



Casa Guatemala: Projects Executed in 2023

Prepared by:

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Executive Director

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Summary 2023

In 2023, Casa Guatemala was able to return to in-person classes, thanks to donations from around the world. The organization has its own preschool and elementary schools, where it provides education to 168 children between the ages of 4 and 14. In addition, it supports 11 young people between the ages of 15 and 24 in external schools at the basic and high school levels.

In an area where only 30% of young people continue their studies after elementary school, Casa Guatemala is working to change the lives of the children in its care. The organization believes that education is the key to a better future for them, their families, and their communities.

In total, 179 students have successfully completed their studies from preschool to sixth grade at Casa Guatemala and nearby basic and diversified schools. Of these, 71 live at Casa Guatemala and 108 come every day to receive their classes, food, and medical care. In addition to the students who receive their education directly from Casa Guatemala, there are 2 young people who receive scholarships for their university studies and another 9 children who receive support with school supplies, materials, and food on a monthly basis. All of this is possible thanks to the work of a team of 45 employees and the support of donors from around the world.

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

Josue Arenas

School Supervisor

Elmer Ramos

Director of Administration and Board President

Armando Milla

Head of Maintenance and Transportation

Total Employees: 45



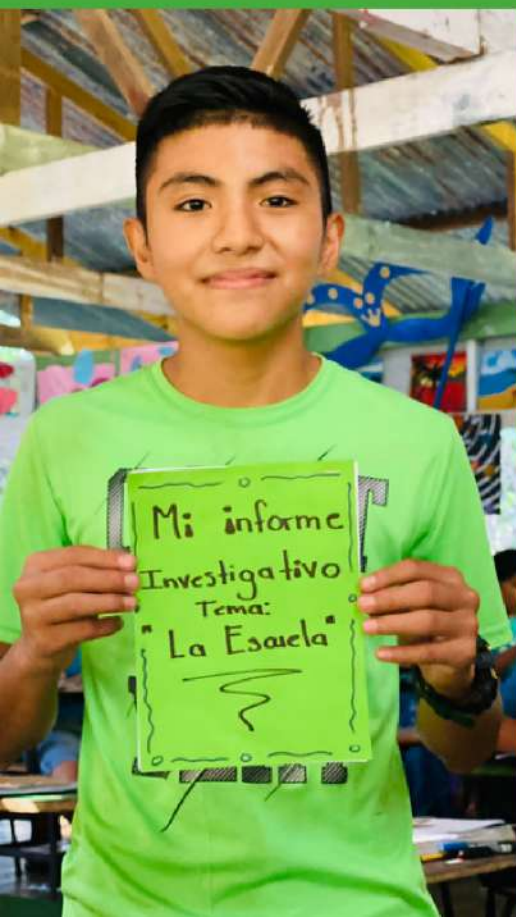
Education

Education is a fundamental pillar for the vision and mission of Casa Guatemala. The organization works to ensure that all children have access to quality education, regardless of their background.

To do this, Casa Guatemala offers education programs and scholarships for children and youth in vulnerable situations. The organization's school, registered with the Ministry of Education as Escuela Privado Rural Mixta Casa Guatemala, offers classes from kindergarten to sixth grade. Registration costs a symbolic Q25 per family. Additionally we offer scholarships to graduating students to continue their studies in middle school in the village of Las Brisas while living at Casa Guatemala and for high school students to live at our Hotel Backpackers and gain work experience while studying.

Students come from more than 30 communities in the area of Izabal and Alta Verapaz. Most are of the Q'eqchi ethnicity, while 13% are ladinos. Casa Guatemala works to promote gender equality and empower women and girls, so more than 55% of its students are girls.

For the educational program to function, Casa Guatemala has a large team of professionals. In the capital offices, the organization has an administrative director, two social workers, three accountants, and two drivers. In Río Dulce, it has two directors, a psychologist, two preschool teachers, 12 primary school teachers, seven house supervisors, and 10 maintenance, agricultural, and security workers. Together, this team ensures that Casa Guatemala has the funds, legal requirements, and inputs necessary for each student to receive a broad, inspiring, creative, and loving education.





