



CasaSito *Annual Report 2018*

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Dear CasaSito Friends,

2018 was a year of challenges. But despite all the obstacles, the outcome was positive, we came out stronger, and more united.

Both our offices changed locations, our Cobán office is now located in the small town of San Cristobal (just outside Cobán), and our Antigua office is now located in Panorama (just outside Antigua). Now we have more space to implement all our activities and bring better service to our youth. With these moves, we are not only creating a nicer working environment, but also a place for youth to come as they wish after school to meet, giving our scholars a deeper sense of belonging.

2018 was also a year where we welcomed Fernanda to our CasaSito family as rural program coordinator, and Paula, Desirée and Silke as new Guatemalan board of directors. Our team and board are stronger than ever and everyone has become more involved with activities and fundraising.

But this is also a year of many “good byes”. We wish Margarita, Marissa, Cristina and Rebecca all the best in their new adventures. From staff to friends, they will always be a part of our family. Here is what our former executive director Rebecca Kronick wrote:

“Three years ago, I joined the CasaSito Family and it has been one of the best experiences of my life. I was welcomed into a warm and friendly work environment. A place of individual growth that empowered me as a leader and an individual. There were hard moments, and stressful moments, but overall moments of happiness, accomplishments, camaraderie, love and joy. 2018 is my last year as the CasaSito executive director. I am excited for what my new destinations hold, but a part of me is also sad to leave. CasaSito will always be in my heart. I do not say good bye, I am always around to help out in any way that I can and hope to one day join the board of directors. Forever part of the CasaSito family.”



I take advantage of this opportunity to congratulate Sisi and Jose Marcos who have been promoted to the positions of regional directors of Sacatepéquez, and Alta Verapaz & Quiché, and Silke who has been elected to be our Board Chairwoman. They are the new leaders of our program. As the founder, I am excited to see the growth that they will bring, together with the team, as they take on these new responsibilities.

Best Regards,
Alice Lee, CasaSito Founder

Guatemala 2018

The exceptional performance of Jorge Vega, the gymnast, who won the Gold medal in Barranquilla, Colombia in July brought joy and pride to the country. However, the world did not hear many positive news about Guatemala. Here are some of the not very good but important to know news.

26 January - William Mansilla, former Defense Minister, was arrested for possible corruption in collusion with President Morales with the Attorney General requesting another Supreme Court consideration to impeach Morales

13 February - Former President Alvaro Colom and his entire cabinet were arrested for alleged involvement in corruption cases being investigated by the CICIG and detained at the Mariscal Zavala Military Center

1 April - Former President Efraín Ríos Montt dies ending the trials of genocide against him

3 June - Eruption of Volcano Fuego (detail on page 5)

31 August - Guatemalan President Jimmy Morales shut down a U.N.-backed antigraft agency that has locked up scores of leading politicians in the country and was investigating the president for alleged illegal campaign financing

CasaSito Emergency Fund

The eruption of the Fuego Volcano on June 3rd 2018 buried the community of San Miguel Los Lotes, Escuintla, and left hundreds dead (though the unofficial number is a lot higher, some even said more than 2000) and many thousands of victims.

CasaSito, with donations from different NGOs and individuals, has created an emergency fund. During the first 3 months, we offered support to many shelters and communities with water, filters and food. We also donated money to repair water pipes and to build a kitchen in a shelter. In November, we started working on installing alarm systems in 3 communities located in high risk areas. We will also donate a house, built by ConstruCasa, to a selected family who lost their home during the eruption. These projects will be completed in 2019.



Meet the Youth Development Program (YDP) Scholars (112 in total)

Age

11-15 (34)

16-18 (46)

Over 18 (32)



Geographic Area

Rural 54

Semi-rural 35

Urban 23

Ethnicity

Indigenous 55

Ladino 57

NOTE: This is based on how scholars choose to identify themselves



Gender

Women 58

Men 54



Program Snapshots of 2018

1. We supported scholars, families, and communities in 3 regions of Guatemala – Sacatepéquez, Alta Verapaz and Quiché
2. We supported 112 scholars (middle, high, and university)
3. We provided 9 extracurricular activities
4. We hosted 15 personal youth development workshops and 12 for parents
5. We impacted 41 communities
6. We had 39 graduates (9 middle school, 25 high school, and 5 university)
7. We had a 92 % retention rate
8. 8,720 volunteer hours completed by scholars
9. 84% of scholars achieved grade point average
10. 1,090 hours spent on monitoring



Scholar Spotlight

Alexis joined CasaSito in 2014 when he began his second year of university. He was a friendly young man, however he seemed reserved and unable to express his feelings and seemed uncomfortable doing so. He was overwhelmed and the stress did not allow him to identify solutions to his problems.

