

Always Building Higher

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



CASA

Center for the Adolescents
of San Miguel de Allende



BARRY ZAID © 2020



Dear CASA friends and soon-to-be-friends,

2020 has been a uniquely challenging year due to the ongoing pandemic and is also my final year of work with the powerful Mexican nonprofit called CASA that I helped co-found with Alejandro Gonzalez and other locals from San Miguel de Allende. Despite the demanding circumstances this year has been immensely satisfying due to unexpected, productive family planning work with the Guanajuato state government and astonishing creativity by so many youth that are today reaching thousands through interactive online activities.

Of course we have also had disappointments. For example, on March 5, Dr. Jorge Alcocer, Mexico’s national health minister visited our community campus and midwifery clinic with other public sector officials from the federal health and education secretariats with two objectives: To get to know personally our externally evaluated, integrated, public health model and see how to concretely combine and leverage each other’s unique know-how and resources on behalf of the public. Advances in 2020 have been minimal but hopefully in 2021 all partners will do a better job together.

It has been my great honor to carry out numerous roles at CASA including being the first executive director and policy advisor. This year I served as mentor to the organization’s new Co- Directors, Rocio Baustista and Paulina Hernandez, two strong and solid women who are enthusiastically leading their staff and volunteers. I have utmost confidence in their leadership and in other senior staff. It has also been my great pleasure to work this year with the dedicated and growing board; get to know clients and, work with and rely on CASA’s countless allies.

I will always be grateful to CASA because it has assisted me and I believe countless others to find what we truly value and want in life. More than an organization, CASA is a phenomenally gracious, beautiful and effective space that indiscriminately welcomes all and patiently gives us multiple opportunities to help ourselves and each other in an integrated fashion. At CASA we experience happiness because we find meaning and purpose and see results.

While 2020 has been a scary time, I am wildly encouraged by the worldwide movement that acknowledges our unfair, global system and the urgent need to change. Since its inception and to date, CASA has precisely dedicated itself to the deconstruction and elimination of structural violence, systemic racism and social inequalities; to the advancement of justice, in particular, reproductive justice.

I offer up this farewell, thank you and love note with humility and sincerity. I suspect that in the future many of our paths will continue to cross and we will help each other as we have in the past. To all of you that are just meeting CASA, get ready to have fun and become the best you can be and then some!

Warm Regards,
Nadine Goodman.



Paulina Hernández (left) and Rocio Bautista, from San Miguel de Allende, have shown caring leadership at CASA and are the organization’s new Codirectors.

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OUR COVER ARTIST, BARRY ZAID

BARRY ZAID, bzaid@bellsouth.net, is a Canadian-born illustrator, an American citizen, world traveler and champion of human rights. In the 1960s and 70s he worked at Push Pin Studios, New York’s creative graphic hothouse and became involved in the Graphic Artists’ Guild, first in New York and then in Colorado - an organization promoting fair pricing and copyright protection for artists.

Alice Sperling, Co-Chair of San Miguel-CASA used to be Barry’s Colorado agent and she invited him to San Miguel de Allende to test it out, convinced he would be very happy here as Alice has been for over 15 years. Barry has now been a grateful full-time San Miguel resident for seven years and explains how and why he became involved with CASA:

“I recently met Nadine Goodman, one of CASA’s founders and then Alice asked me to develop a special cover for this year’s Annual Report as Nadine is retiring. I decided on a modified version of an illustration I did for the cover of New York Magazine in November 1972 depicting a 5-year-old boy creating a toy skyscraper with building blocks. Nadine was born in Brooklyn and lived in NYC before she came to San Miguel, never expecting to stay. Also, Nadine, her partner Alejandro Gonzalez Rullan and literally thousands have together built the organization CASA block-by-block over 40 years.”

“There is another reason why I chose this illustration. It is actually a self-portrait. When I was four years old, I was sexually abused by a young man who worked in my father’s store who told me to keep what we had done a secret. This situation left me paralyzed with anxiety and guilt until, in London, when I was 28, a fellow artist, recognizing my sexual conflict, introduced me to a psychiatrist who treated me with sodium pentothal, bursting a floodgate of talk and writing, and opening a new horizon, a life of freedom and choice. CASA is precisely about freedom and choice and cares for children even before they are born, through their childhood and into adulthood!”

