



*CasaSito Annual Report 2021*



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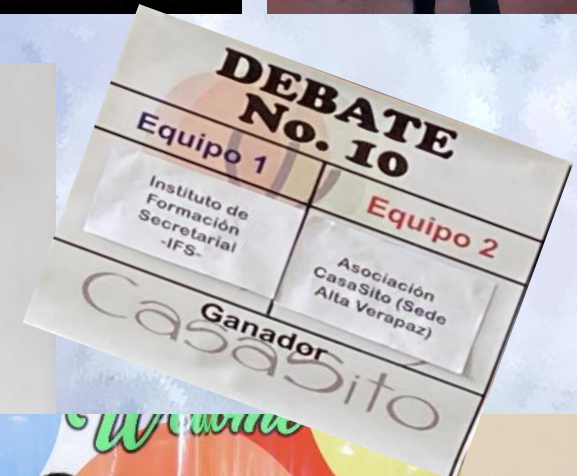


Dear friends and collaborators of CasaSito,

Due to the pandemic, Guatemala faces great economic, political and social problems. To overcome these difficulties, we need people with an educational level that can face the complexity of the problems. At CasaSito we fight for a quality holistic education as a bridge to build life projects.

Silke Wahl

President of the Board of Directors







## Guatemala at a Glance

The COVID-19 pandemic continues aggravating a long list of existing problems in Guatemala, one of the countries with the highest level of inequality in all of Latin America. Although the Guatemalan Government offered different types of help, it was not enough nor effective. Especially in marginalized rural areas, problems have increased for a population already suffering extreme poverty, violence and years of drought caused by the effects of climate change. The National COVID-19 Vaccination Plan was implemented too late and at a very low pace in the country, leading to growing discontent over access to vaccines, the handling of the pandemic, and alleged corruption issues. According to the WHO, at the end of 2021, 27% of the population was vaccinated with the full schedule.

Although, the Guatemalan Government declared in January 2021 that the new school year would start with a hybrid model, most public and private schools did not implement face-to-face classes due to the high number of infections and weak infrastructure and resources available. In public schools, many students, especially from rural areas, fell far behind in their learning. It is expected that in 2022 the Ministry of Education will establish a plan to allow face-to-face classes in public and private schools.

On September 15, 2021, Guatemala celebrated the bicentennial of its independence from the Spanish crown, but thousands of peasants demonstrated in various regions of Guatemala saying the “oligarchy” who facilitated independence “do not pay taxes, they are corrupt, plunder our assets and oppress us.”.





## Our Youth Development Program (YDP)

In 2021, we supported 105 scholars from Junior High, High School, and University from the departments of Alta Verapaz, Quiché and Sacatepéquez



### Ethnicity

Indigenous (63)

Ladino (52)

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

### Grade

Middle School (37)

High School (46)

University (22)

### Geographic Area

Rural (28)

Semi-rural (10)

Urban (15)

### Gender

Women (63)

Men (52)



## Program Snapshots of 2021

2021 was a new year of uncertainty where most of our activities were implemented in a hybrid way, due to the regulations and restrictions impeded by the Ministry of Health and Education. Despite the problems provoked by the pandemic, such as the increase in cost of basic food staples and the increase of public transportation costs (in some cases by 100%), CasaSito was able to implement its activities as scheduled.

1. We supported 105 scholars, and their families, in 3 departments of Guatemala--Sacatepéquez, Alta Verapaz and Quiché.
2. We supported 10 teachers in Sacatepéquez.
3. We impacted 45 communities.
4. We had a 97% retention rate.
5. 3 of our former scholarship recipients are collaborating with CasaSito as Club coordinators.
6. We offered 12 extracurricular activities.
7. We organized 45 workshops for scholars and parents.
8. 1477 hours were dedicated to monitoring.





## Extracurricular Activities

Due to the poor quality of education during the pandemic, CasaSito's after-school program has become even more important as it addresses the problem by providing students activities that promote creative and critical thinking.

Our extracurricular activities were implemented between January and October 2021, in a hybrid modality. For this year, 11 complementary extracurricular activities were carried out, which aim to improve academic skills and personal empowerment. The extracurricular activities were: Art, Theater of the Oppressed, Mathematics, Debate, English, Vocational Guidance, Mentoring, Reading, Accounting and Music.



