



## Madison Adoption Associates

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# REVERSE HOSTING

**Join us this October as we travel to Colombia!**

*We invite you to embark on a journey with us... One that will surely change the direction of your life!*

### OUR MISSION

Madison Adoption Associates is a Hague accredited, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Our mission is to bring hope, love, and connection by serving children, individuals, and families in the areas of adoption, foster care, and support services. Our work is guided by the following core principles:

- \* Securing stable and loving permanent families for children through pre-adoption preparation, education, guidance, support, and post adoption services.
- \* Conducting our business activities with our heart first and an unwavering commitment to ethics.
- \* Treating each individual with dignity and walking with them throughout their personal journey
- \* Always acting in the best interests of each child.
- \* Ensuring that each adoption process is transparent, with adherence to all laws and regulations.
- \* Providing expectant and birth parents with confidential, compassionate, and non-judgmental support.
- \* Recognizing the unique and precious potential of each person and each family.
- \* Building healthy and thriving families and communities by providing educational services and therapeutic supports rooted in attachment and relational connections.
- \* Committing time and resources to charitable activities that assist children who are not eligible for adoption and children in foster care to lead stronger, safer, healthier, and more productive lives.

### THE PROGRAM

There are **163 million** orphaned children worldwide with **5,760** more children becoming orphans each day. Once a child turns **5**, they have only a **5%** chance of being adopted, leaving many children without a family. Our hosting programs have been created to address the needs of these orphaned children. Older child adoption can feel intimidating, and often the fear associated with the unknowns prevents us from taking a leap of faith. **This program has been established to give children who have often been overlooked, a chance to find their family. This experience will change the life of an orphan forever, as well as the lives of you and your family!**

The ultimate goal of the **Reverse hosting program** (also known as **In-Country Hosting Program**) is for orphaned and vulnerable children, specifically those who are older and have special needs, to find permanent, stable, loving, qualified families. The program accomplishes this by allowing approved liaison families to travel to Colombia, accompanied by MAA staff, to meet and spend time with children who are available for adoption. The wish is for each child to find their own family by either the liaison family personally adopting them, or through the liaison assisting MAA in advocacy for that child.



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In this program, aside from exploring the beautiful and welcoming country of Colombia, individuals and families will have the unique opportunity to play an integral role in finding permanent homes for vulnerable children by visiting them and spending a week together. Each liaison will have a designated child (or children) deemed a good fit, to accompany them throughout the tours and activities of the In-Country Hosting Program. During this time, the liaisons will be gathering information about the child; by the end of the week, the liaison will have a unique perspective about the child's personality, social ability, peer relationships, physical abilities, medical needs, etc. As a liaison, you will keep a daily journal of observations about the child. As an advocate for that child, you will be their best representative to a potential adoptive family! And do not be surprised if YOU are that family! Which is why we require full home studies on all our liaison families.



It makes an extraordinary difference for prospective adoptive families to hear from people who have personally met or to have first-hand insight about a child they may wish to adopt.

### **WHY PARTICIPATE IN REVERSE HOSTING?**

All participants have been cleared for inter-country adoption and are patiently waiting for their adoptive placement. We are thrilled to provide both the children and loving families like yours with an experience you will never forget! The hosting experience will benefit you in many ways – first and foremost, it will give you a small glimpse of what life may be like if you adopt that child. Of course, a perfect hosting does not denote a perfect adoption and placement, but it will give you a glimpse into the personality of that child. Further, this experience will allow you to see that child in their own familiar environment, see them interact with their friends and immersed in their own culture, possibly dispel fears about adopting an older child, or possibly make you rethink if older child adoption is right for you. Also, this experience, which is meant for your entire family, will teach your current children a valuable lesson in compassion and acceptance.

Most importantly, whatever the outcome, you will play a critical role in helping a child find his or her permanent family. We are facing an orphan crisis in our world, and any small part that each one of us can play DOES make a difference! They say that adopting a child (or helping a child get adopted) won't change the world, but for that one child, their world will change!

