



CASA
PUEBLITO

2015

Annual Report





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A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear friends,

In November 2015, thanks to the dedication of our donors and supporters, Casa – Pueblito celebrated our first year as an amalgamated organization. From our beginnings, we have committed to working in partnership with grassroots organizations and communities on community-devised and implemented projects that promote community development, solidarity, and social justice. With your generous support, in our first year as Casa – Pueblito, we supported 9 projects directly supporting the education, health, and livelihoods of 1600 children, youth, and community members in Nicaragua.

Despite these fantastic achievements, 2015 was still a challenging year for our community partners. The communities of El Cacao (Mozonte), Jiñocuao, and Santa Julia are located in what is known as the 'dry corridor' of Nicaragua. A devastating drought caused by climate change has and continues to significantly impact these communities, resulting in crop loss and food and water shortages. With emergency aid funding from our supporters and the Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association, in 2015 we were able to deliver over 5000 pounds of much needed food and aid to our partner communities. This crisis reaffirms the need to continue supporting projects, like UCA Tierra y Agua (2015) and Santa Julia's (2016) community gardens projects, which work towards food and water security.

As always, our projects are designed in the spirit of solidarity and social justice. We receive requests from community members and community-based organizations that speak of their most urgent needs. We are excited to soon share with you the successes and lessons learned of our 2016 projects, such as Podcasts for Peace's, that are advancing environmental protection, gender equity, and economic development through education. With your support, we can continue working with our community partners towards a hopeful, better future.

We encourage you to stay in touch with us and to learn more about the important work that you are supporting in Nicaragua. Visit our website to see our current and upcoming projects and don't forget to say hello on social media. We look forward to hearing from you!

Thank you for joining us on this journey towards compassion and social justice, one step at a time.

In Solidarity,



María Paola Wong
Interim Executive Director
Casa Canadiense - Pueblito Canada



2015 HIGHLIGHTS

2015 saw Casa - Pueblito expand our support to 9 different communities in Nicaragua and one in Canada; impacting 339 families, 221 youth, 100 teachers and 84 artisans. We were able to do this through 10 projects varying in objectives from environmental justice to education and culture. We built new relationships with our partner organizations and strengthened existing bonds. We are proud of the work we accomplished in Canada and Latin America in 2015 - we hope to keep building in 2016!

339 FAMILIES



+

221 YOUTH



+

100 TEACHERS



+

84 ARTISANS



10 PROJECTS



9 COMMUNITIES



1 MISSION

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

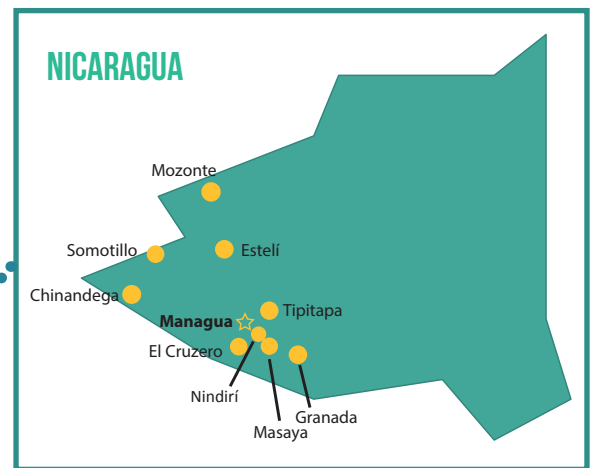
THANK YOU

To our donors for improving the lives of children, youth, and families and making all of this work possible in 2015!

OUR 2015 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 program areas: Food and Water Security, Education and Culture, Health and Sanitation, Gender Equity, and Environmental Justice. 2015 was a unique year because we also helped families affected by a serious drought. The following project updates provide a description of the work we completed in 2015, and illustrate the wide range of communities and organizations we support. With your support, we hope to do even more in 2016.

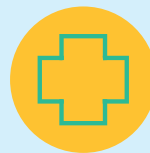
WHERE WE ARE WORKING



LEGEND

-  # OF INDIVIDUALS
-  LOCATION
-  PARTNER ORGANIZATION

PROJECT AREAS



HEALTH AND
SANITATION



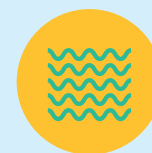
COMMUNITY BUILDING
AND HOUSING



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 (V4C) is our Toronto and Peel-based program working to address issues surrounding the 40% 'dropout' rate among Latinx (Latin American/Latino-Hispanic) students in Ontario.

