



Casa Guatemala Annual Report 2022

Prepared by:

Heather Graham

Executive Director

www.casa-guatemala.org





Summary 2022

Empowering 198 young minds and bodies in a safe haven.

Casa Guatemala successfully served 198 children from 28 remote communities in 2022, thanks to your unwavering support. Our comprehensive programs nourished their minds, bodies, and futures.

Education:

- 177 young people (78 living at Casa Guatemala) received quality education from kindergarten to sixth grade.
- 11 students pursued higher education with Casa Guatemala's junior high and high school sponsorship, including 6 living at Casa Guatemala and 5 honing their tourism and hospitality skills at our Hotel Backpackers.

Nutrition:

- Children enjoyed 5 nutritious meals daily, ensuring optimal growth and development.
- Families received food packages during school breaks to prevent hunger.
- Everyone learned valuable skills in nutrition and agriculture, fostering self-sufficiency.

Health Care:

- Children receive health workshops in homes and classrooms, covering nutrition, hygiene, and more.
- Collaborations with Rio Dulce health center, foreign doctors, and donations ensure specialized care and supplies.
- Free medical consultations, treatments, formula support, health education, and emergency water transport serve all children and families.

Your impact:

Your generosity made it possible to create a safe and nurturing environment where children can learn, grow, and dream big. Casa Guatemala is a beacon of hope, transforming lives one child at a time. **Thank you for being a part of our journey!**

Mission:

Casa Guatemala seeks to provide a safe home, love and care, proper health care, and an excellent education to the children of Guatemala who are abused, abandoned, malnourished, or living in extreme poverty.

Vision:

Casa Guatemala strives to equip the children in its care with the skills and education necessary to become upstanding and empowered citizens of their communities in order to break the cycle of poverty and abuse from which they come. To help Casa Guatemala to become more self-sufficient through the social enterprises it runs, which provide financial support and meaningful job training for the youth of the communities they serve.



Casa Guatemala Team

Heather Graham

Executive Director and SCGC Representative

Lilian Duarte

General Director

Ligia González

School Supervisor

Elmer Ramos

Director of Administration and Board President

Armando Milla

Head of Maintenance and Transportation

Total Employees: 43

Education

Preschool and Elementary Program:

Casa Guatemala has its own private preschool and primary school registered with the Ministry of Education of Guatemala (MINEDUC).

Although the school is private, families only make a symbolic payment of Q25 per family. The families are 89% Maya Q'eqchi' from villages with limited resources and very isolated areas with little access to public education and health services. Our vision is to ensure that no child or girl lacks access to an education.

The teachers are Guatemalan teachers who live in the Izabal region. More than 50% of our employees speak Q'eqchi'. In total, Casa Guatemala has 43 employees, the majority of whom are teachers and counselors who care for the children between school and at home. There are 14 teachers; 7 house parents; 1 school supervisor and the general director; 2 cooks; 1 nurse for the clinic; 10 maintenance, agriculture, and transportation workers. In the capital, there are 2 social workers, 3 accountants, 1 administrator, 1 driver, and 1 assistant. All of them are very important to the functioning of the foundation and the management of our education, health, and nutrition programs. All of their salaries are obtained through national and international donations, as we do not receive funds from the Guatemalan state.

Junior and Senior High School Programs:

Although we do not have basic or diversified education programs at Casa Guatemala, we have links with several schools where our scholarship students study. In 2022, 4 students passed first basic at the new public school in the village of Las Brisas del Golfete; in the town of Rio Dulce, 7 of our students study; 1 in basic and 1 in tourism; 2 in mechanics and 3 in business administration. In addition, we help several families, even though their children no longer live in Casa Guatemala, but we are still supporting them with scholarships for materials and tuition costs at several schools in the region. In total, there are 9 students who receive support from elementary school to university.





Hotel Backpackers

Since 1995, Hotel Backpackers has been Casa Guatemala's cornerstone, exceeding its designation as mere accommodation. It's a vibrant ecosystem where financial sustainability, impactful empowerment, and unwavering community support seamlessly converge.

Fueling Opportunity, Nurturing Growth: Hotel Backpackers serves as the lifblood of Casa Guatemala, generating essential funding that propels the organization forward. But its impact transcends the financial. It's a training ground for young adults, including former orphans like Josue and Leonel, who find meaningful employment and develop vital skills in an inclusive and supportive environment. Current high school students gain practical experience in the mornings, balancing work with their studies, all within a safe haven.

