



Annual Report 2010

Introduction:

Due to Hurricane Agatha and the financial crisis, 2010 was a difficult year for Guatemala. During the hurricane hundreds of houses and schools were destroyed and hundreds of people died in landslides. In addition, the global financial crisis caused food prices to rise. Many Guatemalan families suffered from malnutrition in 2010 due to these two factors. Fortunately, CasaSito assisted in reconstructing schools and supported food programs in numerous associations so that children could receive healthy meals during the week.



In general, 2010 was a very exciting year for CasaSito¹! Thanks to the donors, volunteers, and the staff's dedication, CasaSito experienced unprecedented growth. We were able to expand our services to our and their families and provide more in-depth support to our partner projects. Also in 2010, CasaSito developed a new work strategy and a new website design. Please read on to hear about our advancements in each of our program areas.

Scholarship Program:



In 2010, fifty-nine (59) students received scholarships to attend middle school and high school. Their scholarships covered up to 70% of their school expenses, which include registration, tuition and school supply costs. CasaSito requires that families cover at least 30% of the total educational costs to demonstrate dedication to educating their children.

¹ The Developing Scholars Foundation and the Give Kids a Chance Foundation are Canadian foundations whose Guatemalan projects are organized and executed by CasaSito's staff. Alice Lee So Fong is the legal representative of these foundations in Guatemala.



CasaSito's Scholarship Program is truly exceptional because of the support services that we offer to our scholars and their parents. In addition to providing financial assistance, we also provide the students with workshops on socially relevant themes, psychological counseling, and extracurricular activities. In 2010, CasaSito held six workshops for the scholarship students. The Scholarship Director found expert psychologists and social workers to teach the workshops. The workshops of 2010 were: Violence in Relationships, Motivation, Self-Esteem, Emotional Intelligence, Sexual Education, and Future Planning.

We also gave four workshops to parents on Sexual Education, Self-Esteem, Raising Children with Love, and Family Communication. Guatemalan society tends to be very secretive and people tend to ignore problems rather than confront them. However, these workshops and the psychologists encourage parents and students to ask for help and resolve their conflicts.

In addition, CasaSito offers the scholarship students access to extracurricular activities. Students can participate in a Debate Club, and an Entrepreneur Club and many festivals. Please see below for more information.

CasaSito also began a new evaluation process in 2010 for our scholarship program so that we can measure both the short term and long term impacts of our program. CasaSito developed this system with the help of Angela Gerbrandt, from Canada. The scholarship coordinators measure school attendance, performance, punctuality, participation and graduation rates. They also created psychological exams to measure self-esteem, independence, leadership, and initiative. In addition, they complete interviews to measure the maintenance of positive familiar and peer relationships and the desire of the students to overcome obstacles.



CasaSito also implemented a system to measure the long-term impacts of our scholarship program. In 2010, nine scholarship students graduated from Diversificado. The coordinators created a database so that we can track these students as they attend university and obtain jobs. We hope to see that these students hold steady jobs and are someday able to afford to send their own children to school.

Extracurricular Activities:



Sports Festival – CasaSito held its first Sport Festival in May at the Casa del Deportista in Antigua. Five local schools and day care centers participated in this exciting activity. The students ran races, competed in basketball and battled on the soccer fields. The participants learned about sportsmanship and teamwork, while having a great time.

Music Festival – This year's Music Festival took place in August in the village of Alotenango. CasaSito partnered with the association, Bendición de Dios, to organize the Festival. The staff of Bendición de Dios did an excellent job coordinating all of the details of the Festival with the local government. Five associations entered choruses into this year's chorus competition. El Plan Infinito and Los Patojos participated in the advanced category while Bendición de Dios, Semilla de Esperanza y Amor and Kubin Junan participated in the beginner category. Everyone won prizes to support the development of their music programs. We also had special performances by the Coro Filarmónico de Niños and the Coro Victoria from Guatemala City. There was also a special performance by the Los Patojos's break dance crew and their circus of jugglers. It was an exciting day for all involved.



Art Festival – The Art Festival in December was CasaSito's most exciting festival so far. The teachers of the participating associations assisted four art classes leading up to the Art Festival so that they could teach their students new artistic techniques. The result was that the quality of art at this year's Festival was astounding. In addition, during the day of the Festival, there were artistic performances by Los Patojos, EducArte, Semilla de Esperanza y Amor, Kubin Junan, and El Plan Infinito. This year's Festival took place in the Spanish Cooperation in the center of Antigua and hundreds of people walked in off the streets to participate in the day's events.