This three year program has two major components: the Youth Change-Makers and teacher training in inclusive education and culturally responsive and reflective pedagogy.



"My favourite part of the camp was getting to try new things and learn about myself and others." – Simon

YOUTH CHANGE-MAKERS

In 2015, 10 Latinx Youth Change-Makers participated in our afterschool youth leadership program to learn about how they are able to champion for diversity and inclusivity in our schools and communities. In June, the Youth Change-Makers spent 4 days and 3 nights at the Ontario Education Leadership Centre (OELC) in Longford Mills, ON. Here, they participated in interactive workshops aimed at developing their leadership skills to feel confident in their ability to advocate for teaching that meets their needs as Latinx students. They were encouraged to think about issues affecting Latinx youth in our schools and their roles as leaders in our community. When not hard at work, they were taking in the sights and sounds of Lake Couchiching and participating in fun, team-building activities such as swimming, the Amazing Race, and competing as Team Hulk in the OELC Olympics.



TEACHER TRAINING

"I strongly believe that my interest in being an educator was because I want to make sure that students in our schools today feel safe and included in everything they do. Thank you for the work that your organization does!"

Our training in inclusive education and culturally responsive and reflective pedagogy helps educators to better teach to the needs of their diverse students. In 2015, we provided free professional learning opportunities to 100 teachers and teacher candidates. Participants expressed positive reactions to our PD workshops and the impact that they will have on their future classrooms, including:

- awareness of biases and the impact they can have on students;
- consideration of diverse perspectives;
- broadening an understanding of identity and inclusive education;
- applying workshop knowledge to other ethnic and cultural groups;
- applying various strategies to engage students and incorporate.

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



ELECTRIC WELDING COURSE



27 YOUTH
CINCO PINOS, CHINANDEGA
CHICA

With the support of Casa - Pueblito, CHICA was able to offer a course about electric welding and solar energy to over 27 youth from impoverished communities in Northwest Nicaragua. The students were exposed to 600 hours of learning during the course, improving their chances at finding meaningful work in the future. The skills acquired by the students will also lead to further benefits including the use of more reliable energy supplies by community members.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLE OF MOZONTE



30 PEOPLE
EL CACAO, MOZONTE
COMMUNITY OF EL CACAO

In partnership with the Pueblo Indigena de Mozonte (PIM), this project expanded and majorly repaired the existing community center in El Cacao. This building also serves as a community preschool for 5 children. Thanks to the renovation, there's more room available to hold meetings and/or educational talks and host tourists. Two latrines were built in the facility as well as a kitchen equipped with an eco-stove. The center holds meetings of the forest fire brigade organized in the community and it recently started to serve as a place to rehearse a new youth dance group.



ESPERANZA EN ACCIÓN



84 ARTISANS
MULTIPLE
ESPERANZA EN ACCIÓN

This project economically strengthened and empowered 84 families of artisanal crafters from 13 communities across Nicaragua. A key component of this project was the coordination of partnerships and networks with national hotels and hostels. With their help, we were able to purchase glass showcases to display crafts, purchase materials to print promotional material and stock record forms provided to artisans, and coordinate selling crafts at a hotel and a café. In total, we enabled artisans to sell \$2,224.97 USD worth of crafts.

Get involved!

Interested in hosting a fundraiser, joining our board, or learning valuable skills? Check out our website to see more ways you can make an impact!



UCA TIERRA Y AGUA



44 FAMILIES
MULTIPLE



UCA TIERRA Y AGUA

In partnership with UCA Tierra y Agua, this project organized a training program for 44 members of the UCA Tierra y Agua Cooperatives. It consisted of 13 practical workshops on agro-ecology and bio-intensive gardening. 30 family gardens were established in all 6 cooperatives members of UCA Tierra y Agua. Those who attended the training shared their knowledge with around 100 people from their communities.