Prioritizing Our Community: Hotel Backpackers embodies Casa Guatemala's commitment to its extended family. Recently graduated young women, nurtured within Casa Guatemala's walls, find their first job opportunities here, gaining valuable experience in a secure environment with the added benefit of on-site accommodation and meals.

Beyond Hospitality, a Home Away from Home: The hotel extends its embrace beyond guests. It provides a vital office space and living quarters for the director, ensuring uninterrupted operations with reliable electricity and internet access. For families traveling long distances to see their children at Casa Guatemala, or seeking medical assistance at the distant hospital, the hotel offers a warm respite, a temporary home amidst challenging journeys.

A Sanctuary of Love and Support: For grown orphans, Hotel Backpackers is more than just a place to stay; it's a beacon of familiarity and unconditional love. They find a stable home base, a place to return to after surgery or even childbirth, where the Casa Guatemala family envelops them in care and support.

Logistical Lifeline: Hotel Backpackers acts as the critical bridge for Casa Guatemala's operations. Since the organization is solely accessible by boat, the hotel becomes a secure storage hub for donations and supplies, ensuring their safekeeping until they can be transported to Casa Guatemala. It also serves as a convenient drop-off point for donors and a welcoming entry point for families seeking the organization's services.

In essence, Hotel Backpackers is more than bricks and mortar; it's the beating heart of Casa Guatemala's ecosystem. It empowers individuals, fosters self-sufficiency, and strengthens the community, all while ensuring the organization's long-term sustainability.





Nutrition

At Casa Guatemala, nourishing children's bodies and spirits is a cornerstone of their mission. Every day, regardless of their family's situation, children enjoy five delicious and nutritious meals prepared by two dedicated cooks and their enthusiastic helpers. Tortillas, beans, and rice form the foundation, but fresh fruits and vegetables add pops of color and vitamins. Fortified drinks, bread, and occasional treats like chicken, meat, fish and even pizza, and hamburgers round out the menu, ensuring no child goes hungry.

Casa Guatemala relies on a combination of food donations, funds, and its own green thumb to fill the plates. Children learn valuable skills as they help tend gardens bursting with fruits and vegetables, learn about permaculture, and organic composting. Chickens, ducks, fish, and even a few friendly pigs contribute their part, providing fresh eggs, fish from the pond, and maybe even the star ingredients in our Christmas tamales and other celebrations.

For families facing food insecurity, Casa Guatemala extends a warm hand. The food distribution programs offer vital support, and even when there are no classes, children are always welcome to come in for a meal. The organization understands that a full stomach is often the first step to a full heart and a bright future, and they're committed to ensuring no child ever has to worry about where their next meal is coming from.

And when school ends, the generosity continues. Families receive food packages to take home, and during the holiday program, Casa Guatemala opens its doors to welcome children from families facing the greatest challenges. In November and December, they find a safe haven, warm meals, and a community that cares, ensuring the holiday season is filled with joy and enough food for everyone. At Christmas the surrounding villages enjoy a feast of tamales, turkey dinner, apples, grapes and cake along with presents from Santa and hot chocolate!

At Casa Guatemala, food isn't just fuel; it's a symbol of love, care, and a belief in every child's potential. It's a delicious journey of learning, growing, and sharing, where bellies are full and hearts are even fuller.

Meal Distribution 2022 Casa Guatemala						
Total Kids		198	127	78	30	
Total Days		220	88	40	16	
Meal	Week Day	Weekend	Summer Weekday	Summer Weekend	Total	
Breakfast	27940	11176	1200	480	40796	
Snack	47300	11176	3040	480	61996	
Lunch	47300	11176	3040	480	61996	
Snack	47300	11176	3040	480	61996	
Dinner	27940	11176	1200	480	40796	
Total Rations served					267580	



Health Care

Casa Guatemala has its own clinic to provide medical care to the children of the school, and those living on site as well as to the communities of the surrounding villages.