In addition, workshops were held with parents from different communities of Alta Verapaz and Quiché. The topics addressed included: positive discipline, affective and effective communication, love and limits, values among others. This was with the aim of improving the relationship between parents and children and correcting parenting patterns.

[CasaSito English Club Presentation Video](#)



## Comprehensive Accompaniment



### **Monitoring:**

Monthly monitoring sessions were carried out with the objective of providing personalized support to each scholar. During the monitoring, problems related to access to technological devices and academic difficulties were detected. The students received reinforcement classes in the math and accounting clubs provided by CasaSito in order to improve their learnings and grades.

### **Psychological support:**

The mental health of our scholars and families has been a priority in 2020 and 2021. Many scholars mentioned having experienced extreme physical stress, anxiety, and mental fatigue. We were lucky to work with psychology students from the Rafael Landívar University who offered weekly sessions to our scholars and their families. Psychological support was provided to approximately 35 patients with problems such as: anxiety disorders, disorders related to traumas and stress factors, and depressive disorders.

### **Success Story**

*Abner Macz, a Middle School scholar from Alta Verapaz, experienced serious family difficulty, since his mother was detected with uterine cancer. Despite their economic difficulties they managed to deal with the medical care in the capital. At the end of 2021, the mother is without trace of disease in your body. Abner Cal had to take care of his siblings while their mother was away from home while also fulfilling his academic responsibilities. Despite everything, his grades exceed 80%.*



# Para mi madre



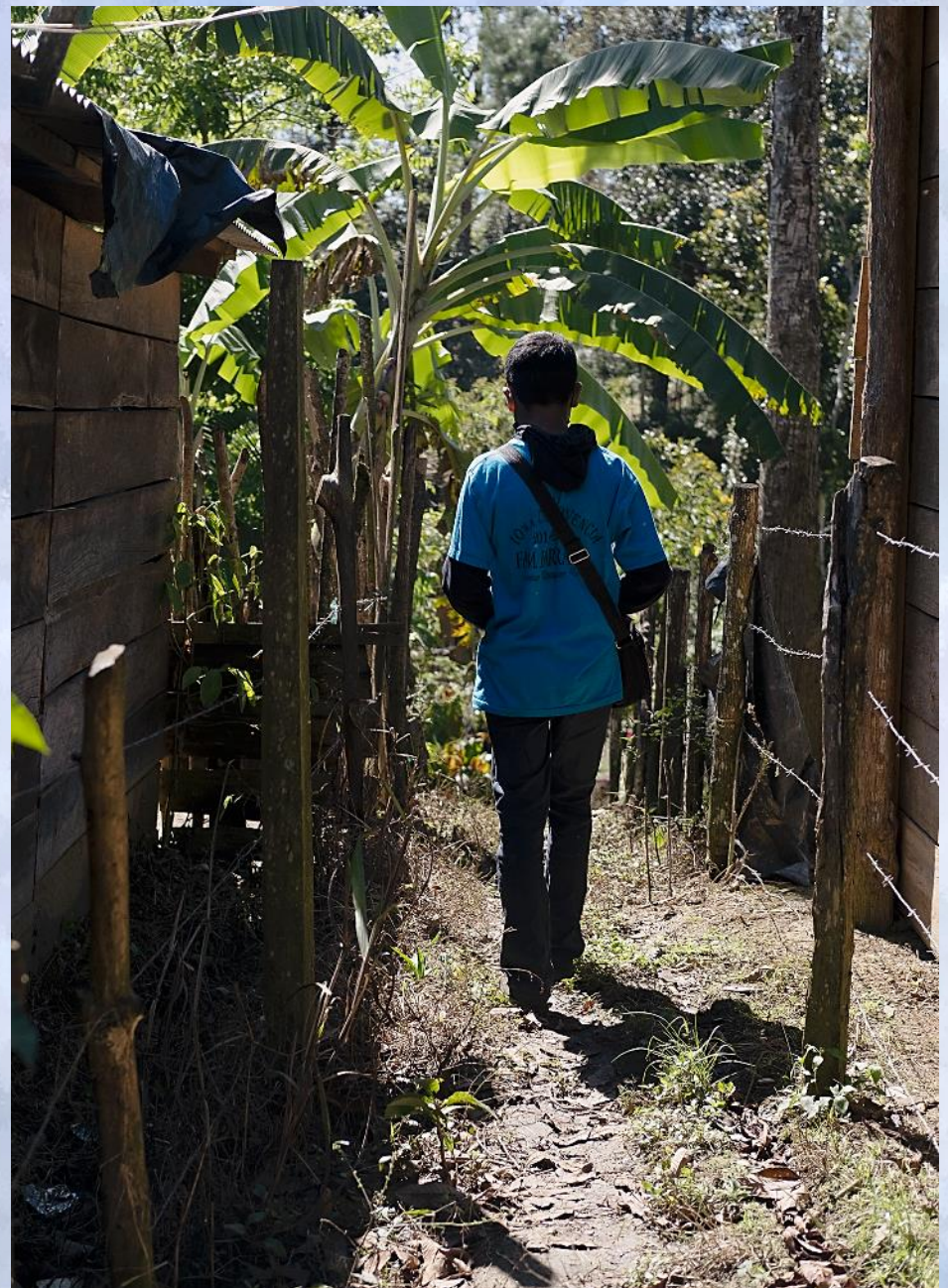
**Mamá me siento responsable de cuidarte como tú lo hacías cuando era pequeño y te pasabas horas desvelandote por mi salud.**