GLORIA QUINTANILLA WOMEN'S COOPERATIVE



32 FAMILIES
SANTA JULIA, EL CRUCERO; MANAGUA



GLORIA QUINTANILLA WOMEN'S COOPERATIVE

The rural community of Santa Julia is located in the municipality of El Crucero. In this community, only 26 latrines were available for its 330 inhabitants and 66 households. With the installation of 32 latrines, almost 50% of the community now has access to basic sanitation. As part of the project, community members attended workshops on building and using latrines, as well as workshops on health, hygiene, and the prevention of infectious diseases.

“Compassion and social justice across borders”

With your generous support, each of these communities have continued to grow this past year- *thank you!*

COMMUNITY OF JIÑOCUAO



120 YOUTH
JIÑOCUAO, SOMOTILLO



COMMUNITY OF JIÑOCUAO

There was no high school in the community of Jiñocua until 2012, when the Casa - Pueblito fund began supporting the construction of its first classroom). In 2015, we were finally able to complete community's fourth secondary classroom, allowing students to complete high school in Jiñocua and making education accessible for 120 secondary students in this rural community and surrounding areas.

ARTS AND CULTURE EDUCATION AT CHRISTINE KING COOPERATIVE



64 YOUTH

ESTELÍ

CHRISTINE KING COOPERATIVE

This program focused on improving the quality of formal education by providing access to arts-based workshops to 64 low-income youth and adults in the city of Estelí. The project strengthened the Youth Orchestra Sones Segovianos by providing funds to purchase new trumpets, cellos, and one acoustic drum; benefited two dance groups by supporting the making and purchasing of new traditional outfits to integrate traditional Nicaraguan folkloric dances into their performances; and provided two painting drawing and crafts classes for children between the ages of 6-12.

EMERGENCY FOOD AID



226 FAMILIES

MULTIPLE

INDIGENOUS PEOPLE OF MOZONTE, COMMUNITY OF JIÑOCUAO, GLORIA QUINTANILLA WOMEN'S COOPERATIVE

This was a special initiative undertaken by Casa - Pueblito to address the crisis faced by some of our community partners located in what is known as the "dry corridor". A devastating drought caused food and water shortages in a number of communities. Thanks to a donation from the Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association (OECTA), Casa - Pueblito was able to deliver much-needed emergency food aid including rice, sugar and cooking oil to Santa Julia, Jiñocuao, and El Cacao.



7 YOUTH

ESTELÍ

ASOCIACIÓN SAN JUAN

This small-scale project directly benefited seven families in Estelí with housing construction and improvements. Two of the families received funding to construct small homes, while the other five families were able to make critical repairs to their homes, including a changing of roof and levelling to prevent flooding during the rainy season.

THANK YOU

Your ongoing support is building brighter futures in our communities.



