



Mission Trip

2008 McCurdy Mission Trip, Espanola, New Mexico

By Wayne Ashmore

This was the fourth year our church has gone to McCurdy and worked. The past has been adults only. This year we had 7 youth, two chaperones, and four adults. It was a neat experience to have the youth with us. They worked hard and represented our church well. On the trip down, the youth spent two nights in Albuquerque staying in the Covenant United Methodist Church, and visited some of the sights in the area. One evening after work the youth visited Bandolier National Monument.

McCurdy functions with a lot of volunteer help and has approximately 800 work orders. We closed out 20 work orders between ourselves and the Rocksprings, Wyoming group. The tasks accomplished were: making drapes and valances, stripping and waxing classroom floors, cleaning busses, replacing windows, laundry and dorm cleaning, and KP.

We ate our breakfast and lunch in the school cafeteria. Our evening meal ranged from snacks, pizza, and local restaurants. We have scheduled June 22 through June 26 for next year. A reminder: you can help McCurdy School by saving the box tops from your groceries, and bring them to church. McCurdy has received numerous vans and playground equipment for the school from the box tops saved at home and given to the school.

Below are some comments from the youth about their experience of the Mission Trip:

Hayley Valdez – “When I went to McCurdy School I had an awesome time. The meals were great and everyone there was fun to be around. Getting up in the morning was extremely hard because at six o’clock in the morning I was convinced that I should have still been asleep. I helped clean in the dorms and I worked outside. Mainly I spent my time helping strip the wax off floors in a lot of the classrooms. We ate dinner at a lot of the local places and we even did some sight-seeing! I had so much fun and now I can’t wait till we get to go again next year.”

Brittany Valdez – “This year has been one of the best experiences ever. Northglenn United Methodist’s Youth Group has learned how to work together and has changed not only the respect for janitorial staff and the lives of many different people. I have learned how to wake up earlier, work harder and I actually got to see where my hard work is going to. There were some slight barriers we had to work together to make it through the day. Although none the less everyone chipped in their helpful thinking and we succeeded in our day’s work. Not only did our youth and our drivers learn how to work as one, but so did another group from Wyoming. Sort of like the Holy Trinity. Three different forms, all working as one. I’m sure you will hear about multiple stories from our trip, from the youth. Through the heat, fun, sweat, jokes, rules, games, and bonding, I am all for going next year! Go and experience McCurdy for yourself and see what adventures you get!” (P.S. Brittany used her Spanish to assist in communications with some of the McCurdy staff.)



Ryan Hardon -“ How often do you get the chance to learn, serve, and enjoy it? McCurdy provided all of these opportunities. Learning came through serving. Not only did I learn how to laugh even when I didn’t know what I was saying, but I also learned useful skills like welding and how to stay quiet in a closet for 35 minutes. And best of all, I enjoyed this service learning (as they would call it at school or on an application for college) with friends new and old. So what was the best part of McCurdy? I would say that the experience of McCurdy was the best part of McCurdy.”

Amber McMurdo - “Since I have gone to McCurdy I have a new-found appreciation for janitors. My group worked with Lilianna, who was one of the only two janitors. She told us about how she would have to buff the High School and Middle School floors by herself usually. Do you realize how big of a job that is when you are doing it by yourself? After I saw everything she did and how much hard work she had in just one day that I was just like **wow!**”

Amie Neal -“ I came to McCurdy in July with NUMC. We came expecting it to be work, a lot of hard, heavy, tedious work. We didn’t expect to come and

have fun, make friends, or take anything away for ourselves, even though the adult sponsors coming with our youth group told us we would. We just wanted to make a difference in a place that so needed it. We came away from McCurdy, however, with many things no one anticipated. We even have a whole new Youth Group as friends. And you can bet your bottom dollar that if you come out here to McCurdy, you will have a ton of fun. Everyone, from the new Superintendent, to the teachers, right down to the custodial staff, is happy to see you and always very friendly. Lilianna and Carlos, a married couple on the maintenance staff, are sweet and patient, and we became very good friends with Lilianna. She is an outstanding and loving woman that is very committed to McCurdy and the maintenance of it. She and her husband were very kind to myself and my Youth Group. We enjoyed our time in New Mexico. Everything was perfect, from the food to the people, from the beautiful scenery, to the rich culture. McCurdy is a great mission opportunity, and my entire Youth Group is anxious to go back next summer. Thank you, to the McCurdy staff and all those volunteers-you made our time there incredible."