



CASA
PUEBLITO

2016

Annual Report





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Dear friends,

Thanks to the commitment of our community of donors and supporters, 2016 was another successful year for Casa – Pueblito. We celebrated our second anniversary as an amalgamated organization, and have continued to work towards solidarity and social justice across borders in partnership with grassroots organizations and communities in Nicaragua. Thanks to your support, Casa – Pueblito directly supported 7 projects improving the education, health, environment, and livelihoods of 530 community members and their families all over Nicaragua, Guatemala, and in Toronto. We also entered the final year of *Voices for Change*, our Toronto-based programming addressing the 40% ‘dropout’/pushout rate among Latinx (Latin American/Latino-Hispanic) students in Ontario.

In 2016, we reached significant milestones with a number of our community partners. Most notably, 32 high school students from the community of Jiñocuaó graduated as **the first ever graduating class** from the high school that the community built with your support. The same students that started working on the first classroom in 2012 graduated in December 2016. Four young adults from the community who started out teaching as volunteers in high school are now certified teachers with salaries from the Ministry of Education.

In the community of El Triunfo, Guatemala, 6 Mayan youth graduated high school, none of whom may have had the opportunity had it not been for our partnership with the middle school and high school for the past 10 years.

Our projects in 2016 covered a wide range of areas: **environmental justice, education and culture, food and water security, and gender equity**. Food sovereignty and environmental protection were particularly important issues for us in 2016, as many of our community partners started to recover from the effects of severe drought in 2015. Climate change is a pressing issue that continues to threaten the wellbeing of Nicaraguan communities. We’re committed to working alongside our community partners to continue mitigating the negative effects of the changing climate, one step at a time.

2017 marks the 25th anniversary of our work in Nicaragua as Casa Canadiense, and now as Casa - Pueblito. We’re proud to continue our work in the same spirit of solidarity and intercultural exchange that was the founding vision of Casa Canadiense. Our projects in 2017 continue to focus on food security, environmental justice, health, education, and gender equity, keeping the most urgent, community identified needs in mind.

Thank you for your support in 2016, and we hope that you’ll continue to work alongside us in 2017. Please stay in touch, and don’t forget to check us out on social media to learn more about the crucial work you’re supporting in Nicaragua. Together, we can build a more caring, compassionate, and equitable world.



In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carl Melvin'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Carl Melvin
President, Board of Directors
Casa Canadiense - Pueblito Canada

2016 HIGHLIGHTS

2016 saw Casa - Pueblito work in solidarity with 5 different communities in Nicaragua, 1 in Guatemala and one in Canada; impacting 250 families, 115 youth, 120 teachers and 86 students. We were able to do this through 7 projects varying in objectives from environmental justice to food and water security. We are proud of the work we accomplished in Canada and Central America in 2016 and are excited to continue to work for compassion and social justice across borders in 2017.

530 COMMUNITY MEMBERS



+

115 YOUTH



+

120 TEACHERS



+

86 STUDENTS



7 PROJECTS



7 COMMUNITIES



1 MISSION

Casa - Pueblito facilitates community development and intercultural learning with a focus on youth in Canada and Latin America.

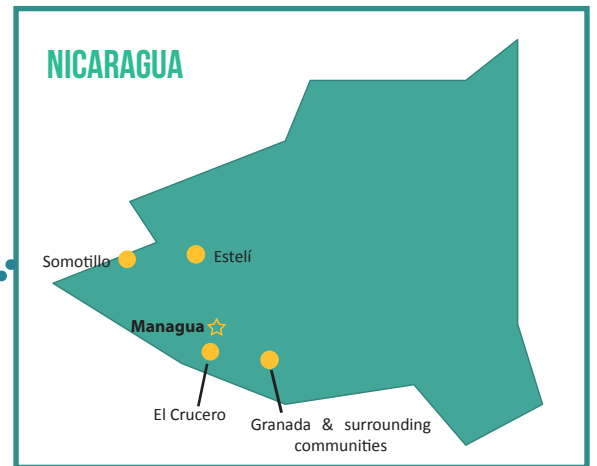
THANK YOU

To our community of donors and supporters for making all of this work possible!

OUR 2016 PROJECTS

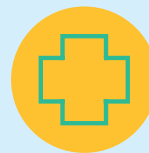
Our mission is to facilitate community development and intercultural learning with a focus on youth in Canada and Latin America. We do this by working in solidarity with our community partners to tackle community-identified needs and create positive change in five key program areas: Food and Water Security, Education and Culture, Health and Sanitation, Gender Equity, and Environmental Justice. The following project updates describe the work we completed with our partner communities in 2016.

