



Report from San Antonio Palopó October 2025



Last week, for the very first time, Candelaria and Gregorio, the two Administrators of La Casita, were able to visit Victoria. We organized a gathering of friends and supporters at the University Club to welcome them and hear their story and more about the role of La Casita in the village. The gathering started with a short history of La Casita beginning with our first connection with the village of San Antonio Palopó almost 20 years

ago. Candelaria and Gregorio, along with their son Pablo, gave an inspiring presentation. They have administered **La Casita** in the small Guatemalan village of San Antonio Palopó, for the last 8 years. Their dedication to empowering Guatemalan youth and determination to provide the necessary environment and attitude for learning drives their



spirits and is quite contagious. Gregorio and Candelaria talked about fostering a family atmosphere and promoting their values: respect, responsibility, punctuality, innovation, empathy, and equality. Their management and mentorship of the staff and students have truly been exemplary.

We are editing a video of this event and will make the link available once it is finished.

We also took advantage of this event to kick-off our new Fundraising Campaign because our challenge now is how to ensure financial sustainability and plan for the future of La Casita.

(More photos on the last page)



Fundraising For the Future

Casita San Antonio Fund at the Victoria Foundation

All of us who have worked on, or donated to, the Casita San Antonio want it to have financial sustainability in the coming years. This is why a donor advised fund with the Victoria Foundation has been established to provide core funding into the future.

Our fundraising campaign started October 1st, 2025, and a very generous donor has offered to match any donation up to \$100,000. We're hoping you can help us rise to this challenge.



Donations can be made in a variety of ways through the Victoria Foundation, including online donations, payment by cheque, and donation of publicly listed securities. Donations of \$20 or more are eligible for a Canadian charitable tax receipt. To donate to the fund, please go to:
<https://victoriafoundation.bc.ca/donate/casita-san-antonio-fund/>.

Or scan the QR code.



For more information about all giving options call 250-381-5532 or email

donorservices@victoriafoundation.bc.ca.

A Very Special Fall Scarf Sale

**Saturday, October 18th
11:00 – 4:00**

2955 Seaview, 10 Mile Point



We are excited that Vicky Husband has offered to host a scarf sale in her beautiful house right on the ocean, on 10 Mile Point. Every Fall we sell handwoven Guatemalan Scarves to encourage an awareness of La Casita. They're also great gift ideas for the holiday season. We have some new scarf designs and colours as well as special Guatemalan fabric purses and bags sewn by La Casita students, and some unique handmade gifts.



Sue welcomed our friends and supporters to this very special event. Encouraging everyone to meet Candelaria, Gregorio and Pablo, hear their stories and tell us about the amazing work that is being fostered through La Casita.

As our MC, Linda took the reins gently keeping us on track.

Susan, Linda and Mary set the stage giving the history of our involvement with La Casita ... beginning with better stoves, preschool, community centre, school supplies, teachers for tutorial work, lunches for the ancianas, library books, scholarships, food distribution during Covid, and eventually the learning centre as it is today.



Gregorio, Candelaria and Pablo offered a colourful and detailed powerpoint presentation, introducing themselves and their vision, and described the poor public education system in Guatemala. They talked about the importance of the Casita learning centre in the village of San Antonio and gave examples of the young people who have benefited and have taken leadership roles in their community.

Penny, as well as the rest of the La Casita Team, was able to spend some time with friends and talk about La Casita.

There was lots of time for people to meet with Candelaria and Gregorio and the conversations invariably shifted to the need for funding. This gave us the opportunity to talk about our new Fundraising campaign through the Victoria Foundation and many people made donations.

