

2019



# Annual Report

PREPARED BY

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# Thanks!

FOR YOUR SUPPORT

## Director's Message

Dear Friends,

Looking back on 2019, I am reminded that it was really such a wonderful year! We had so many wonderful volunteers and donors visit us from around the world. I had the pleasure to branch out, and visit our supporters at events in California and Louisiana, strengthening our connections and creating new relationships. 2019 was a year of connecting and growing our Casa Guatemala family. We are grateful for each and everyone of our supporters, volunteers and staff who allow us to continue making our greatest connections of all, those we make with the children. Every year we welcome new faces who we watch grow and learn over their eight years with us. When they graduate each fall, it is hard to watch them go but we are so proud to see all that they have accomplished, and to know that they will continue to excel after they are gone. Thank you for being a part of this process, and helping all our kids reach their true potential.

Heather Graham  
Executive Director

- 215 Students Enrolled
- 52% of Students are Girls
- 127 Students living onsite
- 130 Families Directly Impacted
- 42 Different Villages Impacted
- 76 Students Enrolled in Vacation Program
- 61,996 lunches served
- 123,992 snacks served
- 81,592 breakfasts and dinners served
- 375 Medical Cases Attended to
- 20 Medical Team Visits

## Our Impact At a Glance

*Education, Nutrition, Healthcare*





## Program: Education

### *Changing the World, One Child at a Time*

Around the world, it is clear that the foundation of development is education. That is why this has been the integral part of our mission since we started our work in 1977.

In 2019, we are able to reach 7 additional communities who lack access to education for their children. Through word of mouth, families find Casa Guatemala and seek enrolment for their children. It is a responsibility we do not take lightly. We have adapted our program, to involve the parents as much as possible with quarterly meetings and workshops.

For many families, this may be the first generation to have the chance to receive an education. With 82% of our children coming from Indigenous Mayan Q'eqchi families, we strive to ensure that many of our staff are also Q'eqchi so that the children have strong cultural examples and so that we are able to communicate with them and their parents in their native language. 42% of our local staff are Q'eqchi. Promoting, and preserving the Mayan culture is as important to us as providing the education that will give them the tools they need to alleviate the poverty that is all too common in the rural areas we serve. Our end goal, is that these communities do not need our services! We want to fill the gaps of need to ensure that no child is left behind while at the same time empowering communities to grow and prosper their own sustainable resources and services.

### *The Tools to Succeed*

The school supplies, and learning materials we are able to provide are a major factor in what makes Casa Guatemala's students excel. Thanks to our incredibly generous supporters at Perenco and the Association of Engineers of Guatemala, our students receive all of the materials they need to succeed. Most families struggle even in public schools to purchase school supplies. Our students receive all the school supplies, art supplies, learning tools, and specialized Santillana workbooks that cover the full curriculum and more. These workbooks, which Perenco gives every year are an invaluable resource that give our students an educational advantage compared to the alternative options available. The results are clear, as our school is always in the top 10 percentile of all schools, including private institutions, in our region.







## Fruit Trees for the Future

In 2016 the Fruit Tree Planting Foundation staff and volunteers were, coincidentally, staying at Hotel Backpackers. We instantly connected and began putting down the roots of a long term partnership.

To date, they have donated 500 fruit trees to Casa Guatemala, 150 of which were donated our families to plant at their homes.

In 2019, their staff held a workshop for the parents of our students on how to plant and care for their trees. They were very well received, and the families are caring for their trees. Our sustainable agriculture program teaches the children to vary their crops and plant fruit trees for an abundance of nutrition at Casa Guatemala, and at home.

We look forward to the Fruit Tree Foundation's ongoing involvement as we wait to enjoy the fruits of our labours, quite literally!