**Estaré a tu lado para cuando lo necesites, para velar por tu salud. No estas sola, estamos contigo.**

**Y ahora estoy contento de que estas recuperada, cada día agradezco porque disfruto de tu compañía**

**Para nuestra familia eres especial, nunca olvidaré los sacrificios que hiciste por nosotros.**

**Madre linda no sabes cuan agradecido me siento por la vida que me has dado.**





## Family and school visits



### **Family visits:**

Follow-up visits with our families were carried out throughout the year by phone calls and face-to-face meetings. Among the main findings, the team identified basic living needs such as: access to clean drinking water for consumption and its correct storage, housing in precarious conditions, poor nutrition due to lack of economic resources, cooking spaces in bad conditions, sleeping rooms in precarious conditions (beds without mattresses), and overcrowded homes. The urgent need of psychological care and improvement of the mental health were identified in both scholars and parents.

### **School visits :**

We maintained contact with principles and teachers of all public and private schools that our scholars attend in Sacatepéquez, Alta Verapaz, and Primavera del Ixcán in order to accompany them in their academic progress and discuss issues related to teaching and learning. Phone calls and face-to-face visits were implemented frequently for consultation and follow up.





## **¡PLEASE, CALL ME DOCTOR!** (English translated version)

By: Carlos Gómez, CasaSito Scholar 2014 – 2019, Theater club coordinator since 2020

Life is formed based on moments that redirect the entire history of the personal entity. In my experience, whenever I am given the opportunity to express how I have reached this point in my life, people will never get a direct answer. What one day was a dream of a four-year-old boy who looked forward to a gown and a stethoscope, while playing at being called a doctor, came true through many eventualities, which according to my vision of the world only God could have placed in the way it was given that I finally can say "call me Doctor". The way in which I started being a scholar at CasaSito is such a simple and at the same time so complicated story. During these more than eight years of relationship as a scholar, facilitator and currently a volunteer of the association, has marked the lives of thousands of people since. Like every person in the world, we are social entities that interrelate and impact each other creating a chain effect of good or bad things.

There is so much to express and so much gratitude that words are never enough to show, wherefore I express my gratitude in actions (a feeling that every time I have contact with a scholar, I express it). Being a CasaSito scholar was not only an economic support for me and my family.

The monitoring, that at first was something pseudo-traumatic due to the hierarchical mechanics of the Guatemalan school system and the fear of authority that the system instills in us, since we were children, was seen completely transformed into an atmosphere of trust, respect and encouragement that helped me to take every small step towards achieving each of my goals.





