

There Are Many Ways to Help

Volunteer with the Kids

- Can you donate an hour or two once a week to be at the Hogarcito and spend time with the kids - giving them some love or helping with any daily care?
- Can you volunteer to drive children to the public school they attend, or pick them up? Currently they walk 40 minutes with one of the employees, and with rainy season that can be a problem.

Lend a Hand with Repairs

- The Department of Health has given the Hogarcito a list of improvements they feel are needed. There's a considerable amount of work to be done and to complete the list by the end of 2015. Are you good with a hammer, or have some minor construction or painting experience? Can you donate paint or construction materials? We could sure use your help!
- There are ongoing minor improvements and smaller projects. Can you help to tackle one of these yourself or with some friends? Unsure about this? Schedule a guided tour to view the needs.

Raise Funds

- Can you help spread the word and get friends and neighbors signed up for the Padrinos de Hogarcito program, or solicit donations?
- Do you have fundraising ideas that, together with other volunteers, can be implemented to help raise money? Or, can you participate in any of the upcoming fundraising events being scheduled by current volunteers?
- Do you have or know someone who has an older serviceable vehicle that could be donated or sold inexpensively to Hogarcito? The Hogarcito is trying to resolve the constant need for transport of the kids and reduce taxi expenses for rainy day school trips, doctor visits, and court appearances.



The Hogarcito Kids Need Your Help!

Since its inception, the Hogarcito San Ramon has faced a struggle to improve their infrastructure, maintain furnishings, ensure food on the table, and provide for the children's medical and school needs. The Board members, volunteers and the Director spend much of their time scrambling for donations to cover operating deficits and paychecks. There is very little money to organize outings or parties for the children due to lack of funds. The children remain inside the orphanage seven days a week, except for school.

We welcome you to schedule an appointment to visit the Hogarcito, see the facilities, and understand more of how it operates and the environment in which the children live. The constant challenge to produce a loving environment is evident. The smiles on the faces of the children are evidence of the success.

*Photo is non-resident children to comply with Costa Rican law protecting orphans.
Andrew Robinson photographer, 2015.*

Become a Padrino de Hogarcito

Introducing the “Godparent’ Program Padrinos de Hogarcito

Half of the Hogarcito San Ramon’s funding comes from private donations. The other half is received from PANI and the National Lottery. Recently PANI funds were reduced country-wide by 10%. In an effort to ensure a consistent monetary flow from private donors, the Hogarcito has created a giving program where you can be a ‘Godfather’ or ‘Godmother’ to the orphanage.

Here’s How It Works...

Become a Padrino by simply filling out the Padrinos de Hogarcito form to set up an ongoing direct deposit to the Hogarcito from your business or personal bank account, specifying the frequency and the amount in colones or dollars. Your ongoing donation will be automatically debited from your account. Even \$5.00 a month will make a tremendous difference.

This arrangement is with Banco Nacional and Banco de Costa Rica. Donations can also be made by SINPE (Interbank Transfer) from BAC San Jose and Banco Popular. It’s an effortless, one-step process to set up the reoccurring transaction. You can opt out of your automatic donation at any time in the future by asking your bank to delete the transfer.

You will receive regular updates by email from the Hogarcito on how your donation is directly supporting the orphanage and helping the kids.

Or Make a One-time Donation...

If you are unable to commit to becoming a Padrino, consider making a one-time donation direct to the Hogarcito account at Banco Nacional.

Meet the Hogarcito San Ramon

Considered Best Run Hogarcito in Alajuela by PANI

The Hogarcito, or “small loving home”, was started by two volunteer social workers in 1987. They saw a glaring need for a safe and loving environment as an alternative for local children who subsist in an unhealthy, negative living situation and without anyone to help. Too often they have a parent who is addicted to alcohol or drugs and unable to take care of their children. Many of the children are physically, psychologically, and sexually abused.

Today the Hogarcito is a nonprofit operation licensed to operate by PANI, the government child welfare organization. PANI recently stated that the Hogarcito San Ramon is considered to be **the best run Hogarcito in the province of Alajuela.**

The Hogarcito provides a professionally run, caring environment to house, clothe, feed, and care for children who are abandoned or otherwise removed by the court system from an unsafe home. The home is licensed for up to 15 children, 12 years old and under. Government regulations require that once a child reaches 12, they are sent to another orphanage for older children.

It’s All for the Kids

The Hogarcito is governed by a Board of Directors, with a Board President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and Fiscal, all of whom are elected bi-annually. The Board holds monthly business meetings, but meets more frequently to handle emergencies and time-sensitive issues. The current board President and Vice president have held these positions for several years and recently were reelected unanimously by the general assembly.

The general assembly encourages involvement and oversight by anyone interested in the operation. Anyone can participate and vote. Board positions are open to both nationals and non-nationals. The organization is open and transparent and encourages involvement and responsibility from all members of the community, locals and expats alike. Every colon spent is audited and regularly checked by PANI and the National Lottery organization to ensure transparency and responsible use of the funds.