## Program: Nutrition

### *Growing Healthy Bodies & Healthy Minds*

Making sure that all of our kids are receiving nutritious meals and snacks every day is a major part of our mission! We know that many of the families we serve face food insecurity at home. With over 45 % of all Guatemalan children suffering from chronic malnutrition, we strive to make sure we are combatting those statistics. This also means the distribution of emergency food hampers to families in need outside of Casa Guatemala too. At our Hotel Backpackers, we regularly have people in need show up for a hot plate of food and we are always happy to share what we have. This often includes many of the migrant families making the journey to the US from Honduras for example.

In addition to the food that we receive from our generous donors, we try to grow as much fresh produce as we can on our farm so that the kids are learning about sustainable farming, composting and permaculture while growing their own food. We hope that these are skills that they take back to their villages and share with their families who often only use the slash and burn technique that depletes their soil and is the cause of many major forest fires in Guatemala. We also raise pigs, chickens and fish that all go to support a healthy diet for the children.



### Crops

#### Grown:

- Corn
- Beans
- Breadfruit
- Jack Fruit
- Cashews
- Pineapple
- Watermelon
- Avocados
- Limes
- Paterna
- Star Fruit
- Jocote Plums
- Mangos
- Yuca
- Cacao
- Rose Apple
- Peppers
- Cucumbers





## Program: Health care

### *Healthy Kids = Happy Kids*

In 2019, our nurse Amelia completed a milestone we are all very proud of. Thanks to years of hard work and dedication, and the support of our generous donors Dr and Mrs Clubb, she has now graduated nursing school as a registered nurse! This year she had practical experience working in the local government clinic, the national pediatric hospital and the national public general hospital. This hands on experience has given her a wealth of knowledge and confidence that she is now bringing back to our Clinic at Casa Guatemala.

Amelia grew up in a village much like those of the girls at Casa Guatemala. Her parents didn't think she needed to continue to school after the sixth grade, because she was a girl and it was time for her to marry. But she had other plans. She left her family at 15 as they disowned her for her decision to continue her education. She received scholarships through middle and high school and worked a year at a pharmacy before starting at Casa Guatemala. Now she is a university graduate with a degree in nursing. She has a husband, a beautiful son and career she loves. She is an example to all the children, but especially the girls, to work hard and follow their dreams. We hope that many of our girls will follow in her footsteps as a strong, independent, Mayan woman.

## MEDICAL TEAM VISITS

Every year we are very lucky to have multiple groups of international doctors, nurses, dentists and specialists join us at Casa Guatemala. Thanks to the generous support of donors like Why Not Teens, and Sharing the Dream, our clinic can host large teams who are able to see all of our kids and many more from the surrounding villages in only days!

We are always so impressed with the efficiency of the Dentistry for All teams who bring in all their dentistry equipment, and manage to get through over 200 children with full cleanings, fillings and even some extractions in only 3 days! Their work, together with regular dental care from our partners at Association Rescue, has given our kids the cleanest and healthiest teeth in the region. And, they have taught us all that dentists are actually really nice and not that scary after all!





## Capital Projects

### *New School Bathrooms!*

At Casa Guatemala, you can imagine that one of the busiest areas are the school bathrooms. For years we had been looking for a donor to take on the costly project of replacing them as they were worn down and in great need of an upgrade.

Thanks to our incredible friends from the Global Truth Center, The Mumford Family and the Anderson/Peña Family, we were able to rebuild a brand new bathroom facility that has improved the hygiene, health and safety for all of our children and staff. The new building was built to last, with concrete and cement block, and includes a hand washing station and drinking water station. The children are also taught the importance of water conservation thanks to push faucets that limit water flow, together with workshops and educational signs .

We are incredibly grateful to Rachel Mumford and her family for opening their home to host a fundraiser in Los Angeles, as well as everyone who donated at the event. Scott Anderson and Jose Peña, who donated a week stay in Puerto Vallarta as a raffle prize, in addition to the hard work that they and their family put into coordinating this project from the start. Dr James Mellon, and the Global Truth Center also played a major roll in the fundraising efforts and bringing our cause to so many of their supporters! And of course we also have to thank Don Armando and our incredible workers who did all the building and plumbing themselves.