Our clinic is in charge of our nurse, Dolores. Dolores speaks Q'eqchi and every day, she takes care of the health of our children and the families of the nearby communities. She sees an average of 50 patients per month. The children receive health workshops about nutrition, personal hygiene, and other topics every month both in the houses and in the classroom. Dolores works in conjunction with the Rio Dulce public health center and with the support of donations of medicines and supplies. There are several groups of foreign doctors who provide specialized medical care on a regular basis each year.

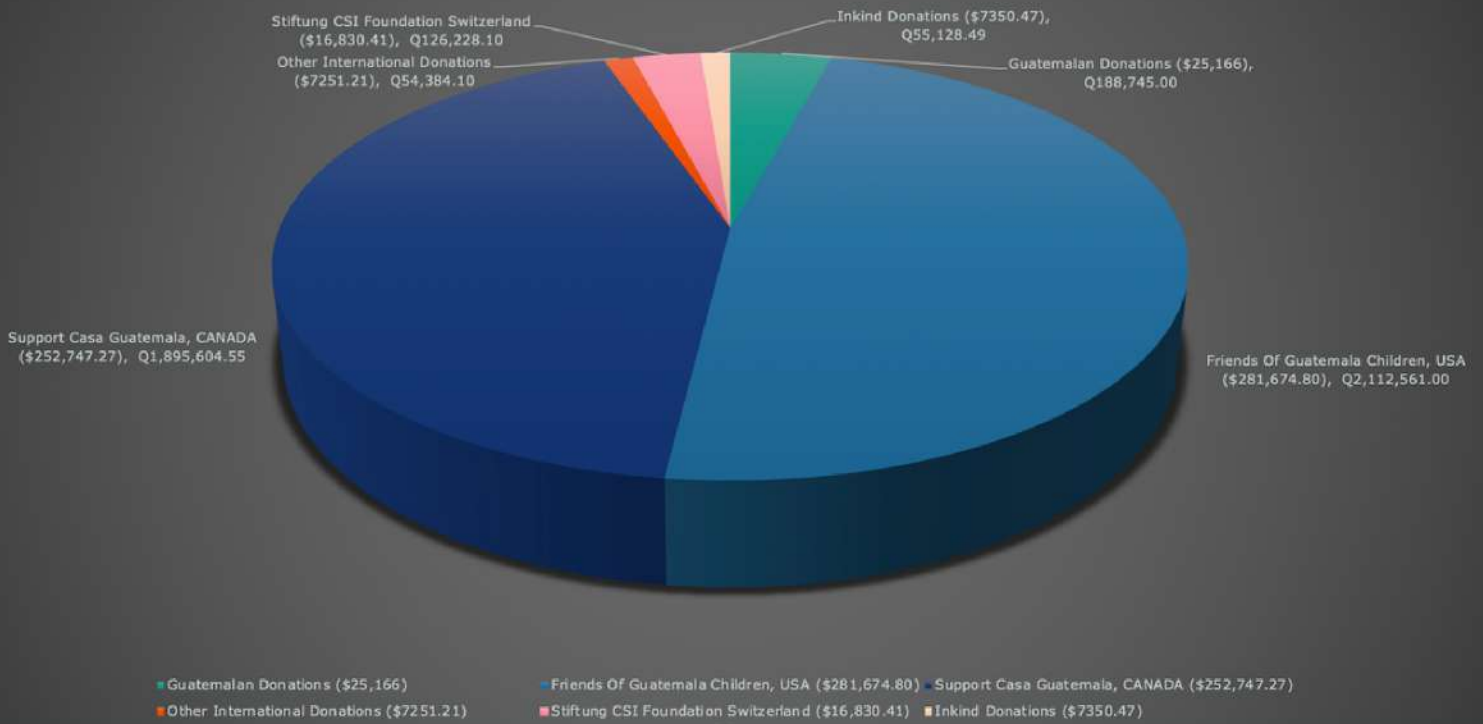
The clinic offers a variety of health services, including:

- **Medical consultations**
- **Treatments for common illnesses**
- **Formula program for mothers with breastfeeding problems**
- **Education on health and nutrition**
- **Emergency water transport service**

