This year, women from the Gloria Quintanilla Women’s Cooperative in Santa Julia planted 153 banana trees and 153 plantain trees as part of their 2017 project in partnership with Casa - Pueblito. Quality seeds & an improved rainy season allowed the trees to sprout up surprisingly quickly, promising a good harvest.

In Santa Julia, Dona Lola is optimistic about the food situation in her community for the upcoming year – the harvest should provide enough food for the community to eat, sell, and process into plantain vinegar to sell in local markets. The community is especially happy about this year’s productive growing season as Santa Julia has been suffering from food shortages & lack of water caused by severe drought over the past three years.

Nicaragua, despite being one of the least responsible countries for historic and contemporary global greenhouse gas emissions, is one of the most vulnerable countries in the world to climate change. Climate change manifests in Nicaragua in various ways, with one of the main impacts being decreased rain and increased unpredictability of rainfall patterns. Damaging consequences of this include crop loss and increased food and water insecurity. Rural families are particularly affected as more than 50% of rural incomes are generated through traditional rain-fed agriculture.

At Casa - Pueblito, we’re proud to support our partners as they confront the most pressing issues facing their communities. Santa Julia is one of many of our partner communities affected by poor growing seasons, water scarcity & food insecurity linked to climate change; others include Jinocuao and communities working with UCA Tierra y Agua.

It’s important to us to address communities’ most fundamental needs in a locally-appropriate context. That’s why, with your generous support, we fund projects developed by community members themselves. We recognize and are grateful for the expertise that our partners bring to our community development programming.

We’re proud to be in solidarity with communities fighting for environmental justice and for a better future for generations to come.
Voices for Change: Developing Leadership in Inclusive Education

In May, we concluded our three year Toronto-based Voices for Change project that worked to address the 40% ‘dropout’/pushout rate for Latinx secondary students in the GTA through our educators’ professional development series and through our Youth Change-Makers program. Voices for Change engaged over 100 teacher and teacher candidates and between ten and twenty Latinx youth annually. During the program, a number of accessible, incredible resources for teachers and by our Youth Change-Makers were created, including the updated 2017 Toolkit for Inclusive Education and the 2017 Voices for Change Anthology: A Collection of Short Stories, Poetry, Statements and Art Work by Latinx Youth in Toronto.

Thank you to everyone who made this important project a success over the past three years – especially to all of the Youth Change-Makers, teachers, and community members who participated in and volunteered with our afterschool youth leadership workshops, leadership camps, professional learning opportunities, and special events. None of this would have been possible with you. Although unfortunately V4C has come to end, we look forward to continue working together to advocate for our diverse Latinx diaspora communities in Toronto.

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