“I am incredibly fortunate to live in San Miguel and have had an auspicious career, designing posters for Pink Floyd, an album cover for The Beatles, the cover of the first book on Art Deco, as well as illustrations for the London Times and Vogue and more. It was an immense pleasure to work on this report with Ben Lenz, (lenzdesign@aol.com), CASA board member and volunteer graphic designer. I am also pleased and proud to announce that I will be donating 20% of the proceeds of my soon-to-be-released children’s book to CASA. Finally, I know from Nadine that a group of forward-thinking Canadians formed Canadians for CASA in the 1980s. I am proud to join my native fellow Canadians who continue to support CASA.”

CASA, Government and Others Expand Free Family Planning Services During Pandemic

In 2020 hundreds of CASA volunteers that are owners and employees of 62 businesses statewide helped their neighbors avoid both unplanned pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases. These responsible and giving citizens provided 49,274 free condoms and other services from their worksites that double as “CASA family planning bodegas, (FPBs)”. Fifty-five percentage of the “FPBs” are local corner stores but tattoo parlors, internet cafes, barbershops, schools, bakeries and restaurants also participate and 36% of these businesses are in rural villages, the other 64% in working-class neighborhoods.

These volunteers work with professionals such as Mariana Alarcon from Mexico City, a sexual and reproductive educator that joined the CASA team called Programa de Salud Comunitaria (PSC) just before Covid19 descended:

“I have been amazed by how open people in Guanajuato are; I have met individuals from all walks of lives that wish to learn and their willingness to help others is beyond impressive.”

Sonia Ivon Lanas Lopez has worked with PSC for years, is from a rural village called Juan Gonzalez with 513 inhabitants.

“People are more willing than ever to reach out to help their neighbor because of the pandemic. They are thinking deeply about the future; do not want to become pregnant and need assistance to do this.”

Twenty nine percent of the community PSC volunteers are men and 71% women; their clients come from a wide age range and 37% are between 12 and 25 years old. An impressive total of 44% of all clients have never had a child and one of PSC’s aims is to help those that wish to delay first births, especially in their adolescence. MexicoVivo Foundation has donated tens of thousands of condoms to CASA to facilitate this program.

In 2020 PSC has also been working with Direct Relief, a large international organization and the Guanajuato State Health Department on an important public education campaign. Since June these partners have promoted online the most effective birth control methods, especially implants and IUDs. The CASA midwives and government nurses are providing family planning services free-of-charge from the CASA Clinic. To date 802 women have been served and the implant is the overwhelmingly preferred method - birth control that can give a woman up to 5 years of protection.

More than 20% of the women receiving these birth control methods are under age 21 and 40% have never had a child. Overall CASA is reaching young women – 78% are under age 31 and 35% of all those served had never used birth control prior to their contact with the CASA midwife.

Obviously education is vital and over multiple and consecutive decades PSC has been providing sex education in schools but in 2020 it has turned to the organization’s e-learning platform to make this service accessible to youth. The platform has been used to date primarily for education about the midwifery model of care (Some 7 thousand public health workers have taken these CASA online courses).

PSC is currently testing the virtual learning waters with its new online course about gender and other relevant themes for 15 years old and up; PSC has also embarked on a new program called Colores that addresses the need for protections for transgender and gender non-conforming youth, their families and others. Check out <https://casa.org.mx/lms/>.



More than 20% of the women receiving these birth control methods are under age 21 and 40% have never had a child.



In local stores, CASA condoms are available to everyone free of charge.



CASA sex education program for employees of local businesses is well attended.

Outreach health workers literally provide condoms in the street.

Mindfulness Stitching as a Means of Preventing Violence/Assisting Survivors

By Tatiana Lans

Some 20 years ago I learned about CASA through my mother who was a member of the board of directors. Through the years I have been able to volunteer at CASA. I have always thought it is a great organization because it provides both education and integrated services and gives youth the opportunity to help each other. The focus is always so humane.

One of my many passions is photography and another is my strong conviction for natural birth and midwives. In the past years, I have had the opportunity to take pictures of different CASA activities, including births at the CASA Maternity Clinic, always with the family's permission of course. On another occasion I traveled with CASA's cofounders to the Huasteca Veracruzana where I photographed traditional and professional midwives working side-by-side, often in dense poverty.

