th from 5:00-7:00pm and will include festive treats, hands-on crafts, and special visitors who will join us along the journey. Together, we’ll help Mary and Joseph find shelter and rejoice in the promise of Christmas.

### A Holy History

Las Posadas is a treasured tradition rooted deeply in Latin culture. While it originated in Spain, it has been celebrated throughout Mexico for more than 400 years. The word posadas means “lodgings”

or “accommodations,” and the ritual reenacts Mary and Joseph’s difficult journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem in search of a warm place to stay.

Traditionally observed from December 16–24, the nine nights of Las Posadas represent the nine months of Mary’s pregnancy. Each evening, a different household welcomes the “pilgrims.” As dusk falls, a joyful procession—often including children dressed as angels and shepherds—fills the streets with candlelight, song, and the spirit of anticipation.

We hope you will join us on December 19 for this meaningful celebration of community, culture, and the Christmas story.



# McCurdy Sewing Day at Boston Avenue



Judith Payton organized a Sewing Day for McCurdy, bringing together over a dozen volunteers for a day of creativity, fellowship, and service. Participants spent the day making book bags and baby blankets, breaking only to enjoy Judith's delicious homemade soup and cornbread for lunch.

Some volunteers were so inspired that they took patterns home to continue sewing more items.

Remarkably, at least half of the women who attended had never been to McCurdy, yet this project offered them a meaningful way to join in our mission and strengthen our partnership from afar.

Stories like this remind us how blessed we are by the generosity, creativity, and dedication of our wider McCurdy community—near and far.

## “Adopt” a McCurdy Student for 2026

McCurdy Ministries offers two programs which have a direct impact on the educational experiences of pre-school and elementary-aged students.

### MCCURDY PRE-K

The McCurdy Pre-K is a Star 5 (top-rated) program licensed by the New Mexico Early Childhood Education and Care Department. It is an all-day experience for 5-year-olds. Besides learning activities to prepare children for Kindergarten, the Pre-K includes snacks and meals. While McCurdy receives some funding for this vital program, many of the expenses must be covered through donations.

Here is the breakdown of costs to “adopt” a Pre-K a student and help with educational costs:

- One student for one day - \$7
- One student for one week - \$35
- One student for one month - \$140

### PROJECT CARIÑO AFTER SCHOOL CLUBHOUSE

The other on-going program is the Project Cariño After School Clubhouse. This faith-based, after-school care program provides elementary-aged students with free play, snacks, and homework help in addition to faith-building arts and crafts, drama, and Bible Club study.

Here is the breakdown of costs to “adopt” an After School student in this important ministry:

- One student for one day - \$10
- One student for one week - \$50
- One student for one month - \$200

### HOW TO ADOPT A STUDENT

If you choose to be part of our “Adopt a Student” program, please mark your gift as such and indicate whether it is one-time contribution or will be on-going. (Both programs run throughout the school term).

Contributions may be sent to:

McCurdy Ministries Business Office  
362A S. McCurdy Road A  
Española, NM 87532.

While McCurdy cannot single out individual children to provide reports for this contribution, donors will receive updates and pictures of the program you are supporting. Please mark these donations as “Adopt a Student”.

For more information, contact Randall Partin, Director of Finance & Operations at 505-370-0749.



# LEER Enchanted Forest of Reading



At McCurdy Ministries, we believe that books have the power to open worlds, spark imagination, and nurture lifelong learning. That is why we are excited to share that the LEER Enchanted Forest of Reading is now open every Tuesday and on the second Saturday of each month! Families and children are invited to step into this magical space, explore shelves filled with stories, and take books home to enjoy.

The reading magic does not stop on campus. Thanks to the creativity and hard work of our volunteers and staff, families can also find books throughout the community in the Little Libraries placed. These mini book havens are scattered across neighborhoods, ready to be

opened, explored, and shared. Drive by, look inside, and bring a story home—or leave a favorite for someone else to enjoy!

At the heart of this initiative is our belief that “Reading helps us grow wide branches and deep roots.” Through the LEER program, McCurdy Ministries continues its commitment to nurturing strong, resilient families and fostering a lifelong love of learning in the Española Valley.

We hope you will visit the Enchanted Forest soon, take home a book or two, and help us spread the joy of reading far and wide.

