



ANNUAL REPORT



CASA
PUEBLITO

2017

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

Dear Friends,

Our vision for compassion and social justice across borders has become ever more meaningful and vital. With the world's growing trend of polarization, I'm deeply aware of our organization's role to be a steady, compassionate partner in solidarity.

Thanks to the commitment and generosity of our supporters, Casa – Pueblito continues to work with our grassroots community partners for locally defined and locally driven projects that are small-scale, high-impact, and life-changing: Food and Water Security, Health and Sanitation, Gender Equality, Education and Culture, and Environmental Justice. These are the five areas for social impact at the heart of our Community Development Projects. Of course, solidarity is a two-way street. What our Canadian students learn from our Nicaraguan partners is priceless and lasts a lifetime.

The Casa – Pueblito year begins in December, learning from communities that have implemented the most recent Community Development Projects. By early summer our Country Director Ashley Rerrie and her committed team in Nicaragua have compiled these social impact measurements with reflections and stories on-the-ground with our community partners (some we've known for many years and some are exciting new partnerships).

Our work this year included six Community Development Projects in Nicaragua, four school delegations and a series of community engagement initiatives in Toronto to support our work across borders. Nor is our program only in Nicaragua. For 9 years we have supported an elementary school in the community of El Triunfo, Guatemala. Students in that Maya indigenous community continue to fill class rooms that are supported by you. The Annual Report at the midpoint of the year is an exciting time to celebrate the social impact we achieved in our collective solidarity, with these diverse communities. This report provides us with an opportunity to express our appreciation to you, our supporters, who have helped to make it happen. A Heartfelt Thank You.

Nicaragua continues to experience deep tensions. Although annual reports traditionally focus on an organization's activities and impact of the previous year, I would be remiss not to acknowledge the significant events taking place in Nicaragua. The struggles in the country are centered on achieving fundamental social justice issues. But conflict, such as has characterized the country recently, negatively impacts the most vulnerable sectors of society.

Many of today's Casa – Pueblito volunteers and supporters, including me, were on the ground in 1980's to support the aspirations of the Nicaraguan people for social justice, an aspiration that still resonates today. Casa Canadiense came into existence during difficult times in Nicaragua. While many left after the 1990 defeat of the Sandinistas at the polls, our founders felt it imperative to continue. These are difficult times today. Peaceful demonstrations against a particular policy that the government implemented were met with violence not seen in Nicaragua for decades. This has led to a widely recognized need for a process of dialogue and peace. Under these circumstances, as we did in the past, it is very important that we stand with our brothers and sisters in Nicaragua today. I invite you to join us at our community engagement events this summer and fall to learn more, share more and connect with others.

Our team in Managua has dealt with the current circumstances with grace and determination. Casa-Pueblito's relevance to our community partners has been enhanced because of them. With the momentum that you make possible with your support, we will continue to embrace our mandate. Thank You, One and All.



In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carl Melvin', written in a cursive style.

Carl Melvin
President

Casa Canadiense - Pueblito Canada

2017 SOCIAL IMPACT IN NICARAGUA

HIGHLIGHTS

In 2017, Casa – Pueblito worked in solidarity with six grassroots partners in five communities in Nicaragua. Responding to their locally-defined needs, these six community development projects achieved meaningful social impact in our five program areas:

- Food and Water Security
- Education and Culture
- Health and Sanitation
- Environmental Justice
- Gender Equality

For our small-but-mighty organization each of the social impact measurements on this page is at the heart of what we do, because with these numbers are faces of the hundreds of families – and thousands over the decades – we have come to know and appreciate at a very grassroots level.

807 COMMUNITY MEMBERS



525 YOUTH



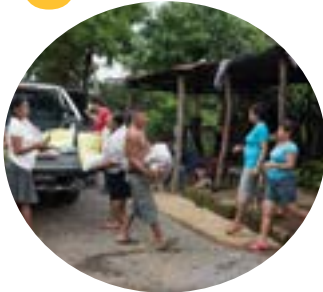
3 EDUCATIONAL & CULTURAL PROJECTS



3 FOOD & WATER SECURITY PROJECTS



6 PROJECTS



1 MISSION

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

6 COMMUNITIES



THANK YOU

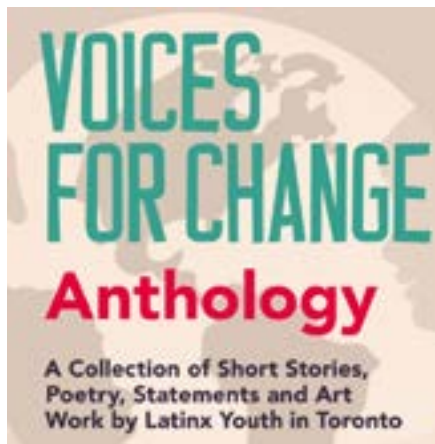
To our community of donors and supporters for making all of this work possible!