More recently I began to research different embroidery techniques for a personal project and came across a photo of a fascinating embroidery whose caption below it said "Mindfulness stitching", (I forgot to mention that meditation is another of my passions...). It was so simple that even though I had never embroidered before, it motivated me to get a needle and thread and start stitching freely. I got hooked very quickly. Slow Stitching has become a part of my life since it is a simple activity that disconnects and relaxes me mentally, the repetition and rhythm I find is a restorative activity. There is no right or wrong way to slow stitch, and because it has no established pattern, you have to let your creativity take over. Stitching has the ability to relax, unite and inspire.

As we all know, violence has soared during the pandemic, so it occurred to me that giving embroidery workshops could be a subtle way of reaching out to women that are at risk of violence and need services and support.

I knew something about CASA's ELEGIR program but not a lot so I went to speak with Luz Maria Velazquez Cardenas who is the director and has her office at the CASA Community Center in San Miguel. Luz Maria is a lawyer and is in charge of an integrated service delivery model that includes free legal advice for victims of violence, counseling services, a shelter, a 24/7 hotline and more. LuzMa and her colleagues also do outreach prevention and education work and when LuzMa heard about my idea about doing a Mindfulness Stitching workshop she became excited and immediately activated her team to help me.

In 2020 we have had 5 workshops in a rural village and an additional 5 workshops at CASA's community center and more than 30 people have participated. During these workshops we inform the participants about all of CASA's services as we slowly but surely hope to build a trusting ambience and confidence amongst all of us. Also in 2020 Elegir's team of 3 lawyers provided free legal aid to 71 women; unfortunately only 5 or less than 10% decided to take civil or criminal actions against the perpetrator of violence. A team of 11 psychologists gave 340 out-patient counseling sessions to 99 persons; most sessions are free or the client donates a symbolic amount such as 50 pesos. In 2020 CASA provided shelter, food and other services to six families – 6 women and 7 children; in one case the family had to stay in the shelter 3 months; the mother has health challenges including being HIV positive. While it has been a tough year, especially because of the pandemic, my volunteer work at CASA makes me realize how much can be done when we all become more generous with our time and other resources.



“...violence has soared during the pandemic, so it occurred to me that giving embroidery workshops could be a subtle way of reaching out to women...”

Learning from Failure: Ranchero Pandillero Moves Ahead At An Exponential Pace

In the first six months of 2020, there were 17,439 murders in Mexico and murder of women because of their gender, categorized as femicide, has risen this year. Methamphetamine use is the rage in CASA's home state Guanajuato, a state with close to 5 million inhabitants and sadly, widespread "disappearances" continue, with tens of thousands of families looking for their loved ones, frequently to no avail.

Our need to look for culprits and fast, punitive "solutions" to such horrific problems is understandable yet non-productive. For example, we often attribute high murder levels and substance abuse to organized crime, corrupt military and police, and gangs. It is true that gang members are often both the most frequent perpetrators and victims of violence but work with them and others requires coordinated action from multiple sector partners and acknowledgment that pervasive forms of violence are built into our societal structures; systemic racism and structural violence are rampant.

CASA's program called Ranchero Pandillero is run by ex-gang members and precisely deals with inequality of power, resources and life chances that many young men experience. Under one roof, the program offers an integrated array of opportunities to men and women that they cannot find anywhere else. For example, at the CASA public library there are tutors that help Ranchero members on a one-to-one basis to get high school degrees online. More than half of the Ranchero members have not started or completed high school and in most cases, school was a negative, humiliating experience. One-to-one mentorship and tutors are a necessity.

Ranchero also taps into young people's love of music and art. Youth today enjoy many art forms such as graffiti, rap music and more. This year the CASA recording studio was open as much as possible during the pandemic and a total of 39 people recorded a total of 95 songs free-of-charge.

Due to the pandemic there were lesser numbers of community out-reach activities including murals painting in 2020. Yet the team did complete 31 murals in public places and several of the CASA graffiti artists are now being contracted by local government and others to do similar work. Ranchero staff also provided onsite workshops in 2020 in numerous working-class neighborhoods and rural villages that are often labeled "dangerous" and helped communities negotiate truces to end conflicts that were causing individuals to get hurt and live in fear constantly.