### **WHAT TO EXPECT**

The hosting program offers both an educational, as well as a culturally rich experience for you and your family. Your family will stay in comfortable accommodations in a safe area, and will provide loving and nurturing companionship, exposing the child(ren) to family time and activities. You will be immersed in the Colombian culture, while getting to know your designated child. Fun activities, field trips, games, and opportunities for bonding will be provided. After the week concludes, all children return to their orphanage with a rewarding, fun,



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and educational experience. For many of these children, it will be first time that they have experienced touring their own country, as well as what it feels like to be a part of a family, and receive undivided attention.

Along with the ultimate goal of permanency, we also hope to improve the emotional well-being, health, education, and general welfare of orphaned children in our programs. These children have often been raised in institutions and have little experience with a family or with the benefits of life in the United States.

### THE CHILDREN



Most children in orphanages were born to poor families or single mothers, or they have been abandoned or were taken from birth parents due to neglect or abuse. All children are influenced by life in an institution. They will have developmental delays that may affect their speech, motor skills, cognitive functioning, and physical growth. Children may also exhibit institutional behavior such as rocking or other self-stimulating activities. Madison recommends families to take every precaution in their family to ensure not only the safety of the host child, but of all household members. You may find us very conservative in child placement and hosting decisions. This is to protect you and the child! We will always talk to you honestly about any risks. And of course, we will help you prepare!

In general, the children who participate in the hosting program have a good prognosis for a healthy future if provided with the love, support, and treatment they need to overcome the challenges they face prior to adoption. Most participants are children age 12 and over, children who are a part of sibling groups, or children with medical needs.

### FAMILY/ LIAISON REQUIREMENTS

Applicants for this program **must be** in good health, mentally and physically, without communicable diseases of public health significance. They must have an approved home study containing an approval that matches the criteria of the child they intend to host. **They must be flexible, go with the flow, optimistic child advocates.** Remember friends, international travel and adoption are not for the faint of heart!

In addition to the above, each Liaison is required to:

- Clear the Madison Adoption Associates screening process and be approved as a participant;
- Participate in a 1-hour phone conference for a pre-travel overview and complete 5-hours of Hosting training;
- Participate in the full schedule of daily activities and events while in Colombia;
- Complete **daily** observation sheets (provided by Madison Adoption Associates) for each child during the entirety of the program;
- Take as many pictures and videos of the children as possible, and submit to MAA in an organized fashion (each photo/video should be titled by date and child name);
- Participate in daily debriefings with Madison Adoption Associates staff during time in Colombia to discuss children, strategize, and/or resolve any issues and/or concerns; and



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- Commit to sharing their observations and insights about the children, according to MAA guidelines, with others upon return from Colombia.

While we expect you to have a memorable stay in Colombia, please be aware that this is not a relaxing vacation. Of course, there will be ‘down time’ to enjoy each other, however the majority of the week will include activities designed to entertain and assist in getting to know the child.

Liaisons must have a current passport to travel to Colombia. Because the program is only a little over a week, you will not need a visa.

Please understand that due to space issues, the number of Liaisons is limited for each In-Country Hosting trip. Although we will do our best to include all who are interested, we cannot guarantee that all who apply will be accepted for this program. If accepted, you will need to send us a \$300 deposit toward program costs within one week. This fee is non-refundable.

### OUR PARTNER

FANA, <http://fundacionfana.org>, founded in 1972, is the Spanish acronym for Foundation for the Assistance of the Abandoned Children. It is a non-profit organization dedicated to the comprehensive protection of the Colombian children and has worked to improve the lives of more than 14,000 children. In their facilities, they not only assure the best care but also a nurturing and loving environment that allow children of all ages reach their greatest potential.



Although new for Madison, FANA started their Colombian hosting programs in 2008 and they have only continued to grow. For FANA, every child deserves to have a family and it is their mission to make this dream come true for each child under their care. And as we prepare our families, FANA will be busy preparing the children! Children throughout Colombia will come to FANA one week prior to the hosting experience to be prepared for spending the week’s vacation with an American family.

### THE TRIP

The dates of the reverse hosting program are currently scheduled for October 11- October 20<sup>th</sup>. Host families and children will stay in the lovely Plaza Suites Hotel [www.plazasuitesbogota.com](http://www.plazasuitesbogota.com) located in a beautiful area of Bogota, the capital of Colombia. Bogota is a city surrounded by mountains and with a nice cool weather all year round. It is very diverse city with extensive entertainment options and historic places to sightsee and explore.

