

San Antonio New School Close Out Summary

Jun 6, 2023



Initiative Purpose:

There is no 14Q - this is copied from the SAN ANTONIO NEW SCHOOL Initiative Purpose_scope Change Request Form.

A new school in San Antonio opened in January 2020!

For ten years, since 2010, when Storm Agatha caused a landslide that damaged the San Antonio school, over 500 children were trying to learn in near-impossible conditions: five years crowded into a dark church basement, and five more in a rough provisional school on top of the public market. As well, primary-aged children in San Antonio were being turned away because there was no longer any room. The problem was partly the lack of available land in San Antonio on which to build a school (think of a village built into a steep hillside), and lack of money. Finally an agreement was reached with the federal government, and construction was completed by the start of the school year, January 2020.

The Guatemalan government was responsible for building the school structure, but not for anything inside. Once the school structure was completed, our local team has been working with the School principal and her committee to identify what is needed to make the school functional. We've made a good start, and basic furniture and white boards are in place. And, we are thrilled that the teachers and students are using it!

Purpose for Closure:

The school has been operating since 2020. After it opened, there were many possible needs for the money remaining in the initiative. As is common in Guatemala, if government funding is not forthcoming, teachers and parents contribute what they can. Our initiative contributed funds based on priorities set by the principal and teachers.

The San Antonio Palopo team in Canada made the decision some time ago to stop adding funds to the initiative. COVID delayed the process of deciding how to use the remaining funds.

The final funds were used to secure the computer room, and equip it with as much equipment as the funds allowed.

A full school assembly was held when Kathy Coster and Penny Pattison were present in the village. The school staff feel that they are in a good position to carry on, after the support from the initiative.

Initiative Achievements:

1. The project succeeded in its primary purpose, to supplement the necessary furnishing and supplies for the school
2. To establish and nurture relationships with the school principal and staff, contributing to well-considered decisions and recognition of the Casita Learning Centre (San Antonio Education and Community initiative) as a complement to the education offered at the school.
3. The building is now functioning well, and provides a positive learning environment.
4. The final project to secure and equip the computer room was carefully considered, and the decision was aided by our wonderful assistant field lead Gregorio Garcia.

Details of project:

Start Date: 2010

This initiative started out with a large donation as a response to the landslide that caused so much destruction in San Antonio, and made one of the 2 primary schools unfit for use. The donor specified that it should be used for reconstruction efforts.

For a few years it was called 'Special Fund', and a few years later – probably in 2016 – changed to "San Antonio New School". It was used for various purposes related to reconstruction, including helping traditional weavers replace their destroyed looms, providing rental shelter for families whose homes were destroyed, building a provisional school on top of the market, etc.

In 2016, following the advice of a locally-elected education committee, ICO purchased a parcel of land to be used for a permanent new school. This land was never used for that purpose.

The remaining funds in 2016 were \$15,950.64.

In 2020, the new school was finally built by the government. ICO invested approximately \$6,000 in Jan/Feb 2020 in furnishings and equipment. An additional donation of \$2,861.30 in June 2020 and another \$100 in January 2021 resulted in \$11,061.94 remaining in the fund.

In 2022, money was spent on COVID-related supplies for return to school, and an inspection of the problems with the electrical system.

In 2023, after extensive discussions with the principal and teachers, the remaining funds were spent to equip and secure the computer room of the new school.

End Date: May 17, 2023

Total actual spent: \$114,153

Total Donations: Donations to 2013: \$99,682 (see CIP Report - Disaster Relief -2010)
Donations since 2013: \$14,471
Total donations \$114,153



Gratitude Assembly May 2023



Completed computer room 2023



Classes in action in 2020



Bookshelves for classrooms 2020



Refurbished desks for classrooms 2020



Improved water system 2020



Desks for teachers 2020



Stove for school 2020



Garbage cans 2020



Filing cabinets 2020