Forty years ago and still today, so many of the youth that approach CASA say the same:

"People will not hire us because we do not have experience."

Hence the Ranchero and other CASA programs hire young people without previous experience and those that do not have degrees, as well as provides government mandated benefits and other benefits such as onsite day care if they are parents and free counseling. Everyone that works at CASA needs to continue their higher education and CASA offers scholarship to all it employees.

In addition, the directors provide recommendations and serve as references after good work is delivered. In other words, everything is done to help the young person find another job outside of CASA.



Graffiti and rap artists support each other in the program. From left, LUIS ENRIQUE GONZÁLEZ LOPEZ (MARLON) OMAR ALEJANDRO CORTEZ CARDONA (BOOMZER) JOSE LUIS ORTIZ PEREZ (ZUACK) JEISON GOVEA

KARINA BUSTAMANTE RODRIGUEZ considers herself an urban artist and is one of the few Ranchero members who is both a rapper and a mother. Karina hopes that in 2021 more women artists join Ranchero.



In 2020 Ranchero Pandillero vastly expanded its online options for local talent to express themselves about social problems and earn some needed money by winning cash prizes and more. Although Ranchero had conducted in past years programs on Facebook Live and had presented videos and artwork on its YouTube channel, this year has seen an explosion on these social networks. For example, a total of 58,259 visits or hits were made online from folks interested in participating in the new online graffiti art and music contests. Others have tuned into the new weekly program called Black Sessions where new artists are given the opportunity to share their talent. Still others are listening to the new program where Ranchero Pandillero members interview "cool" community leaders. Overall, membership in Ranchero in 2020 has swelled to 286 members, mainly young men who identify themselves as urban artists.

Many members are ex-gang members or current gang members; others have never joined a gang. To be eligible for membership in Ranchero Pandillero one only need to commit to renouncing violence. The hashtags for the group are: #MoreHipHopLessViolence, #SupportLocalTalent and #WeAreAllRanchero. The idea is that violence is not the way to solve problems; that no one has the right to harm someone else, much less take another life. It has not been easy for gang members to learn to trust CASA and each other when they find themselves together for example at one of CASA's facilities such as the Rap Recording Studio. In some cases in the past, employees at CASA in the Ranchero Program conducted themselves not as gracious hosts to everyone and anyone but gave preferences to their gang members, etc. This has changed and more and more artists, including women artists are arriving.

Gang violence, homicides, substance abuse, inappropriate expressions of competitiveness, misuse of power and intimidation are not new, nor are the instruments we have invented or adapted to harm each other. Simultaneously there is no denying that today's increased availability of cheap methamphetamine and guns is more-than-scary, (3,000 to 12,000 pesos to buy a gun on the black market in San Miguel) and only reinforces the need for more programs such as Ranchero that offer integrated services, including moral support and true friendship to those that are often seen as "the dangerous enemy".



"People will not hire us because we do not have experience."

The Child Care Crisis: Pre-Pandemic & Now



It seems that since “forever” families across the globe have had difficulties finding accessible and suitable care for their infants and young children. In the case of the CASA day care and preschool center, it has operated for 35 consecutive years, offering services free of charge or on a sliding scale to anyone from the public, while priority is given to adolescent mothers. In 2019 a total of 185 families were served and last year, just like all previous years, there was a waiting list, demand outstripping the facility’s capacity.

While there are some families that are able to more easily “wait out” the pandemic, (especially if the adults are working remotely), many are contending with an explosive cocktail of difficulties this year. It is hard enough to manage logistics and finances for day care but today people are struggling more than ever to keep their jobs and there is heightened anxiety about how to keep children and all other family members “safe.”

Not surprisingly the CASA day care staff is embracing its responsibility to be vigilant and meet daily rigorous challenges. The team is working closely with families and authorities and making decisions on a constant basis to mitigate risk not only for the children and families but also for the care providers. Obviously no institution functions in a vacuum and one of the factors that Paulina Hernandez and Rocio Baustista, CASA’s Co-Directors have to evaluate daily is the severity of community spread in San Miguel de Allende.

