

# Partner Updates, 11/13/25

## Atfaluna (Chris):

Atfaluna continues to do desperately needed work during the ongoing crisis in Gaza. They continue to provide emergency meals, social support, and education to children there. They recently completed training for mental health professionals and launched inclusive field sessions for children and caregivers in Gaza. These sessions foster emotional expression, resilience, and positive coping for children with and without disabilities, while also offering stress management tools for caregivers.

## Children of Faith (Ginny)

Anand had a successful visit to the U.S. during the month of October, meeting with several churches and many donors and supporters across the Bay Area, Seattle, and Texas. Rosie joined him in California for a week before he returned, and she will remain in the U.S. until mid-November.

While they were here, a powerful storm struck Visakhapatnam, near the COF Home. Thankfully, the COF campus was unharmed, though the surrounding area experienced flooding. The new dining hall and kitchen are expected to be in use before the end of November, as Anand now oversees the installation of tables, chairs, appliances, and food supplies.

The entire COF community is grateful to God and to LOPC for their support. Meanwhile, the COF board and other stakeholders are working on plans to revitalize the School Project that Anand and Rosie have long dreamed of – providing education for their children and others in the area. This initiative has been referred to as “Hope Academy,” and you can expect to hear more about it in 2026.

## Congo (Herb):

### Congo Team Building Relations

Three members of LOPC's Congo Mission team attended the annual conference of the Congo Mission Network (CMN), a grassroots organization made up of churches, presbyteries, and other Presbyterian Church (USA) supporters of mission work in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The conference was held on the grounds of Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, with many participants joining virtually from the DRC and elsewhere in the U.S.

This conference was particularly significant as it was the first since the reorganization of PCUSA's mission sector. With the position of mission co-workers (like the Boyds, who had

frequently visited LOPC) no longer in existence, the LOPC Congo team is now focusing on building relationships with key leaders of our two partners in the DRC: CPK, the Congolese Presbyterian Church of Kinshasa, and CPC, the Congolese Presbyterian Church. Together, these churches manage nearly 1,300 schools across the country.

A highlight of the conference was the attendance of two Congolese leaders who are important to our mission work in the DRC. We were able to engage in meaningful dialogue with them. One of the attendees, the President of CPK, will be forwarding CPK's educational needs to guide LOPC's funding decisions in the DRC. (We already have similar information from CPC.) LOPC's support continues to focus on education and trauma healing. We also heard a presentation on the successful Vulnerable Children ministry, which helps children found on the streets reunite with their families and communities. This program benefited from LOPC's Easter special offering this year.

The conference also offered opportunities to strengthen connections with other churches and presbyteries. This networking helps us learn how others support Presbyterian projects in the DRC and may allow us to pool resources for maximum impact.

### Fotokids (Marjorie):

The last two months brought the wettest rainy season in 30 years, coinciding with the Fotokids Board's annual visit to Santiago Atitlán. Just as the town planned a massive protest against mayoral corruption, six thousand townspeople peacefully faced 600 riot police, and thanks to our Fotokids graduate Berta Garcia (last election's first indigenous woman mayoral candidate), the situation was peacefully resolved. Santiago Atitlán was open for the Board meeting, where graduates like Berta, David Ixbalan, Abdías Perez (Chief Presidential Photographer), and investigative reporter German Gomez shared how Fotokids transformed their lives, opening doors they never imagined and helping them support their families and pursue meaningful careers.

The Board visit also highlighted the creativity and dedication of both students and staff. Beginning students in the city used professional studios to recreate famous paintings, photographing the Board members as models for works like Vermeer's *Girl with a Pearl Earring* and Magritte's *The Son of Man*. From photography and graphic design to storytelling, professional studio work, and mentorship from local and international artists, students gain real-world skills while exploring their passions. Jakaramba, Fotokids' design and media business, provides paying clients and an incubator for older students, including commissions for exhibitions and book projects commemorating Guatemala's Peace Accords. While the graduates' employment success is remarkable, the heart of Fotokids lies in the staff, who continue to inspire, teach, and provide opportunities for children in difficult circumstances, ensuring the cycle of learning, creativity, and empowerment continues.

Click [HERE](#) for the full newsletter from founder Nancy McGirr.

## Hope Solutions:

Hope Solutions' 2025 Annual Report is now available, full of financial updates, achievements, and client stories. Click [HERE](#) to check out their milestones and see the impact of their work in our community.

## Primera Iglesia (Mary Kay):

Primera, our sister church, advised us that the Alameda Food Bank is running low. Food Banks throughout our area are cutting back. In 2020 LOPC Thursday's morning Women's Bible Study group began sponsoring our own "Food Bank". We shipped hundreds of pounds of rice and beans every Friday. Over time, this little food bank was absorbed by the Alameda Food Bank. On November 20, the Women's Bible Study will once again ship two hundred pounds of rice and beans, packed into two-pound bags, to support our neighbors in need.