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN CANADA

VOICES FOR CHANGE

In Spring 2017, after 3 successful years including a toolkit, anthology, videos and workshops, our Voices for Change program was completed. Spearheaded by Maria Wong at Casa – Pueblito, Voices for Change was a major program of our organization to offer tools and spaces that help address issues surrounding the 40% “dropout” (push-out) rate among Latin American students in the Toronto-area schools.

By providing a pace for Latinx secondary students to champion for diversity and inclusivity in their schools and communities, Voices for Change aimed to help improve student’s success and retention rates. By providing tools for teachers to better understand the needs of Latin American students



and incorporate diverse approaches in their teaching with our professional development series, Voices for Change also aimed to strengthen teachers in their work as cultural allies.

The toolkit developed with this program is available for schools, and the community engagement to spread awareness about and share these resources has become a key focus of ongoing strategic growth planning.

JULY 19 FILM & MUSIC NIGHT

On July 19th 2017, in commemoration of the 38th Anniversary of the Nicaraguan Revolution, Casa-Pueblito hosted a Film Night at the Revue Theatre featuring the highly praised documentary Finding Oscar.

This documentary by Ryan Suffern with executive producer Steven Spielberg followed the search for justice in the tragic Dos Erres massacre in Guatemala. It was the first time this film was screened in Ontario and it was a successful, sold-out event. The film was followed by a discussion featuring a special guest speaker who lived in the region where this documentary takes place. The evening ended with music performed at Gate 403 featuring Juno Award winning artist Julian Fauth.

BAM 2017 ART EXHIBITION: SHOWCASING EMERGING LATINX ARTISTS TO STRENGTHEN THEIR VOICES AND CREATE NEW CONVERSATIONS

BAM was created at Casa - Pueblito in 2017 with our Canada Summer Jobs Student Team Member Yamari Martin-Halsall. Stemming from our Voices for Change program in 2015 - 2017, the BAM project became part of our organization’s ongoing passion to bring together voices in the Latinx Community that can express issues and themes that are important to young people with Latin American heritage.

BAM 2017 featured the work of seven GTA-based artists who presented artworks that spoke in unique and intersecting ways to one or more of the three themes: Resistance, Community and the Self.

This one-night event at Black Canvass Art Gallery welcomed many new guests and the connectivity was electric with spoken-word and musical performances, within the space featuring visual arts.

With our passion to continue the exploration, expression and conversations about vital themes in welcoming, creative spaces, Casa – Pueblito included BAM in our strategic growth plans for 2018 and we look forward to showcasing more artists for a full week at the Artscape Youngplace gallery in September 2018.



BRUNCH AND AUCTION

On November 19th 2017 we hosted our annual Brunch & Auction event, welcoming back many of our amazing donors and supporters –both long-time and new- with fond memories to share. This fundraiser is a main source of our organization’s funding to make our programs and projects possible. The community spirit among the guests is a cherished part of this signature event. On November 4th, 2018 our Brunch & Auction returns to Lithuanian House with a feast for the eyes on buffet and prizes.

SOLIDARITY & SOCIAL JUSTICE ACROSS BORDERS

WHERE WE WORK, WHERE WE CONNECT

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 our five key program areas.

ST. AUGUSTINE & CARDINAL LEGER

Establishment of Community Gardens of Plantain and Banana in the Community of Santa Julia
Managua, Santa Julia, El Crucero, Granada



SCHOOL DELEGATIONS 2017

ST. EDMUND CAMPION

Construction of Latrines in the Community of Jiñocua
Managua, Jiñocua, Somotillo, Chinandega



CHAMPLAIN COLLEGE

Construction of Latrines in the Community of Jiñocua
Managua, Esteli, visited Christine King Cooperative, Jiñocua, Leon.



● COMMUNITY DEVELOPED PROJECTS



● COMMUNITIES CONNECTED WITH SCHOOL DELEGATIONS



NICARAGUA

2017 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN NICARAGUA

CONSTRUCTION OF LATRINES IN THE COMMUNITY OF JIÑOCUAO



- Beneficiaries: 56 families, 131 adults, 40 youth, and 122 children. TOTAL of 293 beneficiaries
- Jiñocuaó
- Community of Jiñocuaó

Proper hygiene and sanitation is crucial for communities' health and that of their environment. This year, we built 56 latrines in Jiñocuaó to improve the health of families and children, lower the spread of contagious disease, and protect the environment. Economic conditions were the biggest barrier to families having their own latrines. 56 families now have new latrines, and express the increase in their sense of dignity and pride in their homes, health of their children, and cleanliness of the environment. At the project inauguration, one of the children said "now I'm not afraid to eat pork because I know that they haven't been contaminated". Children are missing fewer days of school, and families are happy that they can take better care of themselves and the water sources close to their houses. In 2018, we look forward to continuing with more latrines to provide access to more of the community.