The situation is also complicated by a lack of a national policy and seemingly contradictory rules and regulations from the federal, state and municipal authorities. Sometimes for example those running the CASA day care have been in the situation that they have been authorized to be operating from the federal level and yet at the same moment, local authorities temporarily close them down.

Uriel is one of the many children that enjoys the CASA Day Care Center daily. He is now 3-years-old and has been at the facility since he was 43 days-old. He is the youngest of three boys, both parents work and Andrea, the boys’ mother is a public health nurse; neither Andrea nor her husband have the option of working remotely.

Andrea remembers feeling anxious in the beginning when she first started to use the CASA day care service ten years ago and yet after the birth of her last child, she knew that she would continue to work and instead of anxiety, she felt a sense of reassurance that the CASA day care would be there for her and her family to care for her youngest son.

“I know as a mother and because I am a health professional that everything that the CASA Early Childhood Development staff is doing is necessary and beneficial. Every day they have a rigorous prevention routine; they check family members and kids for symptoms, deeply clean and restrict kids and staff to the same small groups. When the facility was closed they helped with online distant learning for the preschoolers and for all infants and children they sent us art materials and picture books to our homes to be able to keep up with these activities. And as always, the staff continues with their usual, unlimited kindness and constant smiles for all the children and parents.”



URIEL ALFREDO GARCIA BASURTO and his family.



CRISTIAN DANIEL SANCHEZ CHAVEZ, 4 years old, and his puppet Roberto.



People are struggling more than ever to keep their jobs and there is heightened anxiety about how to keep children and all other family members “safe”.

All preschoolers take hands-on science classes.

Creative Story-Telling & Books Prevail During Pandemic

During 2019 the 4-member library team at CASA (3 professional librarians and a community organizer) were literally on the road constantly and more than 35 thousand books were lent primarily to children under age 12. The team traveled from rural village to rural village to replenish books at small libraries affiliated with public schools that CASA and the community have launched together over the years. The team also regularly went to other villages that do not have schools where they would literally set up outdoor schools, art classes and lending libraries inside and outside of their mobile library.

Then the pandemic hit. Quick thinking and action was required and CASA professional staff and hundreds of local Mexican volunteers responded efficiently and effectively. For example, since March 30 and over 28 consecutive weeks the team has been able to produce with kids a weekly YouTube program that lasts 8 to 12 minutes.

The highlight of this weekly program is a video report from a child "Reportero Biblioteca" or Library Reporter. To date there are 78 young reporters registered, children ages 2 to 12 years old from CASA's home state of Guanajuato and seven others states

throughout the Mexican republic and four other countries (Peru, Paraguay, Argentina and the U.S.). Materials are received and acknowledged daily; kids are sent their identification badges as Library Reporters and at least one or two videos are transmitted per weekly program.

A total of 10,830 have tuned into this weekly program since it began and the idea behind all of this is to give children a space where they can share with each other what is happening in video form in their communities. The program taps into children's natural inquisitive nature, encourages them to question everything and anything and teaches them how to recognize and share good information. Learning how to tell detailed stories is a very important form of communication.

Reading lots of books is one way of sharing stories and while CASA continues to do its best to keep getting books into children's hands and to their parents during the pandemic, there are other ways such as making up stories from our minds, or talking about and recording what recently happened; doing research and sharing.

Unfortunately still today all of CASA's rural libraries with an overall collection of more than 3,000 books are closed by the government because they are located within public school structures and it appears that public schools will remain closed for an indeterminate time period in Mexico. Luckily the more than 100 women volunteers who worked with the CASA's rural libraries have started 25 new libraries literally from their homes called Las Bibliotecas Callejeras or Street Libraries. Graffiti artists who are members of Ranchero Pandillero, CASA's program run by ex-gang members have assisted the community women to paint the exteriors of their homes to announce to the public that they have children's books to lend during the pandemic.

The mobile library has also begun to cautiously and safely move again and this is yet another way that books are making their way into the hands of thousands of kids that are not in school and have no other means of getting access to books. Teachers often accompany the staff of the mobile library to be able to get to rural kids to help them keep up some basic skills during this difficult and challenging time.

After a visit from federal health officials in early March the library team had high hopes of receiving donated, high-quality children literature from the government. Unfortunately this has not transpired to date so please consider donating before 2020 comes to a close, new or gently used Spanish children's books or make an online cash donation that is tax deductible to be able to purchase books at discounted rates from editorial houses within Mexico.