Statistics

Beneficiaries	
Students and Scholarships at Casa Guatemala	179
Scholarship recipients outside the home Guatemala	11
Casa Guatemala Employees	45
Total Beneficiaries	235

Gender	Students	Adults	Total	Percentage
Female	99	26	125	55.80%
Male	80	19	99	44.20%
Total	179	45	224	100.00%

Employees	
Post	Amount
Directors	3
Accountants	3
Social Workers	2
Drivers	2
Psychologist	1
Teachers	14
House Supervisors	7
Cooks	2
Nurse	1
Maintenance/Farm	9
Guardian	1
Total	45

Students by Grade	
Grade	Amount
Jr Kindergarten	13
Sr Kindergarten	17
First	23
Second	24
Third	20
Forth	26
Fifth	23
Sixth	22
Middle/High School	11
Total	179

Age	Boys	Girls	Total
4 years	0	1	1
5 years	5	7	12
6 years	9	8	17
7 years	8	8	16
8 years	11	12	23
9 years	14	10	24
10 years	7	10	17
11 years	5	10	15
12 years	7	10	17
13 years	5	12	17
14 years	5	5	10
15 years	0	3	3
16 years	0	0	0
17 years	2	1	3
18 years	0	1	1
19 years	1	0	1
22 years	1	0	1
24 years		1	1
Total	80	99	179

Ethnicity	Boys	Girls	Total	Percentage
Ladinos	9	14	23	12.85%
Mayan Q'eqchi	71	85	156	87.15%
Total Gender	80	99	179	100.00%
Gender Percentages	44.69%	55.31%	100.00%	





Nutrition

At Casa Guatemala, children always have access to nutritious food, regardless of their situation. Children eat 5 times a day, including breakfast, snack, lunch, another snack, and dinner. Meals always include tortillas, beans, and rice, as well as fruits, vegetables, fortified drinks, bread, and sometimes chicken, meat, and special meals such as pizza or hamburgers.

The food is prepared by two cooks with the help of the children. Casa Guatemala relies on food donations and funds for most of its food, but it also grows its own fruits and vegetables in gardens and fruit trees. Children help with the gardens and learn a lot about agriculture, permaculture, and organic composting. We also raise chickens, ducks, fish, and pigs.

For children who do not live at Casa Guatemala, the organization offers food distribution and programs for families with food insecurity. There are several children who come just to eat, even when there are no classes. Casa Guatemala believes it is important that children always know they can come to eat or ask for food when they need it.

At the end of the school year, all families receive food to take home. Additionally, Casa Guatemala opens its doors during the holiday program, where families with the greatest need can send their children to receive their services in November and December.

Meal Distribution 2023 Casa Guatemala					
Total Kids	179	69	50	10	
Total Days	220	88	45	18	
Meal	Week Day	Weekend	Vacation Weekday	Vacation Weekend	Total
Breakfast	15180	6072	2250	180	23682
Snack	39380	6072	2250	180	47882
Lunch	39380	6072	2250	180	47882
Snack	39380	6072	2250	180	47882
Dinner	15180	6072	2250	180	23682
Total Meals Served					191010





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.

The clinic is staffed by a local Maya Q'eqchi nurse who is trained to provide basic health care. Dara, the nurse, 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.