CONTINUATION OF 2016 PROJECT AND IMPROVEMENTS TO THE CULTURAL CENTER



- 14 young mothers, 17 children, 18 youth, 12 women, TOTAL of 61 beneficiaries
- Acahualinca, Managua
- Podcasts for Peace

At Podcasts for Peace, a number of different program activities were implemented for socioeconomically disadvantaged youth in Acahualinca. Folkloric dance classes, tutoring, reading circles, and a community gymnasium are all crucial elements to the cultural center that work with kids and youth to promote self-esteem, healthy forms of self-expression, and academic achievement. The sewing classes offered at Podcasts for Peace this year were successful, incorporating young girls and women into the classes where participants learned to make household materials out of recycled fabric. One participant, Mayra Ramirez, said "What I like is the chance to create, innovate, and make new things with clothes that apparently can't be worn and aren't being used... It makes me feel accomplished as a woman...".



Podcasts for Peace also implemented a program working with 12 young mothers, through activities that promote self-esteem, self-confidence, and proper health during their maternity process. The team also completed a number of renovations to the cultural center, including installing a new bathroom, kitchen to serve meals to children, and new floors. The infrastructural improvements are particularly important because it allows children who attend classes there to recognize that they have the right to a safe, secure environment that protects them.



HEALTH AND SANITATION



COMMUNITY BUILDING AND HOUSING



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE



GENDER EQUITY



FOOD AND WATER SECURITY



EDUCATION AND CULTURE



OF INDIVIDUALS REACHED
LOCATION



PARTNER ORGANIZATION

ESTABLISHMENT OF BANANA AND PLANTAIN PLANTATIONS IN THE COMMUNITY OF SANTA JULIA



 8 families, 24 community members, TOTAL of 44 direct beneficiaries working on project

 Santa Julia, El Crucero

 Gloria Quintanilla Women's Cooperative

The Gloria Quintanilla Women's Cooperative are dreaming of a future in their community where they can provide enough food for themselves; their project this year brought them one step closer to achieving their goal of food sovereignty. Cooperative members planted eight gardens of 250 plantain and banana trees in order to diversify the community's crops and provide a sustainable food source. Plantain and banana were chosen, as they require less water to grow. Two artisanal water tanks were installed for irrigation, joining the 6 other tanks previously constructed in partnership with Casa – Pueblito. The participants learned in theory and in practice about agro-ecological designs for their gardens, management of soil and water to plant plantain and bananas, and how to control pests and plagues naturally instead of using chemicals. One of the principal characteristics of the cooperative is that through capacitation and workshops, the beneficiaries have become facilitators of information for the rest of the community. This is how, through a small investment, the community incorporates other families into the project and into future projects. As a part of this project, they have participated in workshops that have helped them to be more conscious of the quality of their nutrition.



PROMOTION AND REVITALIZATION OF ARTISTIC AND CULTURAL IDENTITY



 104 children, 60 youth, 40 adults TOTAL of 204

 San Ramon, Matagalpa

 Centro Promocional Cristiano por la Paz y la Vida

This was our first year working with the Christian Promotional Center for Peace and Life. The organization promotes processes of learning and identity through artistic expression. Through the project, 57 children developed artistic abilities through classes teaching techniques, and how to use materials such as watercolour, crayons, acrylic, tempera, and graphite, as well as the basic skills of drawing and painting. The participants also developed their companionship, friendship, socialization between the children, and how to share materials and space. The project achieved recognition from the municipal government, who valued the artistic talent coming from the youth of San Ramon. Additionally, they were able to promote the art school as a touristic reference, which allowed the organization to work with the municipality to create a tourism package to promote to INTUR (Nicaraguan Institute for Tourism) and other organizations that support tourism. So that new generations learn about their local cultural heritage and history, students painted a mural about the indigenous archers of Yucul that had a fundamental role in the expulsion of American filibusters from Nicaragua, and hosted a municipal arts competition showcasing students' work and celebrating the national Literacy Brigades of the 1980s.