### *Short Term Volunteer Teams*

Teams like the wonderful people mentioned above, play a huge role in the day to day upkeep of Casa Guatemala. We are always happy when groups join us from different organizations, schools and churches to spend time with the children while completing a meaningful project. Whether painting a building, planting a garden or repairing a classroom, we always have a list of projects that need funding and help!

It gives our supporters of all ages and backgrounds, the chance to raise funds at home for a project, come to Guatemala and stay at our Hotel Backpackers, while spending their days on site completing their project! There is a great sense of accomplishment for everyone involved, and it is a huge help to Casa Guatemala! The kids love to meet people from around the world who come to share their time and knowledge. Though I think that most volunteers agree that they get more from the experience than we do!



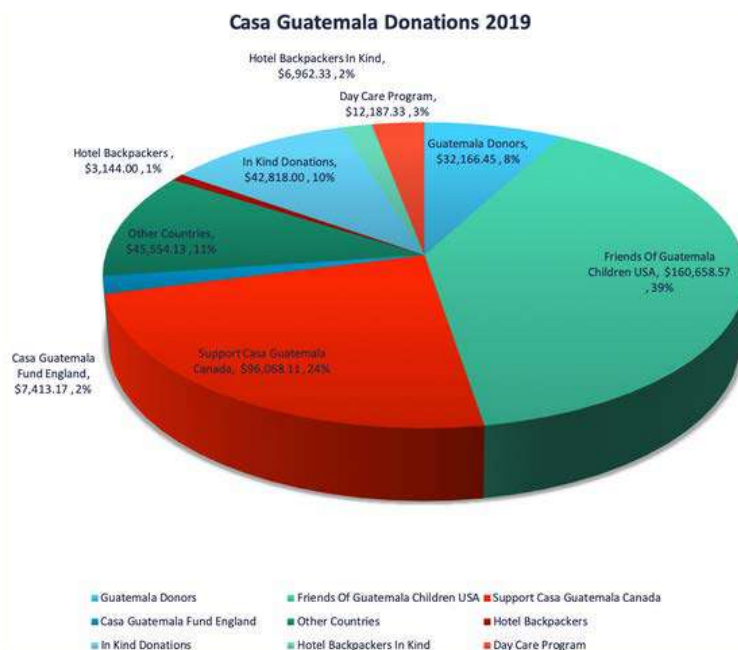


*Year in Review*

# DONATIONS

Since 1977, Casa Guatemala has grown not only as an organization, but also as a community of caring people from around the world who make up our Casa Guatemala Family. We have registered, affiliate charities, run by separate boards of directors in the USA and Canada, and funds set up in the UK, and in Switzerland. With online donations, our community has grown to include donors from around the world. Hundreds of people connected to our cause now make monthly donations from \$5 a month to \$1000 a month. We are incredibly grateful for every single cent that we receive and thanks to our social enterprises, we are able to keep our administration costs to a minimum .

Casa Guatemala Donations 2019				
Donations Received	GTQ	USD	%	
Guatemala Donors	Q 241,248.40	\$ 32,166.45	7.90%	
Friends Of Guatemala Children USA	Q 1,204,939.30	\$ 160,658.57	39.48%	
Support Casa Guatemala Canada	Q 720,510.85	\$ 96,068.11	23.61%	
Casa Guatemala Fund England	Q 55,598.80	\$ 7,413.17	1.82%	
Other Countries	Q 341,655.95	\$ 45,554.13	11.19%	
Hotel Backpackers	Q 23,580.00	\$ 3,144.00	0.77%	
In Kind Donations	Q 321,135.01	\$ 42,818.00	10.52%	
Hotel Backpackers In Kind	Q 52,217.50	\$ 6,962.33	1.71%	
Day Care Program	Q 91,405.00	\$ 12,187.33	2.99%	
<b>Total Donations</b>	<b>Q 3,052,290.81</b>	<b>\$ 406,972.11</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	