Alexis comes from a home that has suffered several economic difficulties. As a result, he started working as a carpenter at young age to pay for his education until high school. He had always been interested in learning English and had a dream to pursue a university degree as an English teacher.

However, life did not make it easy for him. In 2016, he lost his mother and was deeply affected by his younger's brother illness. Alexis fell into depression, affecting his education, his attitude and his participation at church. He almost gave up his dream. It was a difficult year, where everything went against him and he was about to drop out of university.

But he didn't. With the support from our psychologists, Alexis received individual therapy for about a year. He was also given Bach remedy therapy to accompany his treatment while going through these difficulties at home.



Towards the beginning of 2017, he seemed to be a new person. He was no longer depressed, he showed joy and gratitude for the space that CasaSito made so that he could be heard and could heal. We believe strongly that without our support to him through these difficult times, he would have dropped out of university and he would not be the man he is today. A man who displays himself with a confidence and a positive attitude, mature and with emotional intelligence.

With a lot of hard work and diligence. Alexis graduated as an English teacher in 2018. Today, he is working as coordinator for a NGO and he is also our Sacatepéquez English club's teacher. He constantly inspires our young scholars to work hard and reach for their dreams. He shows us that with diligence you can overcome your obstacles and create solutions to your circumstances.

Personal Development Workshops

Each year, as part of our psycho-social support, we develop a pedagogical plan based on the common issues that our youth and their families may be facing which divides our workshops into three main themes: academic and work skills, life skills and mental health, and non-violence and human rights. The workshops developed each month provide scholarship holders and their parents with tools to improve their family, social, work and school relationships. This has been reflected in the visits made and in their development in the different activities.

Following are some examples of our workshops and testimonies from participants.

“Responsible for my actions,” a workshop for scholars: University scholar, Efrain Mendoza shared, *“The workshop helped me identify that there are still things I need to change, plan, and evaluate at a personal level.”*

“Time and Money,” a workshop for parents: One father, Emilio Sucup, expressed, *“It is important that parents also get involved, the workshop topics have allowed me to have a better relationship with my daughter and whole family, I work far away, but communication has improved despite the distance.”*

Independence, Liberty and Decision Making, a workshop for youth: One scholar says, *“to achieve our dreams, we have to encourage ourselves to leave the comfort zone, everything has consequences, but if we do not do it, we will not know what awaits us”.*

Self-love, a workshop for parents: *“The workshops have given me training and guidance to improve the family relationship with my children, I can apply communication strategies with them, I have been able to strengthen trust with my children”*
Zoila Cal - mother of a family

Teacher training workshops - Apart from giving workshops to our scholar and their parents, our rural program also has a teacher training program through workshops for teachers in our rural community of La Primavera del Ixcán. This year, one of the workshops requested by the community school was on ***the importance of ludic activities in education*** (dynamic strategies that promote active learning involving students in doing things out of the routine and thinking about what they are doing). Following are some testimonials from teachers; *“It was an enriching activity, because we learned something new to implement in our classrooms”* - Feliciano Calmo Lopez, *“We must be motivating agents with our students so that they do not lose interest in receiving classes”* - Juan Pedro Fabian Matias, *“This type of activities must be worked as part of the educational curriculum for teachers”* Ambrocio Pastor Caal.

Extracurricular Activities

As part of our holistic program, every year we give our scholars access to various extracurricular activities so that they can develop other cognitive skills and find other forms of expression. Scholars are required to participate in one or two activities per year, but most of our scholars like to sign up for as many as they can.