# A Season of Gratitude at McCurdy



As we move through this season of gratitude, we are reminded how deeply blessed we are by the people, partnerships, and generosity that sustain McCurdy Ministries. The moments pictured here represent just a small glimpse of all we are thankful for—far more than we could ever fit into a single issue.

We are delighted to welcome Veronica Ramirez, our

new Regional Diaper Bank Director. Veronica brings compassion and leadership to this vital program. She is pictured here alongside a generous donation of baby formula from Stacey Bower—Tiffany’s childhood friend—who donated the gift through a pediatric office in Colorado. We are grateful for this thoughtful support for families in our community.



We are excited to welcome Ru Stempien, our new Food Pantry Director! Thanks to abundant donations from area churches, individuals, and local partners, our pantry has been well-stocked during a time when many families were deeply worried about food insecurity. We extend special thanks to the United Women in Faith at Los Alamos UMC, who came to help organize and support the pantry. With their help, we were able to distribute much-needed food throughout November.

This November, McCurdy was honored to host the Give Back Thanksgiving event provided by the United Way and the Rio Arriba Health Council. Our campus was filled with warmth and service as the community came together to care for one another. Our Family Resource Center continues to make a meaningful impact, including helping community members obtain essential hearing aids and secure housing. These resources truly change lives.

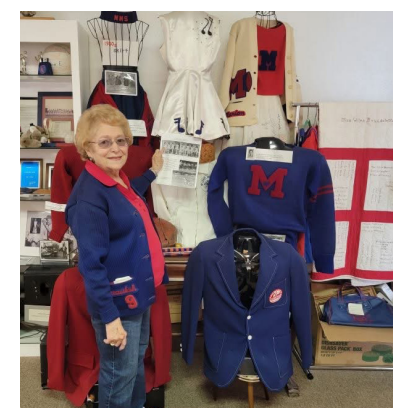


and staff member, and Dr. Fred Pomeroy, a former teacher, principal, and superintendent who now serves as President of the McCurdy Foundation Board. Seeing alumni gather again on campus was truly special.

Our LEER Enchanted Forest of Reading gained a beautiful new bookcase handcrafted by Manny's brothers Sam and Michael—an addition that brings even more magic to this beloved space.

We also celebrated the newly remodeled Gift Shop in Bachman Hall, created by Sue McQuiston. The shop now features a lovely collection of pieces by local artists, perfect for visitors and friends of McCurdy.

Across campus, creativity continues to flourish through our Scrappy Sewing Ministry, whose volunteers lovingly have sewn bags and other handmade items that support our programs.



We have been blessed by the presence of juniors and seniors from the McCurdy Charter School Service Learning Class, who have served with us twice a week this semester. Their dedication, kindness, and eagerness to learn about community service inspires all of us.

One of the most exciting additions to campus is our new McCurdy Ministries National Historic Site plaque, lovingly crafted and installed by our maintenance team. It now graces the chapel as a visible reminder of McCurdy's long legacy of faith and service.

This season also brought visits from cherished alumni, including Dee Dee Hefner, beloved longtime teacher

Finally, we extend deep gratitude to Edith Brown, McCurdy's historian, who has curated an elegant and educational Historic Room in the Bachman Building. During our historic celebration, guests were able to step back in time and experience McCurdy's story—including a vintage homecoming dress that was generously donated to the collection.

This season, we give thanks for every volunteer, donor, staff member, student, and friend who helps McCurdy Ministries continue its mission of education, service, and hope. Together, we are making a profound difference in the Española Valley.

# You Can Make a Difference

## Ways You Can Provide Support to McCurdy Ministries

### Donate to our Regional Diaper Bank

We have officially opened our Regional Diaper bank and need any size of diapers, wipes, and also adult diapers. Families also desperately need baby formula, with many children needing formula for sensitive tummies.

We also find that Target store gift cards are helpful for our staff to be able to purchase boxes of diapers and use rewards for programs at Target to purchase more diapers. Families also need cleaning supplies such as detergent, dish soap, and toilet paper.

### 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. During these colder months, coats, scarves, boots, blankets, and warm clothing are a huge blessing to those we serve.

### 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](http://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](http://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.



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