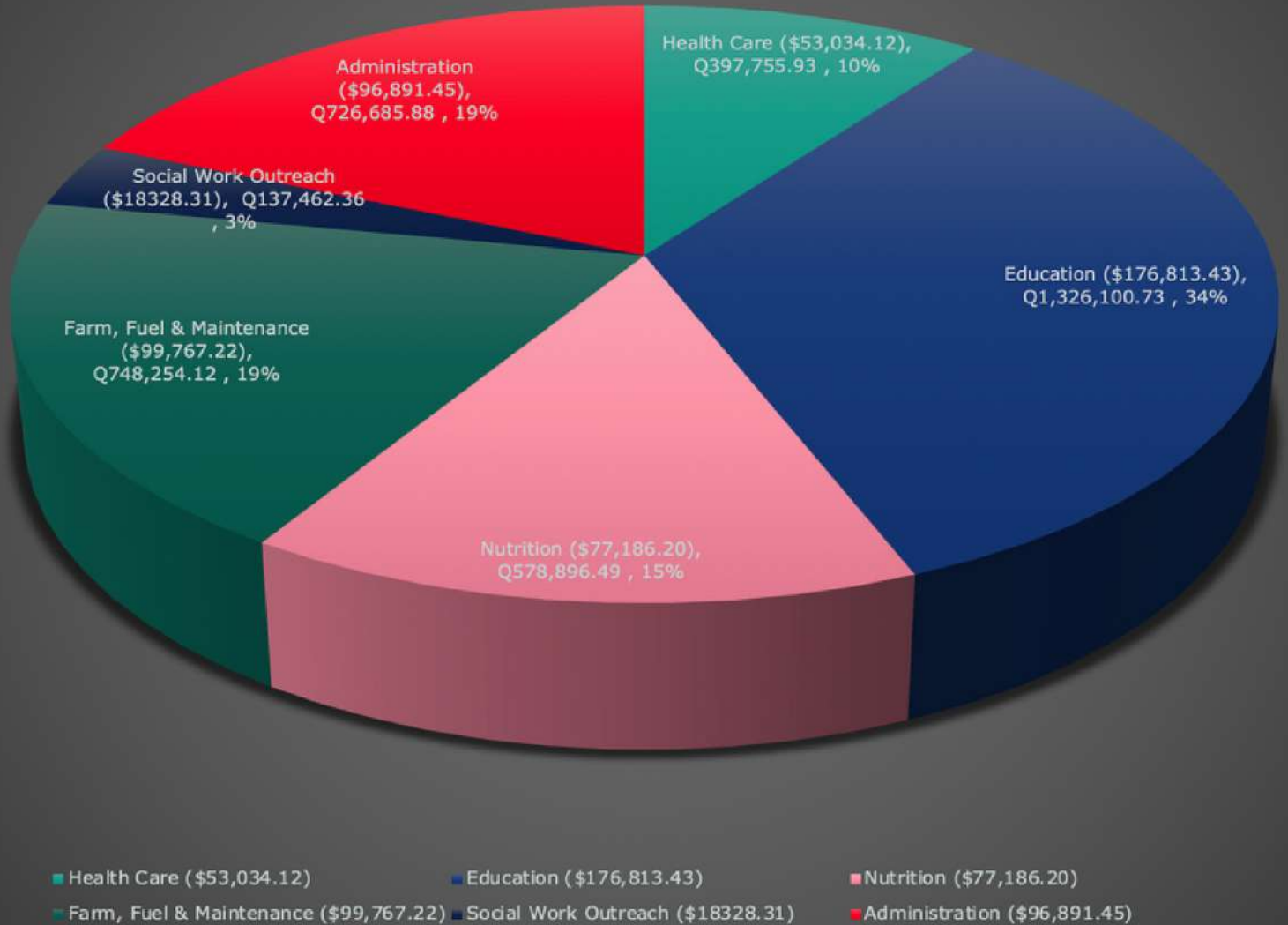
The clinic is free for all children from the school, as well as for the families of the surrounding villages. Casa Guatemala believes that health is a fundamental right for all children. Therefore, the organization works to provide affordable and accessible medical care to the most vulnerable communities.



Funding & Expenses



Casa Guatemala Expenses Per Program 2022



Thank you to our Major Donors!

We appreciate the support of our big and small donors!

Though we can't list everyone here, each and everyone of you are helping us
Change the World, One Child at a time!



Agua Viva International

Amy Baker and Family

Anja Sadola

Asociacion Rescate

Banco Industrial

Barry Jay

BGL

CIMI Foundation

CSI-Schweiz Foundation

Dentistry for All

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Dr James Mellon & Family

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