Art Club



Math Club



English Club



Field Trip



Computer Club



Vocational Guidance



Theater of the Oppressed



Volunteers Club



Debate Club



2018 Featured Club

"I was very pleased to attend the end of the year presentation from the students of the CasaSito English Club in November. Similar to the CasaSito Debate and Theatre Clubs, the students displayed good presentation skills and charmed the audience with prepared speeches of their personal life and their goals for the future. They were all very appreciative to be members of the "CasaSito family" and spoke about how important that was in their lives. It was particularly satisfying to have a former CasaSito scholar (Alexis), return as their English teacher."



English is increasingly important for the young people of Guatemala in opening opportunities in a variety of fields of study and employment including call centers and tourism. After watching these high school students on their final day, my educational charity, Developing Scholars, continuing with our long-term collaboration with CasaSito, has decided to fund an English program for younger (basico) students in the Antigua area next year and a full time English teacher for the CasaSito scholars in our rural program center in Coban. " " – said John Eby, Founder of Developing Scholars Foundation.

Alumni Meeting

Making a change through education is a long process. 2018 marks our 10th year in giving scholarships and investing in the future of Guatemalan youth. Every year, we see amazing results with our scholars, but it is not until they finish our program and go off into the world with the skills that we have given them that we begin to see the long-term change that shapes them into successful, inspiring adults. By 2018, our program in Antigua had successfully graduated 90 scholars, and we invited them all to an annual alumni meeting to see where they are today. 35% attended the meeting, where we discovered that only 2 graduates are currently not in university or working, which is a huge success for our program. We learned so much from this meeting, like the importance of our mental health component, and how vital it is that we continue our efforts to give university scholarships. Being present with our alumni was an emotional experience. It is so wonderful to see how far they have come.



The words of our Founder Alice Lee: Seeing the ex-scholars at the CasaSito alumni reunion was like seeing my kids coming home after a long journey. As the "mother" or "grandma", some will say, of the Association, I was so looking forward to hearing their story and sharing time with them. Among this group of young people, we have a bank assistant manager, a restaurant manager, a graphic designer, a policeman, an English teacher, a logistic assistant, an assistant accountant, a piano teacher etc and some university students that will graduate in one or two years and some are working hard to save money, so that they can someday continue university. For me, life is like a coloring book, we all try to paint it as beautiful as it can be. I am so grateful that CasaSito has helped them to do that and continues to be their second family.

Monitoring and Evaluation

In 2017 we improved our monitoring and evaluation (M&E) by creating clearer program objectives, goals, and tools to better measure our impact.

Our new M&E tools for psychosocial support

In 2018, we finished creating our M&E tools. One of the most important tools that we created has been our scholar monitoring tool, which allows us to quantitatively see the results of the psychosocial support that we give our scholars throughout our program. The tool allows us to measure the individual change that each scholar goes through emotionally, mentally and in terms of their attitude and complements the qualitative research based on the participatory observation of our operational staff.

The new M&E tool shows specific information allowing us to easily keep track of our scholars' progress. It also helps us to plan future workshops as we can see the topics that need to be strengthened, and those which have already empowered our population. Since the document has room to specify issues, it also makes it easier to identify those cases that need to be referred to a psychologist.



Edgar expressed his gratitude about our support with his painting. We are so touched by this action.

How we evaluate our scholars

The following results from one scholar conclude that the annual evaluation reflects the results of her active participation in the training program, which is demonstrating a growth in the expression of her feelings, the identification of problems and the search for solutions to them (three areas that she needs to improve). It also shows that she is taking advantage of her scholarship, using and managing her economic stipend adequately. Finally, the scholar shows a high sense of responsibility and belonging to CasaSito.

Evaluation Results	SCORE
Emotions and sentiments	96
Change in Attitude	92
Scholar identifies his/her problems	88
Scholar expresses and resolves his/her problems	75
Responsibility and Respect	100
Sense of Pertinence	92
Total Score	90.5

Long-term and specific objectives

Following are the objectives and results for 2018:

Long-term objective: In CasaSito, scholars will graduate with a 75% grade average and have the tools to develop their leadership.

Specific Objective No. 1: Scholars are enrolled in school

Indicator: 92% of scholars completed the school year successfully. We had 9 scholars drop out after the first semester, with one scholar quitting university due to being the head of household and not having enough economic resources to continue, and one scholar not finishing high school due to an unforeseen pregnancy.