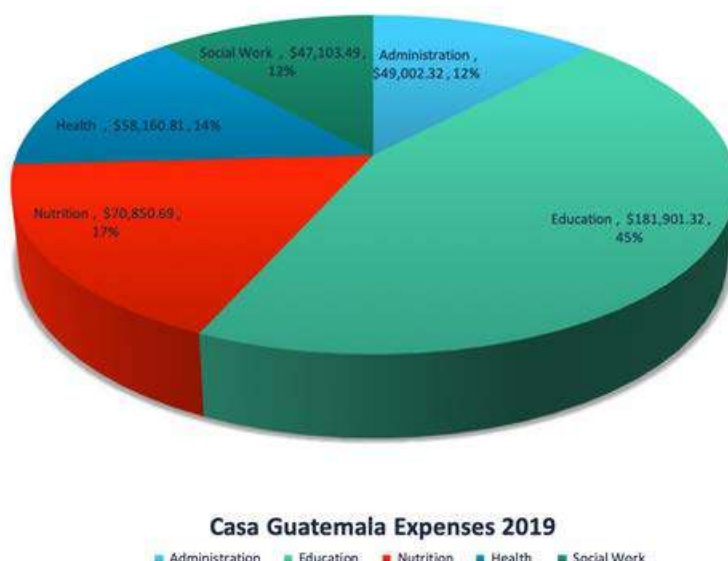


*Casa Guatemala*

# EXPENSES

Our expenses are broken down by our programs with the majority of costs stemming from our education program which is where we focus the majority of our energy. This of course includes the costs of the children's village's maintenance and upkeep, as well as our local teachers who run the school and the houses where they care for the children who live on site with us. Our Health Care Program has a low expense due to many of the medicines and services that are donated in kind not having a cost listed when we receive them. If we were to add the real value of the medicines we receive, this number would be much higher. Our agriculture program is included in our nutrition program as all food grown on the farm is for the children.

Casa Guatemala Expenses 2019				
Program	GTQ	USD	%	
Administratiorn	Q 367,517.42	\$ 49,002.32	12.04%	
Education	Q 1,364,259.93	\$ 181,901.32	44.69%	
Nutrition	Q 531,380.21	\$ 70,850.69	17.41%	
Health	Q 436,206.07	\$ 58,160.81	14.29%	
Social Work	Q 353,276.18	\$ 47,103.49	11.57%	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>Q 3,052,639.81</b>	<b>\$ 407,018.64</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	





2019

# Thank You!

*We are incredibly grateful to the following donors and many more who make our work possible!*

**Amy Baker and Family**  
**Asociacion Rescate**  
**Banco Industrial**  
**Barry Jay**

**Lennox McNeely & Friends**  
**Metal Shark Boats**  
**Peña/Anderson Families**  
**PERENCO Limited**

**BGL**

**CSI-Schweiz Foundation**  
**Dentistry for All**

**Phoenix Hope International**  
**Price Philanthropy Foundation**

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**Clubb**

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**Russell Payne**

**Dr Robert Robinson**  
**Dr James Mellon**

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**Sharing the Dream**

**EIG S.A.**  
**Fichatel**

**SOMA Foundation**  
**Swillerbees Craft Donuts**

**Fundación Cocina de la**  
**Esperanza**

**The Friesen Family**

**Fundación Niño Esperanza**

**The Maginnis/Castro Family**

**Fundación Trota Mundos**

**The Stamboliyska Family**

**Global Truth Center**

**The Urciolo Family**

**Grace Covenant Church**

**True North Missions**

**Help for Missions Society**

**Whind Candy**

**Inspira Guate**

**William & Lynda Malouin**

**Kris and Cathryn Kennedy**

**Ximena Cuestas de Korhonen**

**Zacarias Family**

*A Special Thanks Brent Van Horne for designing and hosting our website.*

[www.casa-guatemala.org/donate](http://www.casa-guatemala.org/donate)