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2015

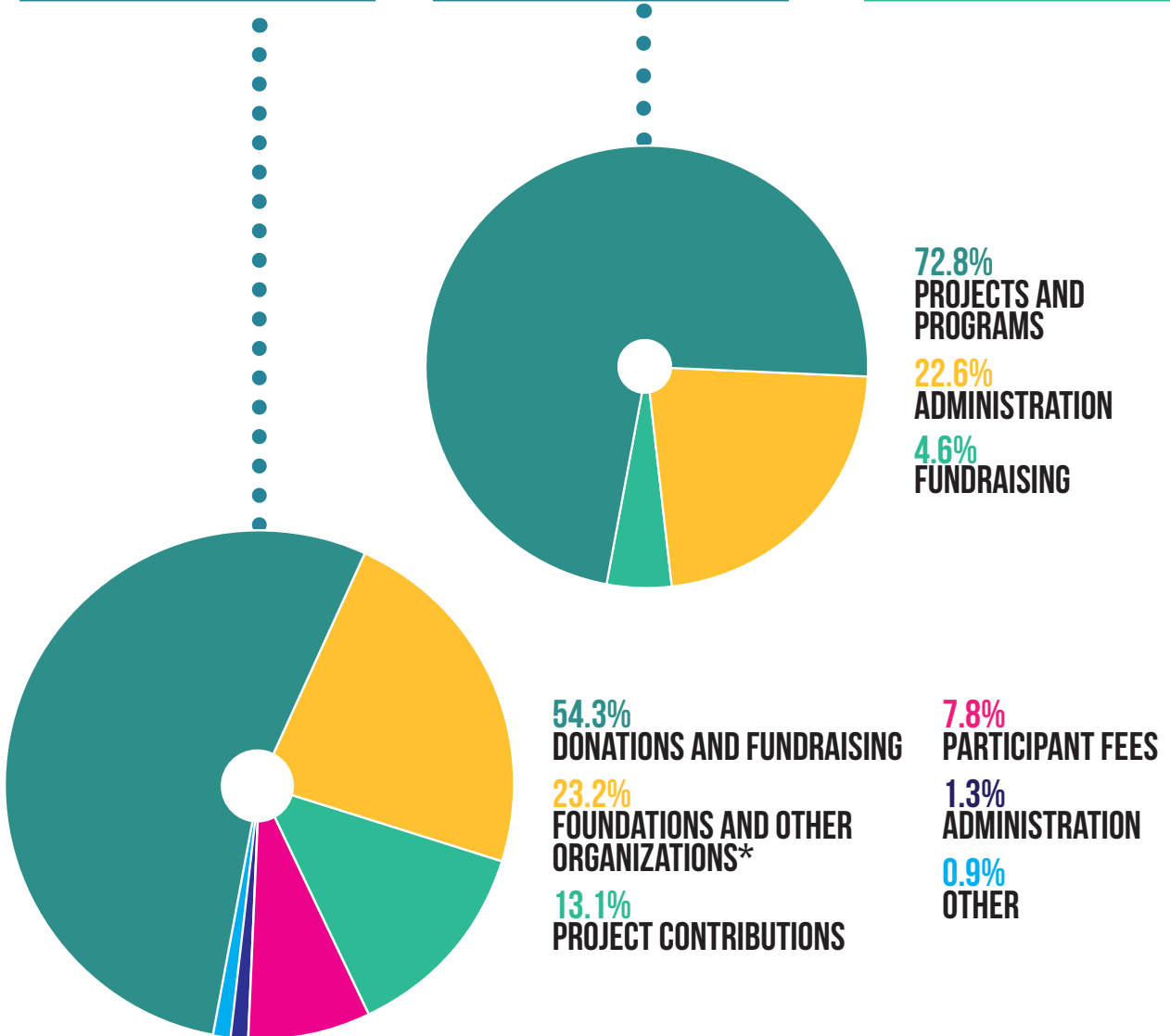
NET FINANCIAL ASSETS
\$300,836

CASH
 START OF YEAR \$218,223
 END OF YEAR \$202,805

REVENUES
\$368,899

EXPENSES
\$392,800

PROJECT DEFICIT
-\$23,901



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

**Revenue percentages do not include Cash Surrender- please refer to full breakdown on the following page.

CURRENT FINANCIAL ASSETS

Cash	\$	202,805
Accounts Receivable		-
HST Recoverable		2,195
Prepaid Expenses and Deposits		952
		<u>205,952</u>

CAPITAL ASSETS

85,272

LIFE INSURANCE POLICY - CASH SURRENDER VALUE

9,612

\$ 300,836

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable and Accrued Charges	\$	33,271
Source Deductions Payable		2,852
Deferred Operating Grant Revenue		26,746
Deferred Revenue		11,650

\$ 74,519

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted \$ 226,317

\$ 300,836

REVENUES

Donations and Fundraising	\$	200,408
Foundations and Other Organizations		85,706
Project Contributions		48,343
Participant Fees		28,600
Administration		4,659
Other		3,280
<i>Cash in Cash Surrender Value of Life Insurance Policy</i>		(2,097)

\$ 368,899

EXPENSES

Projects and Programs	\$	285,929
Administration		88,956
Fundraising		17,915

\$ 392,800

NET ASSETS

Beginning of the Year	\$	250,218
Donations-in-kind		-
End of the Year		226,317



Toronto Staff

María Paola Wong | Interim Executive Director
Denisse Albornoz | Fundraising Administrator
Emieke Geldof | Bookkeeper

Managua Staff

Madeline Mendoza | Centre Manager
Ashley Rerrie | Global Education Coordinator
Elizabeth Guillen | Administrative Assistant
Darling Huerta | House Attendant

THANK YOU

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Michael O'Sullivan | Vice President
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Tanya Chute
William Heffernan
Brenda Holtkamp
Ken McGuffin
Nadine Patel
Margaret Saunders
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Ashley Tagala

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**CASA
PUEBLITO**



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