Specific Objective No. 2: Scholars have the economic support to continue their studies

Indicator: As mentioned above, we had one university scholar that even with the scholarship, he did not have enough economic support to continue his studies and therefore dropped out of university.

Specific Objective No. 3: Scholars are supported in their educational process

Indicator: 84% of our scholars are achieving the 75% academic minimum.

Specific Objective No. 4: Scholars are emotionally stable (with the results of 3 indicators)

Indicator 1: 88% of scholars show a positive change in attitude, with healthy behaviors that are reflected in everyday situations which show them to be emotionally stable. The participation of the scholars in the different programs offered by CasaSito has been of great benefit to them because it allows them to develop their security and personal worth, which is manifested by attitudes such as: Free expression, reduced fear for public speaking, greater visual contact, comfort to express their emotions and feelings, courage to face problems and ability to make decisions.

Before Danilo joined the debate club and theater club, he was a very introvert young man, he had almost no visual contact and he did not express himself with comfort, especially in public. But his participation in debate and theater changed that. Now he feels more comfortable to express his feelings, speaking in public and smiles more frequently, and he was a rising star of our Theater group.



Indicator 2: 90% of the scholarship recipients have the ability to identify their problems or conflicts of daily life, but only 80% are able to overcome them with a solution to the situation.

A great example is a high school scholar named Kevin. Last April, his parents were having relationship issues and no longer wanted to support his education nor his involvement in the CasaSito program. Kevin, immediately notified CasaSito and came up with a possible solution; to continue with the scholarship independently.

Seeing his determination and success within our program, we agreed to his proposal. In 2018 he was one of the winners of the debate club, proving his commitment and resilience despite not having the support of his parents.



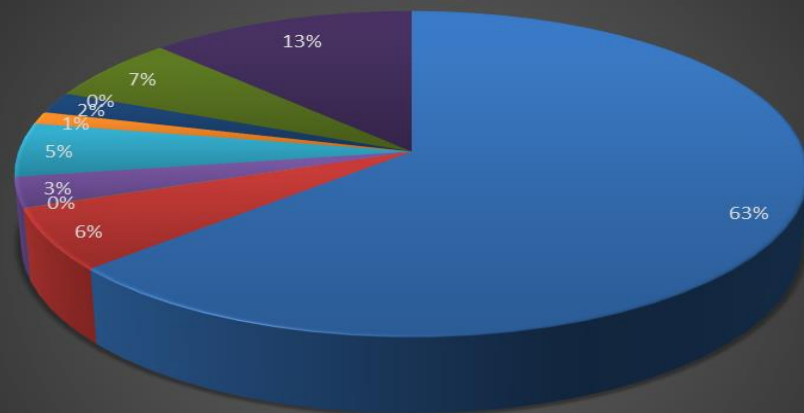
Indicator 3: 93% of students showed attitudes of respect and sense of belonging. CasaSito's scholars are responsible and committed to the activities of the program, in addition to not manifesting violent, hostile behavior or lack of courtesy. Scholars express that they feel part of the CasaSito family, and it can be observed that there is joy, integrity and good coexistence between them. Also after the activities and workshops they come together in groups, stating that they should take care of each other.

Luis Pablo said at the English Club end of the year gathering, that he found his second home in CasaSito and he met his best friends at the center. He is a member of English club, Art club and Debate club.



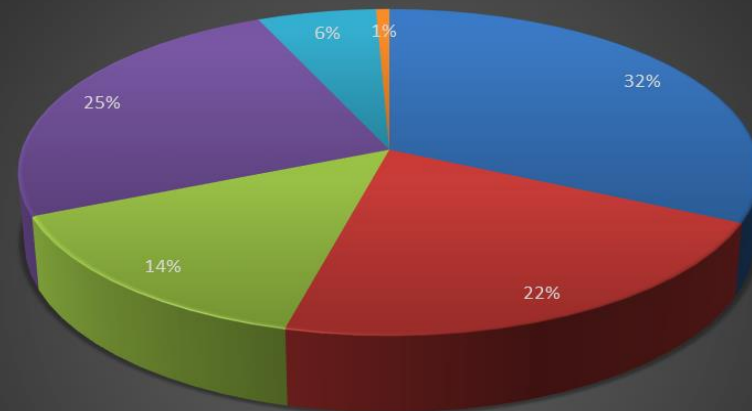
Financial Summary 2018

CasaSito USA & Guatemala
Total Donation 2018 : \$396,648



Foundations	Family Donations
Corporate Donations	Individuals
Volunteer Program	Interest
Fundraising	Refund
Investment benefit	Saving from 2017