CASA's public library has remained open most of the time to date in 2020 while following indicated precautionary measures. From this site the team is running a second online weekly program with interviews of well-known cultural leaders, for example Dr. Max Arriaga, Director of the country's some 7,300 public libraries. These weekly Facebook programs are also joined by other programs on the CASA YouTube channel such as the weekly rap music competitions during which young artists perform at the CASA public library to a limited live audience of about a dozen people. Since these programs took off in March, there have been 30,549 people on line viewing them and thousands of subscribers registered.

Books and story-telling are effective sources of solace and support during any crisis, including our ongoing public health pandemic. Programs such as the CASA library programs are creatively reaching some of the most vulnerable and helping them understand, navigate and survive this unsettling time.



CASA books arrive to children in rural village, Capaderillo.

Women from Ranch Capilla Blanca enjoy CASA books.



Professional Librarian JUAN CARLOS RODRIGUEZ MOLINA runs CASA's mobile library and is affectionately known to all as GARY.

Making Birth More Scientific In Mexico

What does it mean to be scientifically literate and what does this have to do with making a decision to have a baby and how? Science is both a constantly changing body of knowledge and a process and, all of us have a lot to gain by being active science learners. When we increase our understanding of what science is, what it is not, what it can do and cannot do, we come to understand how science contributes to a more efficient and just society. We also come to appreciate the important difference between technology and science and comprehend what safety means.

When it comes to having a baby a seemingly large percentage of obstetricians and others have come to see birth as dangerous. Many women today are quite frightened and anxious about how to achieve safe pregnancies and births and in many countries such as Mexico and the United States numerous women have very limited choices for bringing their baby into the world. While there is a lot of “talk” about informed and autonomous choices, the reality is that birth choices are extremely limited, especially for financially disadvantaged women in Mexico.

In addition, women are generally not told by health care professionals about possible negative secondary effects of the excessive use of technology. In fact, if one looks at scientific literature, there are a multitude of studies that demonstrate that many interventions increase risk to mother and child instead of decreasing it. A major goal at the CASA Maternity Clinic is to achieve a safe outcome for mother and child. The professional staff of midwives and gynecologists know that zero risk does not exist and yet they are trained to minimize risk in a scientific manner. Their principal job is to educate pregnant women how to scientifically maximize safety and make the best possible decisions she can make about her pregnancy and birth.

Obstetricians are experts in what is called high-risk pregnancies and births, while midwives are experts in low-risk pregnancies and birth. All women who have given birth know that each pregnancy and birth is distinct and while unforeseen obstetrical emergencies are few and far between, they can happen to women that have been labeled both low and high-risk. Midwives and obstetricians are trained to deal efficiently and effectively with these emergencies; in the case of the midwife she is trained to stabilize the woman and child and transfer them to be cared for not only by obstetricians but other specialists in “problems” such as neonatologists and others.

Technology has improved our lives in many ways and helps save mothers and babies in trouble. Technologies being invented at this moment will surely improve our lives in the future but also have the potential to negatively affect our physical and emotional health. What is most concerning about the relationship between birth and technology is that in spite of the decades of substantial scientific evidence that calls for a low-interventionist type of pregnancy and birth management for low-risk cases, we are seeing very little progress.

It is probable that the recent lack of advances in the needed reorganization and improvement of the maternal and newborn health system in Mexico is mainly related to the pandemic and the impossibility at this moment for the health leaders to give women what is owed to them. Nonetheless, the long-standing and chronic underinvestment in birthing from a scientific point of view has been in existence in Mexico and worldwide far too long. CASA expects that in 2021 there will be more productive collaboration between the Mexican government and those countrywide with experience in running midwifery education programs and clinical facilities that have extremely successful track reports attending births in a safe and humane manner. In CASA’s case its clinical team has attended more than 10,000 births in its maternity clinic with excellent results.

