

## **Partner Updates, 5/6/25**

### **Kapnek (Phil):**

The cuts from USAID are getting more specific for Kapnek. In their primary focus of reducing the impact of HIV/AIDs, much, but not all of the cutbacks have been rescinded. One of the specific HIV/AID programs cut was for children, adolescents and youth. Not only did that cut program provide access to HIV care and treatment, but also included gender based violence response and child protective services. All now terminated. Within the Kapnek area of service, they had over 250,000 children enrolled in this program. Also cut within the umbrella of HIV/AIDs was Kapnek's work to reduce HIV infections among adolescent girls and young women (agyw). This included family planning, and treatment of sexually transmitted infections, activities to strengthen families and communities and promoting education and retention in school. Also, all now terminated.

Not directly under the HIV/AIDs service umbrella, but related due to necessary treatment for HIV, was the complete cut to TB programs. This program aimed to improve case detection, strengthen case management and prevent new TB infections. In this program Kapnek was contracted to cover over 50% of the national population (over 8 million people). Part of this program was to improve data collection, dissemination and use of delivery platforms to develop new TB programs. All terminated.

Also cut was a malaria assistance program which focused on improved quality of care in pregnancy cases. Part of this program distributed over 110,000 insecticide treated nets annually.

The positive news remains that the fortified porridge distribution, the medical kits for the District nurses and assistance to the Harare Children's Hospital has not been impacted as those funds have come from LOPC and other private foundations. FYI. The next time you fly internationally and have to walk through a Duty Free shop on your way to the gate, that business has a foundation that is one of the major donors to those above-mentioned programs.

### **Children of Faith (Ginny):**

It is summer break at Children of Faith for the month of May and those who have family or other connections have returned to their communities for vacation. A few children remain at the home or have a short visit if there is no family able to be with them. Meanwhile progress continues on the new kitchen dining hall. The foundation and structure are completed and the roof will be installed on May 19th. This leaves plumbing, electrical and finishes such as tile and flooring to cube completed in the

weeks after the roof is finished. It's been a slower project than COF would have liked but the finished project will be worth the wait.

**Trinity Center (Barb and Jim):**

We hope to have a clothing drop off at LOPC in the morning of June 14th. The LOPC Service Squad 5-7 graders will be playing bingo and having an ice cream social with the clients at Trinity on June 10th.

**FotoKids (Marjorie):**

From Nancy McGirr...

International: The Exhibition in Chennai India finished in late January and may travel to Vienna.

I will be meeting in London with one of the exhibits directorate, Melissa Nolas, who runs the *Children's Photographic Archive* to ascertain if there is any way Fotokids can benefit from an alliance. Also, while in London I will meet with U.K. supporters and I am being interviewed by Reuters who are putting out a photo book for their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. They will be interviewing me as part of promo video that will be sent around to high rollers and I will be sure to sneak in a plug for Fotokids.

Internationally, I am also in conversation with the Japanese government that takes young photographers to their country every summer to see if we fit their criteria for inclusion.

Fotokids again licensed our program to Kravis Center for the Performing Arts this year expanding it in the U.S. providing photography and identity workshops for low income children in Florida. They paid for professional photographer Melissa Guerrero to come to Guatemala for a week to study our methodology. She will be the teacher in Florida. An exhibit in West Palm Beach of their work is scheduled for later this year.

Exhibits: A smaller photo exhibition was held in Antigua Guatemala of the children's new work from 2024 and was well received by the foreign community, many of them enthusiastic donors of Fotokids.

The Fotokids' crew that photographed Daniela Andrade's 750 km run from the jungle to the ocean exhibited their work at the Cooperación Española this past week. The run was to emphasize the urgency that exists in securing a safe and sufficient water supply.

An exhibit is scheduled in May of 2026 of work from our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary retrospective at Lab Gallery at SUNY old Westfield.

We have also been offered once again an exhibit in Antigua at the beautiful old Jesuit monastery where we had our 30<sup>th</sup> retrospective late in 2026.

Workshops: Last November Fotokids reinitiated our internationally mentored design and photo program. Mentors included Michael KJamber from the Bronx Documentary Center who taught portfolio preparation to both middle and advanced students, Stu Estler architectural photographer who taught HDR (high Dynamic Range), and Eric Lokema who gave advanced LightRoom instruction.

Chris Vail, well known documentary photographer, gave 2 day workshops in Antigua for staff and advanced students in Antigua and another for staff, only in Santiago Atitlán. He was most impressed with the Fotokids participants' motivation and creativity.

Workshops will be held this November with professional photographers from the U.S., Mexico, and Holland where we will be focusing on the students producing photo illustrations for a book that encompasses the 6 years (1997-2003) when we worked on children affected by the civil war in Guatemala. This is to be presented in 2026, which is the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Peace Accords and Fotokids 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

We have updated our curriculum to expose the children to new technologies including AI and video apps.

A generous Grant came from Palmer Fdn. to replace old laptops and purchase more DSLR cameras. The grant also included a 1 year sponsorship for 20 new students.

**Primera (Mary Kay):**

On April 14, Primera sent our congregation a letter with the following text: Through this letter, our congregation wants to express its most sincere thanks for the financial support received this year and in the past years from your congregation.

We are grateful for the donations received this month of 2,500 and 5,000. We will use these donations to cover part of our budget and the food pantry.

We also thank you for the cookies you sent us, we have raised 250.00 and will use that money to cover the church needs.

We have no words to express all our gratitude with your congregation, we are blessed to have you as church partners as we minister together in the Oakland community.

Happy Easter, and may the Lord continue blessing your life in a very special way!