

ACS Offering Helps West Angola and Merced Campus

Members of Annual Conference Session in Fresno this June generously gave \$21,377 in offerings from our Conference churches, making a huge difference for two vital ministries. One is our partner Annual Conference in West Angola and its work with POSOCA. The other is a campus ministry for the new University of California at Merced.

The POSOCA program in Luanda , West Angola helps children between the ages of 14 and 17, many of whom grew up on the street. All of them have survived the chaos of a lifetime of civil war, officially ended only two years ago. POSOCA (which means “Social Program With Children”) offers two sets of classes for 100 students. They teach classes in carpentry, shoe repair, computer skills and sewing. In the midst of many urgent post-war needs, the West Angola Annual Conference wants to expand POSOCAs to several sites throughout the city of Luanda.

The proposed U.C. Merced campus ministry will include a variety of outreach programs to reach students where they are on campus, as well as dorm facilities for students. Church leaders from Merced UMC have participated along with United Methodists from around the Annual Conference to shape the campus ministry.

Divided evenly between the two causes, the ACS Offering has given a big boost to both ministries. But it doesn't have to stop there! We can continue our support, whether financially or through personal involvement.

For West Angola, contact Dina Stenwick at (916) 374-1525 to make a financial contribution (check payable to CA/NV Conf. UMC with “West Angola Partnership” on the memo line), or J.P. McGuire, Conference U.M.V.I.M. Coordinator, at (916) 375-1582, to join a mission team.

For the Merced campus ministry, call Rev. Mariellen Sawada-Yoshino at (408) 295-0367, or Revs. Andrew and Charlotte Bear at (209) 722-5777.