

Partner Updates, 5/12/26

Children of Faith (Ginny):

Each May, Children of Faith, LOPC's partner in India, accepts applications for new children to join the home. These children fill vacancies left by graduates moving on to higher education or jobs, or, in some cases, by younger children who leave due to improved family circumstances.

This year, Children of Faith received over 200 applications for just 30 spots. There is no advertising or recruiting; applicants learn of Children of Faith's impact by word of mouth, referrals from pastors or medical professionals, or by seeing the positive change in a child from their village.

Choosing the children is a difficult and sometimes heart-wrenching process, as no two stories are the same. To learn more and see how you can support this mission, visit the news tab of the COF website by clicking [HERE](#). Please keep Children of Faith in your prayers and consider sharing their story or supporting their work.

Congo (Herb):

At the Congo Mission Network conference last year in Alabama, the LOPC Congo Mission team met with the head of the Congolese Presbyterian Church of Kinshasa (CPK), Rev. Isaac Kalonji. CPK is one of the two major Presbyterian organizations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. CPK operates 430 nursery, primary, and secondary schools in the DRC capital and surrounding areas.

We asked Rev. Kalonji about one of the schools' most pressing needs. He shared that they simply need desks and provided pictures of students sitting at overcrowded desks or on the floor in classrooms.

The Congo Mission team used a portion of its Mission budget to send funds to CPK for 292 desks constructed locally. Below are pictures of the desks being built, followed by students preparing to enter the school with the new desks. Notice the sign expressing thanks for LOPC's support.

Fotokids (Marjorie):

February marks the beginning of a new school year for Fotokids. This year, the main focus is on helping students grow creatively and build professional skills. Founder Nancy McGirr says the staff's efforts to offer training and networking have been "amazing." Goals were set at a special time as Fotokids prepares to celebrate its 35th Anniversary on October 8. Everyone is welcome to join the Gala in Antigua!

Here are just a few highlights showing the excitement and growth happening at Fotokids.

- Level 4 and Level 7 students recently met renowned Mexican photographer Graciela Iturbide in Santiago Atitlán. She inspired the group and will return later this year to focus on Guatemalan mythology.
- Another workshop, led by Sendai Studio, a collective of young women photographers (ages 22-25) brought relatable near-peer mentorship to the students.
- Meanwhile, in Guatemala City, students worked on client-based assignments for a sportswear line and for a mother who runs an artisanal chocolate brand.
- Another highlight: SUNY Long Island will showcase 20 photographs by Fotokids students at the Old Westbury ArtLab from April 6 to May 12. Berlin and Evie will attend the opening on April 29.

Monument Crisis Center (Jim):

Our ongoing food collection for Monument Crisis Center has reached 29 barrels in 2026, totaling an amazing 5,800 pounds of food for local families in need. That's already ahead of last year's 27 barrels, and we can add more every week.

DONATING IS EASY. You'll find collection barrels outside the Oak Room all year. You can drop off donations anytime. Please avoid glass containers, expired food, clothing, or trash.

MOST NEEDED RIGHT NOW. MCC appreciates all non-perishable donations, but right now, tuna, cereal, peanut butter, and canned meals are especially needed.

HAVE A GARDEN? If you have a home garden, consider planting or growing a little extra with MCC in mind. Fresh produce makes a big difference for families who are having a hard time putting food on the table.

Our neighbors need help every month of the year. Thank you for helping keep the barrels full.