



Report from San Antonio Palopó March 2025

Our time in San Antonio Palopó, in January 2025, was overwhelmingly positive in so many ways. We're back home and extremely enthusiastic about La Casita and all of the projects and programs we had the opportunity to witness. Of course, the grand opening of the new kitchen building was



spectacular and we were so impressed with the beauty and functionality of La Casita as a Learning Centre. We also toured two other local learning centres, met with our scholarship students and graduates, met with other funding partners, and attended the official opening of the new CETEC FORMA Basico School (Middle School) in Panajachel.

La Casita stands out in bright yellow – a beacon of learning.

Besides expanding room for a kitchen it is the new home of a Computer Academy housed on the first floor. The new stone wall is in front of the original little house (with the new solar panels) and just behind that, the grey walls of the previous expansion.



The garden is thriving and well-tended by the students.

The new kitchen is very much appreciated by our cooks and the students.



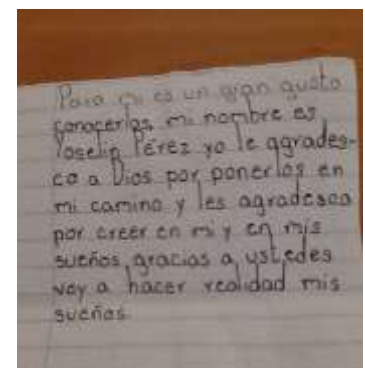


The Official opening of La Casita's New Kitchen (although it had been in use by our enthusiastic cook, Martina, and her helpers for several weeks) was a grand affair with incredible community support. The mayor spoke of the huge positive impact La Casita has had in the community, The students danced and sang and their mothers and the Ancianas performed as well! It was quite wild and wonderful.

Our graduate students gave testimony to the importance of La Casita in their lives and how they've been able to realize their dreams and invest in their community.

Melina spoke of her journey and how she is currently working on a project similar to a small business development bank. Another graduate student working at the new Basico School, Veronica, has just been notified that she, out of 200 applicants, has just received a 4-year scholarship from John Brown University. And, while walking the road around San Antonio's waterfront we came across the Tilapia Farm that a few of our students started in 2018. It's happily become quite successful.

When we met with our 12 Scholarship Students, each of them gave us a gift and a letter. This one says: "It is a great



pleasure for me to meet you, my name is Yoselin Perez, I thank God for putting you in my path and I thank you for believing in me and my dreams, thanks to you, I am going to make my dreams come true

Thanks to our generous donors La Casita is an exciting place to be – an educational hub for the community of San Antonio Palopó!