WHERE WE ARE WORKING



LEGEND

- # OF INDIVIDUALS
- LOCATION
- PARTNER ORGANIZATION



HEALTH AND
SANITATION

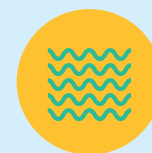
PROJECT AREAS



ENVIRONMENTAL
JUSTICE



GENDER EQUITY



FOOD AND WATER
SECURITY



EDUCATION AND
CULTURE

VOICES FOR CHANGE: DEVELOPING LEADERSHIP IN INCLUSIVE EDUCATION



10 YOUTH + 100 TEACHERS
TORONTO, ONTARIO

Voices for Change: Developing Leadership in Inclusive Education is our Toronto and Peel-based program working to address issues surrounding the shocking 40% 'dropout' rate among Latinx students in Toronto-area schools. We're doing this in two ways:

1. By providing a space for Latinx secondary students to champion for diversity and inclusivity in our schools and communities through the Youth Change-Maker program; and
2. Providing professional development opportunities for teachers and teacher candidates in Inclusive Education and Culturally Responsive Pedagogy, so that educators are better able to teach to the needs of their diverse students.



"This [program] helped me identify myself. It made me more proud of my heritage. It taught me that there are other points of view that I didn't realize and that if I really want something I can achieve it." – Simon

YOUTH CHANGE-MAKERS

This year, 6 Latinx Youth Change-Makers (coming from both the Toronto District School Board and the Toronto Catholic District School Board) [created digital stories](#) to bring awareness to issues contributing to the shocking 40% "dropout" (push out) rate among Latinx students in Toronto. The digital stories project culminated with a community screening and are now available for public viewing on our Youtube channel.

Additionally, between June 28th and July 3rd 2016, ten Latinx youth participants critically explored 'leadership' and 'identity' in a day camp, working to understand the unique barriers and discrimination Latinx students face as they pursue academic and personal success. During our day camp, the 10 participants further developed the skills, confidence and community they need to advocate for positive and systemic change in their schools and communities by participating in a variety of workshops. Workshops involved artists and leaders in the Toronto Latin American community, including SPIN El Poeta, Lady Noyz, the Latin American Queer Education Project (LAQEP), and Sick Muse Arts.

TEACHER TRAINING

"[This workshop] remind[s] me of why I do the work that I do. Hearing folks talk about their own experiences in schools make me want to work harder to remove barriers for my own students." - Teacher Participant

Our training in inclusive education and culturally responsive and reflective pedagogy helps educators to better teach to the needs of their diverse students, specifically Latinx students. In 2016, we provided free professional learning opportunities to 100 teachers and teacher candidates. Over 90% of participants agreed that our workshops were effective and helped them build:

- an awareness of personal biases and prejudices along with an understanding of the negative impact they have on Latinx students
- consideration of diverse perspectives
- an understanding of the importance of identity, positionality and inclusive education
- capacity to implement an inclusive, culturally responsive and reflective pedagogy

* *Voices for Change: Developing Leadership In Inclusive Education* is generously funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation, an agency of the Government of Ontario.

PODCASTS FOR PEACE



57 COMMUNITY MEMBERS
ACAHUALINCA, MANAGUA
PODCASTS FOR PEACE

Podcasts for Peace, a community center in Acahualinca, Managua, continued a multi-pronged project begun in partnership with Casa – Pueblito in 2015 that focused on environment protection, gender equity, and local economic development. Firstly, Podcasts for Peace made numerous upgrades to the center’s infrastructure by installing new doors and a locker for storing computers and musical instruments, and reinforcing the central beam in the center to make it structurally sound. 15 single mothers without a fixed income were also able to participate in sewing classes as part of the project. The sales of work they created generated new income for their families, and helped to further develop their skills so that they can continue to generate income from clothing and art sales into the future. In addition, 8 young mothers participated in a support group to promote self-confidence and discuss and deconstruct experiences like domestic violence, child-care, and education for themselves and their children while 4 young men were part of a men’s group reflecting on sexism, masculinities, and social problems in the neighborhood. Finally, Podcasts for Peace also facilitated community theatre workshops for 13 youth, educational field trips to various locations for youth to learn about the environment and climate change, and installed a community gym in the center that regularly serves 17 youth.



CHRISTINE KING COOPERATIVE



86 MATURE STUDENTS, 20 TEACHING
TEAM MEMBERS, 30 CHILDREN
ESTELÍ
CHRISTINE KING COOPERATIVE

This project renovated and expanded the CISCUM (Integral Center for the Cultural Improvement of Women) library by buying books, didactic, and audiovisual materials for mature diploma students. This permitted the women attending CISCUM to develop their skills and abilities more fully, resulting in better academic achievement in their courses. It also enabled teachers at CISCUM to use updated pedagogical materials to better prepare for their classes, resulting in improved quality of classes. Because of the project, classes became more dynamic and there was more active participation by students. The other part of the project enabled 12 children to complete the basic plastic arts course and 18 children from 5-6 years old to complete the beginner’s music class at Christine King Cooperative. Artistic development is important for kids, who benefit from intellectual development and increased levels of self-esteem by participating in arts courses.