Each participating association organized interactive artistic activities throughout the day. Visitors and children placed written wishes on a Tree of Dreams, created animated films, and read from a mobile library all afternoon. It was truly a memorable day.

Entrepreneur Club - In April of 2010, CasaSito won a grant from the World Bank to start an Entrepreneur Club. Local entrepreneurs taught business classes for three months to 35 students. Local business leaders then became mentors to groups of 3 or 5 students as they wrote business plans. During the mentorship phase of the program, students learned how to research markets, complete investigations, create budgets and test their products and services. Two of the student groups won the business plan competition and received a loan of \$200, with a 20% interest rate, to begin their own small businesses. One group will start a pick-up recycling business and the other group will produce homemade chocolate bars to sell to local stores. CasaSito wishes them the best of the luck in 2011.



Debate Club – CasaSito did not run the Debate Club in 2010 because the Entrepreneur Club had to begin at the time that the Debate Club usually meets. However, Debate Club will start again in 2011.

Partner Projects in Sacatepequez:

In an effort to expand the support offered to CasaSito's partner projects in 2010, we provided NGO administration classes to *Semilla de Esperanza y Amor*, *Bendición de Dios*, *EducArte*, and *Asociación En Beneficio de Mujeres Indígenas* with the help of volunteers Mick Quinn, Debora Prieto and Maritza Ortiz. During these classes, the administrators learned skills such as fundraising, budgeting, accounting, staff and volunteer management, and public communication.

EducArte – In 2010, EducArte received substantial support from CasaSito to cover their general education fund and their food program. EducArte had a stand-out year because they were selected by the government to participate in an art competition. The EducArte team won first place and traveled to Mexico to participate in a Central American art competition. It was an amazing experience for all involved. EducArte also won first places in many categories of CasaSito's Art Festival in December. In addition, EducArte began revising their administrative plans in 2010. They began the process of changing their fundraising and accounting strategies. They also began a process of recruiting new members to their Board of Directors. EducArte also helped many communities around Ciudad Vieja after Hurricane Agatha. They provided emergency supplies, such as food, water, and diapers. They mobilized community members to clean their villages and they provided psychological help to families who lost everything. In addition, they created a street art program to entertain children while their houses were being reconstructed. CasaSito hopes that EducArte will continue to grow with stable funding and provide high quality services to the people in and around Ciudad Vieja.





Los Patojos –Los Patojos became a partner project in 2010. CasaSito began providing funding for their food program and was impressed by their enthusiasm and creativity. The CasaSito team supported them in creating their own youth festival called “Jocotes de Miel” in Jocotenango, which brought in youth from the area to participate in break-dancing, graffiti writing and other forms of street art. Los Patojos is having an incredibly deep impact in Jocotenango by motivating youth to create a positive street culture. CasaSito will expand its relationship with them in the future.

El Plan Infinito – The year 2010 was a very important year for El Plan Infinito. Professor Chris van Vijier bought land in Santiago Zamora to create a permanent home for his project. The construction started in 2010 and will be inaugurated in January of 2011. El Plan Infinito continued with its regular programs in art, English, swimming and music. The chorus tied for first place in CasaSito’s Music Festival after singing choral arrangements by Brahms and Beethoven. In addition, El Plan Infinito began providing computer classes taught by Professor Carlos Rivas. The most well-behaved students in El Plan Infinito were awarded a trip to Tikal in December as part of Professor Chris’s efforts to expose the youth of Santiago Zamora to the most important historical sites of Guatemala. In 2010, El Plan Infinito also initiated a partnership with Construcción Casa. They built four houses in 2010. El Plan Infinito is set up for major expansion in 2011. They plan to offer more workshops on socially relevant themes and literacy classes to adults in the community. In addition, El Plan Infinito is on the path to become CasaSito’s own project in the field.



Semilla de Esperanza y Amor – Semilla de Esperanza y Amor grew substantially in 2010. With the help of new and dedicated donors, they were able to hire three new teachers and provide dental services to all of the children in the project. They also began offering computer classes and continued their food program thanks to donations from CasaSito. In 2010, Semilla participated in all three of CasaSito’s extracurricular festivals. They had great success in the Sports Festival in which they won first place in soccer and in the marathon. Yet, the greatest success of Semilla in 2010 was receiving a donation from Los Niños to construct a brand new school building. The center will be inaugurated in January of 2011.