## ***¡PLEASE, CALL ME DOCTOR!***

By: Carlos Gómez (English translated version)

The application of innovative methodologies and attention to the personal needs of each scholar is something that will always impress me. To see in retrospective, the commitment the team had with me, accepting me in theater and debate, helping me to strengthen my knowledge to enter the University and offering their time from the early hours of the morning, assisting me after hours due to my full day in the hospital, trusting me to share my little knowledge with the scholars of the program, the valuable friendship that members of the staff and Board of Directors offered me, and many more things that would make this set of words too extensive but that I cannot fail to mention, make everything that I am and that I will ever be, the outcome of CasaSito's efforts. I may be called corny or overly romantic by ignoring the difficulties we went through together, because no story exists without conflict, but everything difficult for the benefit of something positive is put aside when weighing everything I have received during these years.

Casasito and to you, the reader, who are part of this tangible miracle called, Casasito Association, I can only say Thank you!





## Our Teacher Development Program (TDP)

In 2021, the Teacher Development Program started with 10 teachers from different public and private schools. The general objective of the program was to provide a training service to teachers from Sacatepéquez, to develop skills through the Debate technique and psychosocial care, improving their educational quality. The impact obtained was that they developed skills to hold a debate, such as public speaking, handling their oral and corporal expression, research, responsible and active listening, assertive communication, interpretation, analysis, synthesizing information, refutation and persuasion, as well as the implementation of a debate club in their schools which indirectly benefitted 75 students.



The teachers attended monthly monitoring sessions and were given one afternoon of circles of confidence per month, with the aim of accompanying them and providing them with emotional care tools. In October, the first Inter-School Debate Festival "Copa CasaSito" was held where more than 80 students and representatives from CasaSito de Sacatepéquez and Alta Verapaz participated. It was an activity full of learnings and excellent coexistence .





## Technical workshops for our families

In 2021, we started a pilot program that provides technical workshops and tools to parents in order to start their own small business. A training plan was created that covered the following topics:

1. Strategy and business plan
2. Entrepreneurship and business tools
3. Production of personal hygiene products (shampoo and soap)
4. Elaboration of baskets from recycled plastic
5. Creation of urban gardens
6. Preparation of cleaning supplies
7. Modern kitchen





## Our Emergency Fund



[CasaSito Seeds Project](#) Video



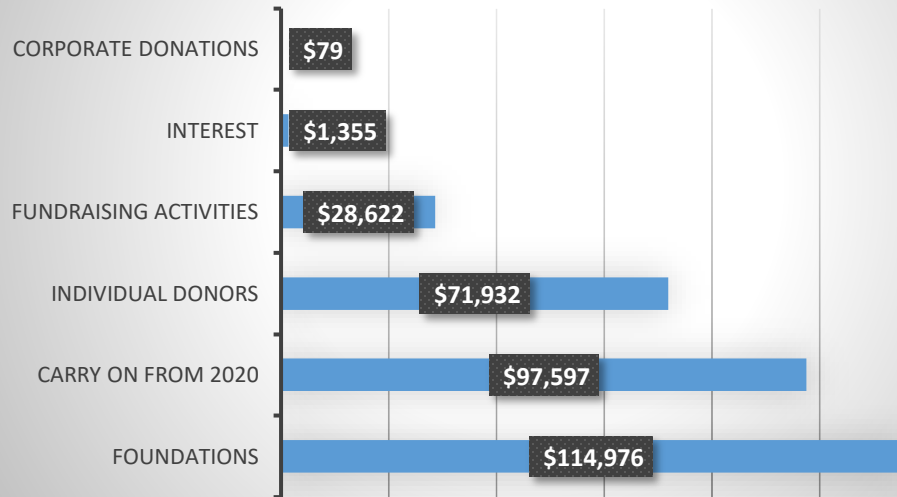
2021's rainy season did not bring any catastrophies. But as promised, we went back to the villages that were affected by the 2020 hurricanes and executed the Seeds Project as planned. 500 families received seeds to grow better and stronger corn. We also donated used clothes and basic stables to some families in the Rio Negro región and eco filters to some CasaSito families.

In 2022, we will continue raising funds to improve the living conditions of our scholars and their families.