UCA TIERRA Y AGUA



35 YOUTH
MULTIPLE
UCA TIERRA Y AGUA

UCA Tierra y Agua completed 14 theoretical and practical workshops about bio-intensive agriculture with 35 youth from 6 different communities. Using acquired knowledge about organic agriculture and agroecology, a community garden was established in each of the 6 cooperatives that form UCA Tierra y Agua. In each garden, youth planted tomatoes, peppers, lettuce, cabbage, eggplant, carrots, beets, radish, cantaloupe, watermelon, cucumber, zucchini, squash, chili, and onions, amplifying the variety of nutritious foods available in the homes of the youth. The various workshops created space for youth from different communities to confront the ecological and food security problems facing not only their communities, but the planet at large. The youth took four field trips to agricultural centers that permitted them to build a broader understanding of community gardens and showed them how to take advantage of local resources for sustainable agriculture. These trips were also important motivation for the youth, who stayed committed to the project while dealing with the adverse effects of drought on their community gardens.

GLORIA QUINTANILLA WOMEN'S COOPERATIVE



32 FAMILIES
SANTA JULIA, EL CRUCERO; MANAGUA
GLORIA QUINTANILLA WOMEN'S COOPERATIVE

The Gloria Quintanilla Women's Cooperative worked to improve food and water security in their community by planting yucca, quequesque, tomato, peppers, zucchini, and squash, and installing 6 water tanks. 32 mothers were taught how to make nutritious meals with the new crops, and 40% of the harvest went to the local children's eatery which provides meals for children in order to reduce child malnourishment. There was sufficient production of the new crops, allowing the women to share food with the whole community.

COMMUNITY OF JIÑOCUAO



50 ADULTS, 40 YOUTH, 100 CHILDREN
JIÑOCUAO, SOMOTILLO
COMMUNITY OF JIÑOCUAO

With the solidarity of our supporters, the community of Jiñocuaó created a community garden at the local high school and 10 gardens with local families. 25 community agricultural producers were also trained in bio-intensive agricultural techniques, acquiring new skills and knowledge in areas such as soil management, pest control, and water retention. As a result of the the community gardens, families were able to produce tomatoes, watermelons, and peppers. Given that Jiñocuaó's soil quality has been damaged by agriculture techniques using pesticides, these crops represent a significant improvement for families and a strengthening of the community's food security.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2016



REVENUES	
Donations and Fundraising	\$ 130,344
Foundations and Other Organizations	102,649
Project Contributions	63,728
Participant Fees	20,070
Administration	4,520
Other	(351)
Cash in Cash Surrender Value of	(2,004)
	<hr/>
	\$ 318,956
40.8%	DONATIONS AND FUNDRAISING
32.1%	FOUNDATIONS AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS*
19.9%	PROJECT CONTRIBUTIONS
6.2%	PARTICIPANT FEES
1.4%	ADMINISTRATION

EXPENSES	
Projects and Programs	\$ 287,370
Administration	63,476
Fundraising	6,487
	<hr/>
	\$ 357,333
80.4%	PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS
1.8%	FUNDRAISING
17.8%	ADMINISTRATION

NET ASSETS	
Beginning of the Year	\$ 248,264
Donations-in-kind	-
End of the Year	187,940

*Includes Ontario Trillium Foundation grant exclusively utilized for *Voices for Change*.

**Revenue percentages do not include Cash Surrender or Other- please refer to full breakdown above.

CURRENT FINANCIAL ASSETS

Cash	\$	147,158
Accounts Receivable		-
HST Recoverable		1,528
Prepaid Expenses and Deposits		7,639
		<u>156,325</u>

CAPITAL ASSETS

84,331

LIFE INSURANCE POLICY - CASH SURRENDER VALUE

7,608

\$ 248,264

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable and Accrued Charges	\$	17,954
Source Deductions Payable		1,841
Deferred Operating Grant Revenue		26,974
Deferred Revenue		13,555

\$ 60,324

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted \$ 187,940

\$ 248,264





Toronto Staff

Sinéad Dunphy | Fundraising Administrator
Emieke Geldof | Bookkeeper

Managua Staff

Ashley Rerrie | Country Director
Ada Maria López Rivera | Program Assistant
Elizabeth Guillen | Administrative Assistant
Darling Huerta | House Attendant

THANK YOU

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**CASA
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