Unfortunately, most recently a young girl who gave birth at CASA experienced an unforeseen obstetrical emergency and went by ambulance to a local hospital and then had to be transferred to a third facility; she unfortunately did not survive. Our tendency, even among health care workers, is to deny death is strong. Yet like birth, death unites us. Everyone dies and everybody grieves. Most maternal deaths can and should be avoided; hence the distress when a maternal death occurs is more than overwhelming. The pain is of course most severe for the woman’s family and it is also very difficult for the health care workers involved. In many instances both birth and death leave us feeling more humble, more focused and more devoted to love and life; more steadfast and determined to make birth more scientific in Mexico and around the world.



Nadine Goodman – A Legacy of Leadership

Nadine wrote in the forward to this annual report, “I will be grateful to CASA for the rest of my life because it has assisted me and countless others to find what we truly value and want in life, hence we experience happiness because we find meaning and purpose and results.”

Nadine is also the first to say that our work is far from done and as the Co-Chairs of San Miguel-CASA, Inc. we heartily agree. CASA is a mature and thoughtful organization with a solid reputation. It is well poised to meet future challenges primarily because Nadine has been a mentor to the numerous CASA young leaders that are creative, strategic, committed and forthright.

We take this opportunity to thank individuals that served selflessly on our board over decades including Elsbeth Friedli, Barbara Porter, Margarita Failoni, Susan Bloom and Bobby Cocke amongst many others. We also share with pride words that beautifully capture Nadine and CASA’s essence:

During my six year tenure at the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City as Mission Director for the United States Agency for International development (USAID) it was my pleasure to collaborate with Nadine Goodman on various projects...Nadine is one of the most dedicated individuals that I have known over my almost four decade career...It is my pleasure to endorse CASA as a competent, caring and innovative organization.

– Paul White

The McArthur Foundation’s Mexico office partnered with CASA for nearly thirty years. MacArthur’s reproductive health program sought to promote professional midwifery in Mexico, bringing us yet closer to CASA. CASA is one of the most important player in their field and the tireless energy and unique vision of its founder, Nadine Goodman, has helped advance the field in countless ways... thanks to CASA’S leadership and tireless advocacy efforts.

– Sharon Bissell, Director

The David and Lucile Packard Foundation has enjoyed a fruitful relations with CASA and its Executive Director, Ms. Nadine Goodman...to ensure that family planning is provided within the broader context of reproductive rights, environmental well-being, empowerment of women and access to health care and education in Mexico. CASA has made major and tangible contributions... The Foundation has been impressed by Ms. Goodman’s commitment and leadership.

– Kathy Toner, Program Officer

It is a source of great pride to me that this organization was founded by an American for the benefit of the Mexican people. Nadine, your efforts are an inspiration to us all. I hope that in the future we may see more programs like yours all over Mexico.

– James R. Jones, Ambassador,
Embassy of the United States of America, Mexico

Nadine Goodman brings wisdom, insight, high energy and a deeply human perspective to her work. Her ethics are of the highest standard, she is driven by a sense of equity that is profound...

– M. Catherine Maternowska, PhD
Center for Reproductive Health Research & Policy, University of California, San Francisco

As we must finally say goodbye to Nadine as CASA’s cofounder, first executive director, policy advocate and mentor to thousands, we will continue on the path that she has exemplified for us – of commitment, leadership and empowerment for all.

– Alice Sperling and Maxine Snyder, Co-Chairs
San Miguel-CASA, Incorporated



CASA
Center for the Adolescents
of San Miguel de Allende

How

can you support CASA?

Donate Online to CASA at:
www.casa.org.mx

Fund a Scholarship
for a Young Person

Become a Part of
Our Volunteer Program

Organize a Fundraiser
for CASA

Give an In-Kind Donation
such as a Spanish Book,
Educational Materials . . .

CASA kids are given the
tools and freedom to create
masterpieces like this.



**Contact: Development@casa.org.mx
Mexico: 011 52 415 40 60 90 (ext 103)**

 [@casa.org.mx](https://www.facebook.com/casa.org.mx)

San Miguel - CASA, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, which makes all U.S dollar donations to us tax-deductible. Please know that that during 2020 we did not have to furlough any of our staff nor cutback on any services. Please consider an immediate donation for operating expenses in 2021 and also a deferred gift to our endowment fund that ensures the sustainability of our work.

We are happy to provide you with detailed information in person, on our website or over the phone regarding giving opportunities and we thank you in advance!

Pesos donations to CASA, A.C. are also tax-deductible under Mexican law.