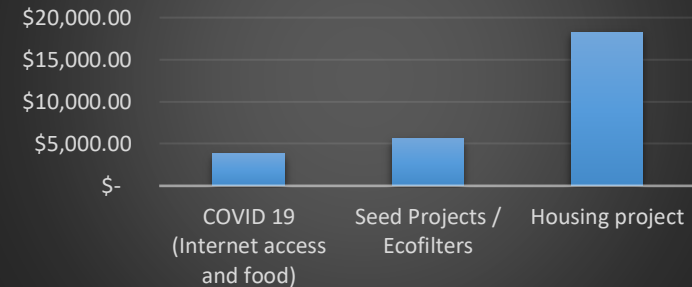


# Financial Summary 2021

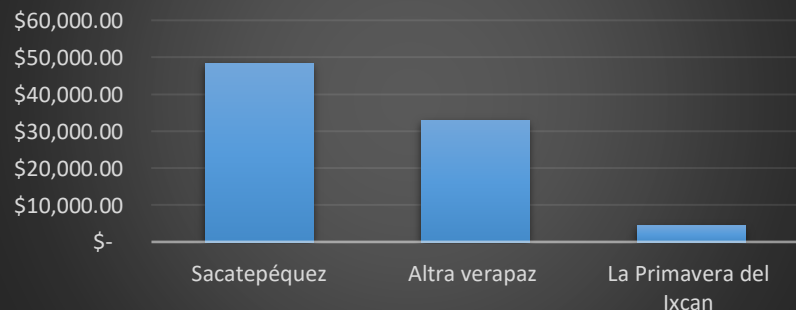
## CasaSito USA & Guatemala Total Funds, 2021 : \$314,562