CasaSito USA & Guatemala
Total Expense 2018 : \$298,994



Donations to Partner Projects
Youth Development Program Sacatepequez
Youth Development Program Alta Verapaz y Quiché
Total Admin
Volunteer Program
Emergency Funds

- Administration was higher than normal due to the legal compensation paid to laid-off employees.
- In 2018, CasaSito USA sold their Volunteer House in Antigua and with the income, they donated a house in Panorama to CasaSito Guatemala where the new Youth Development Center and its office will be located from January 2019 onward.

Meet the 2018 CasaSito Team

2018 CasaSito Operation Team

Rebecca Kronick, Executive Director
Lourdes González, YDP Director – Sacatepéquez
Miriam Valle, YDP Coordinator – Sacatepéquez
Cristina Rivera, Social Worker – Sacatepéquez
José de la Cruz, Rural YDP Director – Alta Verapaz & Quiche
Fernanda Heinemann, Rural YDP Facilitator – Alta Verapaz & Quiche
Lucy Morales, Rural Social Worker – Alta Verapaz & Quiche
Marissa Loterina, Development & Communications Coordinator
Salvador González, Monitoring & Evaluation Officer/Internal Accountant

2018 Board of Directors Guatemala

Manuela Rosales, President
Christoph Ege, Vice President
Maritza Ortiz, Treasurer
Felipe Feldmar, Secretary
Alice So Fong Lee, Active Member

2018 Board of Directors USA

Greg Schwendinger, President
Eric Behrs, Secretary
Alice So Fong Lee, Active Member

Volunteers, Donors and Friends!

A balance game teaches us to build a good foundation, to take reasonable risk, to be confident, to understand when we need support, and when we don't. We also learn to understand we can do a lot alone, but we need others to make it better. On the basis of this philosophy CasaSito builds the team and you, as staff, board of directors, volunteer, donor and friend, is a very important part of it. And for that, I will be forever grateful - **Alice Lee, CasaSito Founder**



Plans, Ideas and Dreams of 2019

In 2019, we are looking to strengthen our association institutionally - we seek to improve our administration processes including efficient management of our funds, the construction of new projects born from collaborative ideas, and developing positive leadership in the office work environment. We will continue to improve the service given to the scholars both in quality and quantity, with a desire to increase the number of scholars by 10%. We are also committed to create a program that not only impacts our scholars and their family, but also benefits the community. Doing so, our program will have a greater impact overall on Guatemala's youth. – **Lourdes Gonzales, Regional Director of Sacatepéquez**



Competition in adult life demands that students develop a range of personal, academic, and job skills. CasaSito continues to be committed to offering the guidance and companionship necessary for the scholars to obtain these abilities and open up avenues of success. CasaSito believes strongly that it is not enough to give financial support only. It is necessary that they learn to be good administrators including organizational and leadership skills that will set them apart as they make their way in modern Guatemalan society. – **José Marco, Regional Director of Alta Verapaz y Quiché**

As CasaSito expands its activities each year, it is also our plan to diversify our fundraising efforts in 2019, focusing on online crowdfunding and also local fundraising activities to engage the local community and enhance its profile. In 2019, we are also looking into setting up a new program for teachers from Sacatepéquez area. This holistic program will cover partial scholarships, personal development workshops and activities directed to the teacher's students that aim to awaken their spirit of critical thinking, leadership, and change. The Program aims to expand academic, professional, and personal opportunities for teachers, supporting them to become successful change-makers within their schools. – **Silke Wahl, President of Board of Directors Guatemala**



Thank you for your support

*Gracias por
su apoyo*