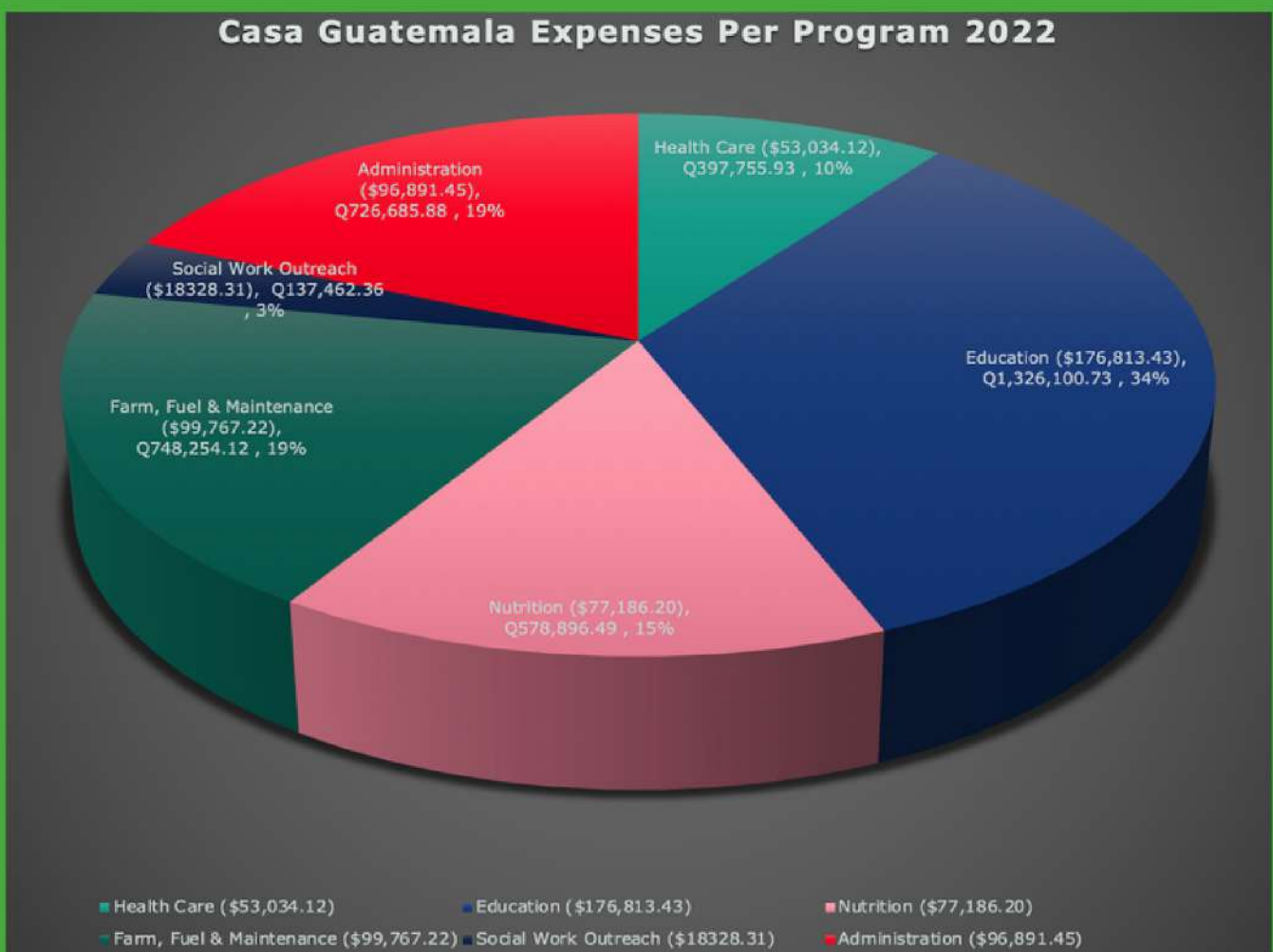
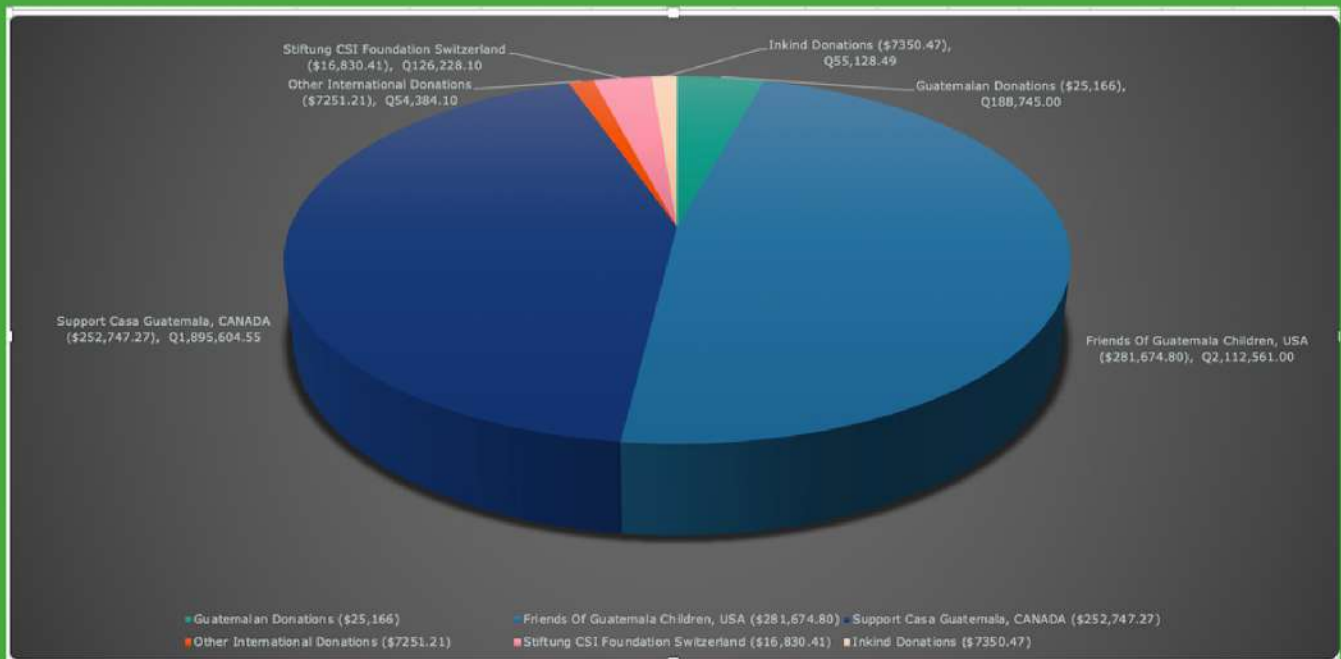
The clinic offers a variety of health services, including:

- **Medical consultations**
- **Treatments for common illnesses**
- **Formula program for mothers with breastfeeding problems**
- **Disease prevention**
- **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



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!



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Amy Baker and Family

Anja Sadola

Asociacion Rescate

Banco Industrial

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BGL

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