

Calasanz House City.

San José (Costa Rica)



The fact that the Home has been started by a Piarist, makes it not only a hostel, but also a place of formation.

The Calasanz House emerged in Costa Rica in the 1980s, in response to a sign of the times. The neighboring country, Nicaragua, had entered in 1979 in a civil war. This event displaced many people, including Fr. Vicente Gaudeli, who living exile in his own flesh and seeing the situation of his brothers, begins a project for young people displaced by war, in Moravia, near San José.

Over time the work grew, so there was a need to move to a wider place, so it was with the help of a state institution and a family. The new place would be in San Rafael de Montes de Oca, also near San José, where the Home is currently still located.

Around 1995, a night school began operating, primarily aimed at helping seniors finish high school.

Today the Home operates as a training and boarding school for young people, as well as a night high school open to people in the sector. Here is a well-equipped library with computers, internet access, study tables and books; there are also five homes that can accommodate up to 8 people, each with bedrooms with beds, bathrooms suitable for people with different capacities, a living room and a lavatory; there are extensive green areas, soccer and basketball court, a chapel, a dining and laundry room, classrooms, offices, workshops and a house for the religious.

In this 2020, 29 inmates are served from the provinces of San José y Limón (Atlantic Zone), while in the night school the population grows to 80 and are attended by volunteer teachers, the director of the center is Fr. Flavio Baldizón.

This year a new project is implemented: 4 technical courses endorsed by the Ministry of Public Education (MEP), which aim to give boys not only the skills they need for a job, but also a degree that certifies them. These are: conversational English, ecological tourism, publishing and printing and general mechanics.

The ecological tourism course has the advantage of owning in the Home a large area of forest and even a stream, while the publishing and printing course places external orders of the neighboring Colegio Calasanz.

Boys enter the center between the ages of 13 and 15, must have the primary completed and a reference family to share with them on weekends, must be male and their stay in boarding school goes

from one to 5 years, they enter thanks to direct references from people who were previously in the Home, or by the National Children's Board of Trustees (PANI), however in the last year 2019 a promotion of the center was made in schools of the provinces of Cartago and San José.

The economic support of the center is thanks to the contributions of the Province, and two public institutions, in addition to occasional donations and what the printing press can give.

The time to get up at home at 5:45 a.m., during the morning courses are held and from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. it's the time of the night school along with the external students, the time to go to bed is no later than 10:30 p.m.

The Home offers the boys not only the opportunity to finish high school and to go out with a technical career, but inside the houses learn attitudes of coexistence, conflict resolution with their peers, healthy friendship, respect for authority, affection and care of the property (they must take care of it, avoid damage, be attentive to breakdowns and leaks, take out the garbage and make sure to bring the clothes to the laundry the day).

In the religious field, spaces are provided for spiritual growth as coexistences (supported by juniors studying in San Jose), classes of religion and celebrations of the Word or Eucharists in special times.