Partner Communities in Remote Rural Areas:

Chocantariy – This was an epic year for the Association in Benefit of Indigenous Women. They expanded from managing just a day care center to also offering pre-school classes. However, due to the economic crisis, the women needed to shut down their bakery



because they were no longer making a profit. This big step forced the organization into strategic planning mode. CasaSito helped the members of the Association in Benefit of Indigenous Women define their roles within the organization. CasaSito also organized administration classes, taught by Mick Quinn, for Francisco Xiloj, the director of the association. During the administration classes, Francisco and the participating members decided that they wanted to change their association into an educational center called Proyecto de Luz y Vida. Francisco began fundraising in Xela and Antigua to begin a private primary school in the village and to pay for literacy and arts classes for women. Although CasaSito continues providing administration classes for Francisco, CasaSito Board of Directors decided it was time for CasaSito to pull back and let the association fly alone. Therefore in 2011, CasaSito will no longer be providing funds. The members of Proyecto de Luz y Vida are motivated to continue and are finding new donors. For more information, please see their new website at proyectoluzyvida.wordpress.com.



Las Conchas – CasaSito continued funding a weekend food program of the high school in the Las Conchas community. Students travel up to 10 hours to arrive at the Las Conchas high school and they stay for the weekend in dorm rooms. Before CasaSito donated money for the weekend food program, these students would bring a bag of tortillas and a lime to serve as every meal over the course of the weekend. Now students receive three healthy meals a day while they are away from their families over the weekend.

Mujb'ab'l Yol – After three years without a home, the youth radio station, Doble Vía, began producing shows again in 2010. This is a wonderful advancement for Mujb'ab'l Yol, which specializes in using radio as a tool to educate rural communities. This association also partnered with Cultural Survival of Cambridge, MA, USA to begin an intensive lobbying campaign to legalize community radios. The community radios were supposed to be legalized after the signing of the



Peace Accords in 1996, but the law was never passed. Alberto Ramírez Recinos (Tino), the director of Mujb'ab'l Yol worked tirelessly in 2010 to lobby the government and he hopes that community radios will finally be legalized in 2011. Mujb'ab'l Yol also assisted communities after Agatha. CasaSito donated to rebuild a school in La Primavera La Ceiba in the Department of Solola and the director of Mujb'ab'l Yol managed the funds and supervised the construction. Another great advancement for this association is that they received funds, partially from CasaSito, to complete the first phase of the construction of a radio training center in Xela. The training center will have a recording studio, a training hall, and a museum dedicated to Voz Popular, the radio station of the guerrillas during the civil war, and the beginning of the community radio movement.



La Primavera Ixcán – In 2010, the community of La Primavera Ixcán opened their own high school. This is a huge step for a community that had never had access to high school. In addition, they lobbied the government to build a new primary school building for them. Although the government is only building 8 of the 18 classrooms that they requested, it is still a victory for the community to obtain the government's involvement. The foundation Developing Scholars contributed to the administration costs of the new

high school and offered scholarship to university students. CasaSito continued providing scholarships to high school students who entered the scholarship program in 2009.

Samox San Lucas – The telesecondaria (a middle school that uses television as a main teaching tool) in Samox San Lucas saw great advances in 2010. Thanks to donations from the foundations Stichting Kinderprojecten Guatemala (SKG) and Developing Scholars, and the help of Construa Casa, CasaSito was able to build a new five-room school building in Samox. The new school has three classrooms, one office, and one all-purpose room. The students moved into the new school before the end of the year and the parents of the community constructed special desks to fit the new typewriters donated by Developing



Scholars and SKG. It was a very special occasion. CasaSito also sent a volunteer group from the University of Michigan to Samox in 2010 to help the community complete a needs assessment. The volunteers are still in touch with community leaders. In addition, the foundation Developing Scholars continued paying the salary of the one teacher of the telesecondaria school. Although the government says that they will pay two more teacher salaries in the future, the community has not yet received any government support.

Rainwater Catchment Project



In 2010, CasaSito built 8 new water tanks in Momostenango. The team expanded its expertise to three types of tanks: they built 3 "egg" tanks, 4 "bottle" tanks, and 1 "grave" (plastic-lined) tank. They worked with El Camino Voluntours, Engineers Without Borders-UCLA, and other volunteers recruited from Antigua. One tank was built solely with local help. CasaSito especially thanks EWB-UCLA for their generous financial support as well as technical assistance this year. All families who received a water tank also received an Eco-filter home water filter, which gives them year-round access to clean water without need for treatment, thanks to the ViaVenture Foundation.