HEALTH AND SANITATION



COMMUNITY BUILDING AND HOUSING



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE



GENDER EQUITY



FOOD AND WATER SECURITY



EDUCATION AND CULTURE



OF INDIVIDUALS REACHED
LOCATION
PARTNER ORGANIZATION

CONDITIONING THE AGRICULTURAL AREA OF LOS CACHORROS FARM AND BUILDING CAPACITY FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN SOIL MANAGEMENT AND CARE OF THE ENVIRONMENT



- 150 children and youth
- San Marcos, Carazo
- Los Quinchos Association

Los Quinchos Association delivered 12 workshops to 60 children and adolescents living on the Quinchos Farm and Yahoska Girl's Shelter. The workshops were aimed at cultivating a love of nature within the children and providing them with the skills necessary to take care of crops and farm animals. This was crucial to give children practical skills that will be useful to them when they are no longer in school and are looking for gainful employment. The youth put the new techniques learned into practice, planting new crops at Los Cachorros farm. Using the organic, agro-ecological techniques, students planted beans, plantain, tomatoes, green pepper, and cucumber. They also planted sunflowers and other ornamental plants to decorate the farm. The project has directly benefitted the 160 children that live at Los Quinchos. Now that Los Cachorros farm is harvesting beans, plantain, and quequisque, and producing eggs from chickens on the farm, the organization has a new sustainable source of nutritious, organic food. Most importantly, the children and youth living at Los Quinchos are now equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to take care of the crops and animals at Los Cachorros and in any future agricultural endeavors they may undertake.



INSTALLATION OF WATER SERVICES IN THE COMMUNITY OF LA CALERA



- 11 families, 55 people
- La Calera, Nandaime, Carazo
- UCA Tierra y Agua



In 2017, we partnered with UCA Tierra y Agua to install an artisanal well to support 11 families in the community of La Calera. Lack of access to water is a large problem in the community, where women are forced to walk in order to collect water for cooking and washing, making water a problem of gender equality as well. The project will construct an artisanal well and install tubing to run water to all of the houses in the community. Unfortunately, due to unforeseeable geological problems making excavation of the well difficult, the community has delayed in completing the project. Working alongside Casa – Pueblito to get consultations from well technicians, we have finally figured out a way to complete the project in 2018. Casa – Pueblito aims to work with communities to complete projects despite setbacks and delays, and we're happy to support the community through the completion of their project in 2018.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2017

OUR STATS

NET FINANCIAL ASSETS
\$231,872

CASH START OF YEAR
\$139,342

REVENUES
\$331,436

EXPENSES
\$336,307

DEFICIT
-\$4,871

NET ASSETS

| | |
|--------------------------|---------|
| Beginning of the Year \$ | 231,872 |
| Donations-in-kind | - |
| End of the Year | 183,069 |

REVENUES

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|----------------|
| Donations and Fundraising | \$ | 197,509 |
| Foundations and Other Organizations | | 90,828 |
| Project Contributions | | 31,068 |
| Participant Fees | | 10,251 |
| Administration | | 4,537 |
| Other | | - |
| Cash in Cash Surrender Value of | | (2,757) |
| | \$ | 331,436 |

| | |
|---|---------------|
| DONATIONS AND FUNDRAISING | 59.4 % |
| FOUNDATIONS AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS* | 27.3 % |
| PROJECT CONTRIBUTIONS | 9.2 % |
| PARTICIPANT FEES | 3.09% |
| ADMINISTRATION | 1.2 % |

EXPENSES

| | | |
|-----------------------|-----------|----------------|
| Projects and Programs | \$ | 248,507 |
| Administration | | 69,686 |
| Fundraising | | 18,114 |
| | \$ | 336,307 |

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS | 73.4 % |
| FUNDRAISING | 5.3% |
| ADMINISTRATION | 20.7% |

CURRENT FINANCIAL ASSETS

| | | |
|-------------------------------|----|----------------|
| Cash | \$ | 139,342 |
| Accounts Receivable | | 400 |
| HST Recoverable | | 1,886 |
| Prepaid Expenses and Deposits | | 1,720 |
| | | <u>143,348</u> |

CAPITAL ASSETS

LIFE INSURANCE POLICY - CASH SURRENDER VALUE

| | |
|-----------|----------------|
| | 86,673 |
| | <u>4,851</u> |
| \$ | 231,872 |

CURRENT LIABILITIES

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|---------------|
| Accounts Payable and Accrued Charges | \$ | 20,745 |
| Source Deductions Payable | | 1,155 |
| Deferred Operating Grant Revenue | | 5,722 |
| Deferred Revenue | | 21,181 |
| | \$ | 48,803 |

NET ASSETS

| | | |
|--------------|-----------|----------------|
| Unrestricted | \$ | 189,069 |
| | \$ | 231,872 |



THANK YOU

TEAM STAFF

María Fritsch | Communications and Events Coordinator
Emieke Geldof | Bookkeeper
Elizabeth Guillen | Administrative Assistant
Jessica Hazen | Director, Strategic Growth & Community Engagement
Darling Huerta | House & Office Attendant
Ada Maria López Rivera | Project Assistant
Ashley Rerrie | Country Director
Lucero Tsui | Administrative and Donor Relation Assistant

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**Brian Whitaker
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**Katie Saunders
** Kathleen Ware
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Michael O'Sullivan
*Misha Baudisch-McCabe

*Departing 2017
**Incoming 2017

Appreciation for our volunteer Nuria Jiménez for the layout and design of this report.

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