

## G-3181 – New Project Name and Location Notification.

This document corrects the name of the autism center in Costa Rica as well as the location. Due to the challenges presented during the Community Assessment phase of this grant, it was agreed that the proposed grant was too underfunded to address the condition of the original building as well as provide the services outlined in the grant proposal regarding the size of the facility. Due to TRF guidelines regarding new construction, the building and location of the project has moved from Tres Rios community to the nearby Paraiso community where better facilities became available and the project can be funded with the original pledge amount.

This grant will support the expansion of Asociacion Autismo de Paraiso autism therapy center in Costa Rica.

- The Center offers professional therapies to children and families of children with autism in Costa Rica.
- They provide comprehensive therapies for children with autism and the family.
- The national hospitals, including the CR Children's Hospital and PANI (National Child Welfare Agency) refer families to them.
- Hospitals can diagnose but cannot treat autism.

The Center has a staff of 5 plus 3 therapists that provide therapies in specific areas such as speech, behavior, cognitive, physical and social skills.

The Center is planning to support more therapies and children. In September 2023, our Host club, Rotary Club of Cartago (District 4240) received a request from the Director of the Center for assistance from Rotary International.

Current funding comes from raffles, and donations. Parents of children in the program pay a small donation for the counseling and therapies the children with autism need. These funds cover some operations of the facility.

The biggest needs, and what this global grant will address, are for computers, a security system, additional appliances to the kitchen, provide safe handicap-friendly paths between buildings and therapy areas.

Rotarians are needed to refresh the interior of the building including painting the therapy rooms, and possibly painting some murals. Also, assembling and installing software on new computers, building and/or assembling and placing furniture, bookshelves, cabinets and sensory therapy equipment.

During this part of the project, Sponsor Rotarians are invited to visit the center often and visit with the families and children.

Creating Hope in the World for children with autism and their families extends well beyond this service project. The power of this global grant and the Rotarians who provide their time, treasure and talent is that The Center will have the opportunity to share their data with the university and government studies for a positive and progressive collaboration.

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