Financial Information:

CasaSito is a registered Guatemalan association and a registered 501(c)3 in the United States.

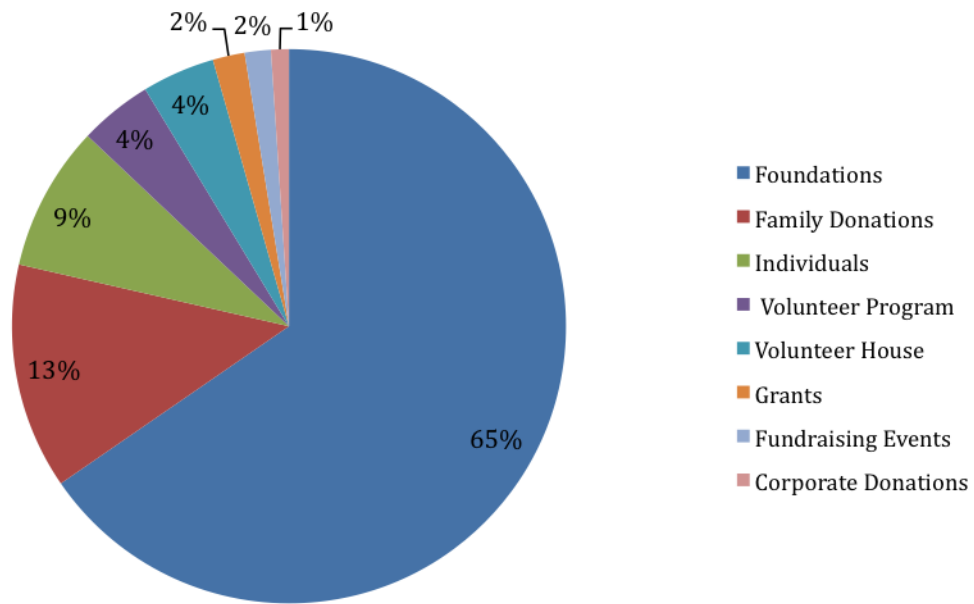
CasaSito's Income for 2010:

Types of Donors	
Foundations	\$174,795.80
Family Donations	\$35,242.36
Individuals	\$22,617.82
Volunteer Program	\$11,409.42
Volunteer House	\$11,351.71
Grants	\$4,990.00
Fundraising Events	\$4,075.00
Corporate Donations	\$2,787.75
Total	\$267,269.85

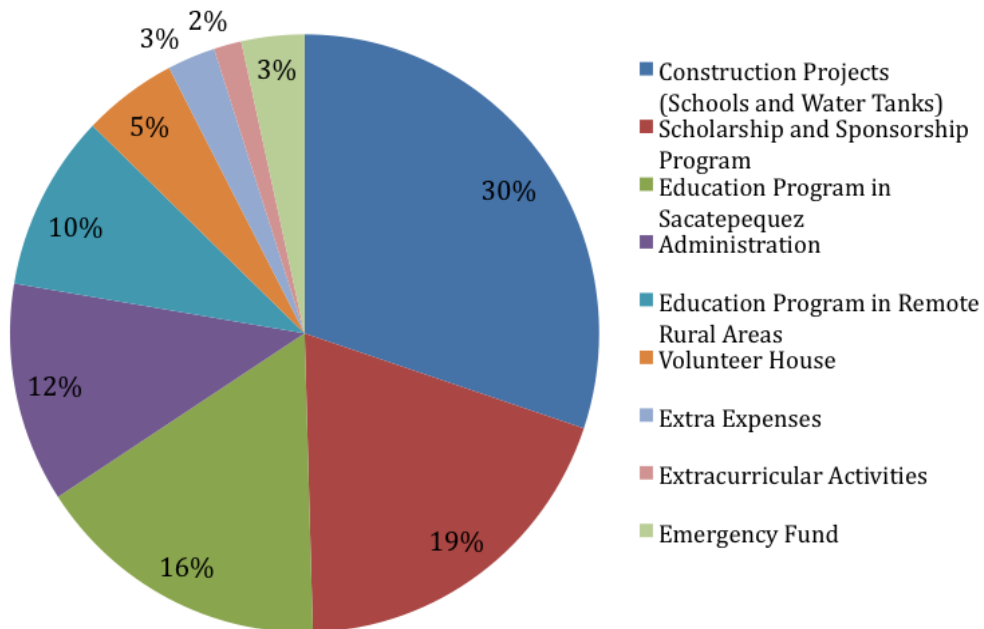
CasaSito's Expenses for 2010:

Total Expenses by Program Area	
Construction Projects (Schools and Water Tanks)	\$76,641.60
Scholarship and Sponsorship Program	\$49,332.15
Education Program in Sacatepéquez	\$41,265.07
Administration	\$30,219.33
Education Program in Remote Rural Areas	\$24,254.60
Volunteer House	\$13,159.39
Extra Expenses	\$6,697.89
Extracurricular Activities	\$3,864.22
Emergency Fund	\$8,781.62
Total	\$254,215.88

Types of Donors for 2010



Expenses by Program Area in 2010



CasaSito's donors and friends include:

Adventure Life & Adventure Life Voyages, USA
Antigua Network, Guatemala
Camino VolunTour, Canada
CasaSito's Volunteers
Guests of the Volunteer House
Constru Casa, Guatemala
Cruisers Without Borders, Guatemala and Belize
Developing Scholars Organization, Canada
Family Dijkmans, Holland
Family Ege and friends, Switzerland
Engineers Without Borders, UCLA, USA
Espace Saint-François, Switzerland
Give Kids A Chance Foundation, Canada
Roberto Guzmán, Guatemala
Idealist.org
Immigration Services, Guatemala
Kaffee Fernando, Guatemala
Kenoli Foundation, Canada
Larme et sourire de Pachamama, Switzerland
Jeffrey Leventhal, photographer, USA
Link for Health, Guatemala
Mariposa e.V., Germany
Mayan White Water

Los Niños, Holland
Restaurant La Peña de Sol Latino, Guatemala
Rainbow Café, Guatemala
Rotaract Club of Central Coast, Tasmania, Australia
Family Anne Blanche Saveniers and friends, Belgium
Stichting Kinderprojecten Guatemala (SKG)
Supermercado La Bodegona, Guatemala
Trails Travel, Guatemala
Transitions Foundation, Guatemala
ViaVenture Foundation, Guatemala
Yale Alumni Chorus Foundation, USA
And many generous individuals!



Volunteers:

CasaSito had an amazing group of international volunteers this year! Volunteers arrived from the



US, Guatemala, Germany, Holland, Italy, Spain, Australia, Hong Kong, Belgium and Canada. CasaSito thanks all of the volunteers for their dedication to CasaSito in 2010! We could not do our work without you!

We would like to offer special thanks to our local volunteers, especially Jeff Barnes who assisted CasaSito in Strategic Planning, Fabiola Secaira who re-designed our website and brochure, Andrea del Pinal who assisted with our Art Festival and created a grant database for CasaSito, and Mick Quinn, Debora Prieto and Martiza Ortiz who

taught NGO administration classes. We would also like to thank all of the business mentors who taught classes during our Entrepreneur Club and the psychologists who taught workshops for our scholarship program.

Staff:

CasaSito's staff members in 2010 included:

Alice Lee So Fong – Founder and Director

Greg Schwendinger – Co-Founder and Director of the Rainwater Catchment Project

Sisi Gonzales – Director of the Scholarship Program and Psychologist

Amanda Turner – Operations Manager

Miriam Valle – Assistant to the Scholarship Program and Psychologist

Silke Wahl – Social Worker

Paulo Monteiro – Activity Coordinator

Salvador Gonzalez – Office Assistant

Board of Directors:



The 2010 Guatemalan Board of Directors included:

Name	Position	Nationality	Job	Area of Expertise
Alice Lee So Fong	President	Swiss/Hong Kong	Founder and Director, CasaSito	Non-profits, Management
Silke Wahl	Vice President	German	Sales Manager, Trails Travel, Member of Mariposa	Management, Tourism, Fundraising
Christoph Ege	Treasurer	Swiss	Overland Programs Manager, ViaVenture	Tourism, Business
Guillermo Pivaral	Secretary	Guatemalan	CEO, Valle de Panchoy	Business, Fundraising
Carlos Rivas	Active Member 1	Guatemalan	Director, Academica de Computacion ACSI	Technology, Education
Renate Winter	Active Member 2	German	Retired, School Teacher, Member of Mariposa	Education
Gary Jepson	Active Member 3	Canadian	Co- Founder, Give Kids a Chance Foundation, CEO, Permatin	Business, Fundraising