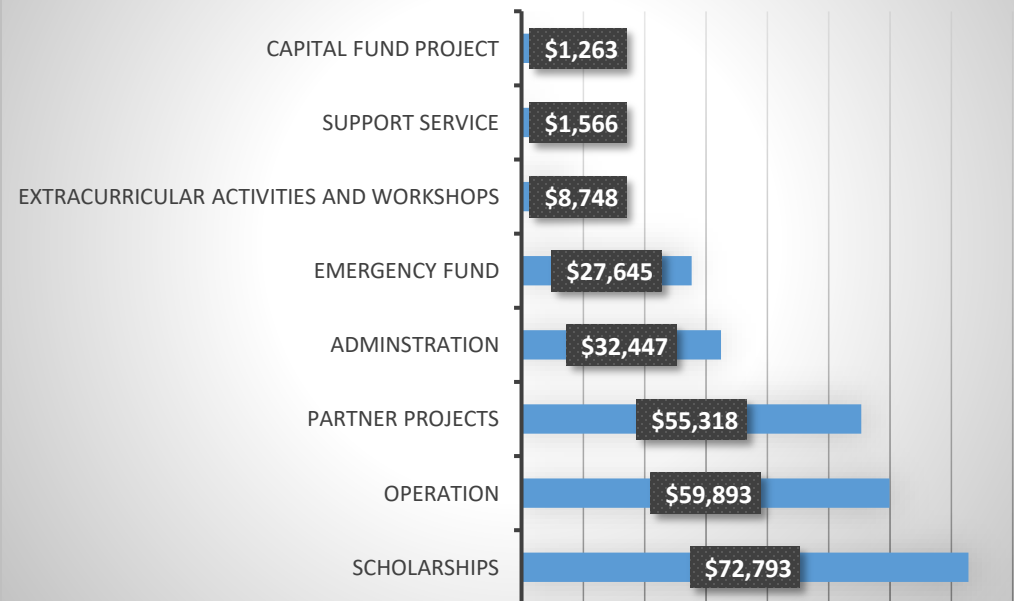
## Emergency Fund: \$27,125



## Scholarships, Services Support, Clubs & Workshops: \$85,958



## CasaSito USA & Guatemala Total Expense: \$259,672

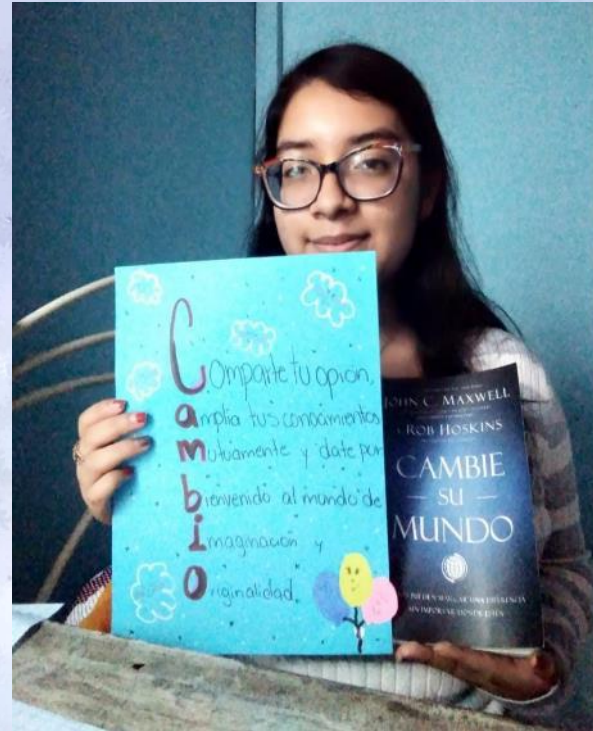




# The CasaSito Family 2020



Click here to listen: [Song by CasaSito Scholar Efrain](#)



## **Sacatepéquez: 56 scholars**

- 13 Middle School
- 23 High School
- 10 University
- 10 Teachers
- Psychological support
- Workshops for scholars and parents
- 6 extracurricular activities: Art, English, Debate, Math, Creative Writing and Theatre of the Oppressed

## **Alta Verapaz: 53 scholars**

- 24 Middle School
- 21 High School
- 8 University
- Psychological support
- Workshops for scholars and parents
- 5 extracurricular activities: Art, English, Debate, Math and Lecture

## **Quiche: 6 scholars**

- 3 High School
- 3 University
- Music Club

**And parents of the scholars**



## Our Team 2021



### **2021 CasaSito Sacatepéquez**

Lourdes González , Regional Director  
Miriam Valle, YDP Director  
Cristina Rivera, TDP Coordinator  
Leticia Martinez, YDP Assistant  
Silke Wahl, Development Consultant  
Carolina Aragon, Office Assistant and Accountant  
Vilma Corina González, Maintenance



### **2021 CasaSito Alta Verapaz y Quiché**

José Marcos de la Cruz, Regional Director  
Ana Gaddy Estelí Caal Mus, YDP Coordinator  
Lisbeth Amarilis Bac Sierra, Social Worker  
Alma Gabriela Coy Cú , Work Scholar  
Leticia Corzantes, Maintenance

### **2021 Board of Directors, Guatemala**

Silke Wahl, President  
Paula Castellanos, Vice President  
Alice Lee So Fong, Treasurer  
Manuela Rosales, Secretary  
Desirée Iturbide, Active Member



### **2021 Board of Directors, USA**

Greg Schwendinger, President  
Alice So Fong Lee, Director  
Eric Behrs, Secretary



## **Challenges 2021 and Goals 2022**

2021 was another year full of challenges and obstacles due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Despite the fact that not all activities could be implemented in person, our team always offered a quality service and excellent attention to our scholars and their families. Poor internet coverage and lack of adequate digital devices often led to difficulties when carrying out online classes. Nevertheless, it was a year full of new learnings and positive impacts for our scholars and their families. Based on the lessons learned and experiences acquired this year, we will establish an operating plan for 2022 that covers the training needs and psychological support of our scholars and parents.



A goal for 2022 is to continue offering technical workshops aimed at parents and to continue strengthening the mental health of our scholars through psychological support, monthly monitoring sessions and workshops focused on non-violent communication.

With the support of one of our donors (Developing Scholars) we were able to rent a new office in Alta Verapaz, a beautiful, ventilated space, full of light and suitable for face-to-face activities with our scholars and their parents. The dream is to one day be able to own our office in Alta Verapaz where we can create a loving and safe place for our families where they feel at home, and indirectly create another capital fund for CasaSito.



Donors, volunteers and friends