The family accommodations are two- bedroom suites, with two bathrooms and a kitchenette, allowing families to have some privacy while keeping the group together. Hotel services include cable tv, security box, internet, cleaning service and a daily breakfast buffet. Every fieldtrip and activity will include transportation and lunch except for the free day. Families will be on their own for dinner each night so they can spend time alone and bond. They will be able to cook together or go out and enjoy they city!





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Your safety is of utmost importance to us. The hotel, as well as the planned activities, are all located in safe areas of the city. MAA staff, as well as our in-country support team, will be staying at the same hotel, so will be available to you and your family for any concerns, or to answer any questions about safely navigating the city.

### **TRIP ITINERARY**

Below is a tentative itinerary of what you can expect. (This schedule is subject to change at any time.)

- Friday, October 11<sup>th</sup>- Leave home state for Miami, FL. Meet with MAA group. Travel to Bogota together. Settle in at hotel.
- Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup>- MAA Orientation - Meet the kids! Participate in fun activities to get to know each other
- Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup>- Visit Touristic Train and Salt Cathedral  
[www.turistren.com.co/en/](http://www.turistren.com.co/en/)  
[www.catedraldesal.gov.co](http://www.catedraldesal.gov.co)
- Monday, October 14<sup>th</sup>- Go Bowling and to the Movies  
<http://labolera.com.co/main/>
- Tuesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>- Visit Monserrate and the Gold Museum  
<http://www.colombiainfo.org/en-us/cities/bogota/monserrate.aspx>
- Wednesday, October 16<sup>th</sup> – Free day
- Thursday, October 17<sup>th</sup>- Bogota Country Club
- Friday, October 18<sup>th</sup> –. Visit Jaime Duque Park  
<https://parquejaimeduque.com/>
- Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup>- Farewell Party. Kids return to FANA
- Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup> - Return home after a life changing experience! ADVOCATE!!!

### **SUPPORT DURING THE PROCESS**

Madison Adoption Associates has experienced hosting coordinators, social workers, translators, and previous host families who will be with you and available to your family throughout the entire hosting time. When questions come up – and they will – we will be accessible to you to help you consider the options, work through possible solutions, and find the best answer for your family and for the child. The Madison staff that will accompany you on your journey are mostly Master’s level trained staff with an abundance of experience in counseling, trauma, and attachment work.



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The chaperones who accompany the children are ultimately responsible for reporting back to the adoption authorities in their sending countries about the hosting program. They will stay abreast of any and all situations regarding the children. They are here to support the children and families alike!

If you are experiencing any issues, as small as they seem, we will be with you to help. Often sitting down and discussing a small issue can prevent a larger issue from occurring in the future.

### **DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS**

Madison Adoption Associates is required to protect and ensure the safety of the children who will be participating in the In-Country Hosting Program. You, the liaison family, will be required to furnish several documents so that we will be able to confirm you as an appropriate participant.

- Current, valid Hague compliant home study**
- Three (3) Character References per family – notarized and sent directly to MAA**
- Hosting Agreement**
- Fee Agreement and Refund Policy**
- Pre-host training certificates**

*Your home study report should be completed by a licensed home study agency, approved to conduct international home studies. The purpose of this report is to ensure that the liaison family is an appropriate adoptive resource.*

### **HOST PARENT TRAINING**

Because a home study is required, you will have already taken the 15 hours of training as required by Hague and the Central Authority of Colombia. To prepare you for this specific experience, you will also be required to participate in a **mandatory** hosting training call to prepare you for your hosting and cross-cultural experience. This is critical in preparing our families of what to expect, safety planning procedures, other topics including, but not limited to, attachment and bonding, dealing with traumatized children, and the impact of institutionalization. We recommend that all families prepare themselves as much as possible for the hosting experience. There is no such thing as too much training!

### **FEES AND PAYMENT SCHEDULE**

**The program fee is \$2,300 per person plus a \$200 application fee and \$100 training fee per family. An additional person in the same two bedroom suite would be \$1,600 per person.** (No more than 5 people, including the host children can be in the same suite). The family must also anticipate the cost to procure a current, valid home study for Colombia (which will also include fees for education, training, and to obtain required clearances\*) and a home study review fee of \$300 if MAA is not completing your home study.

We want to keep this program as affordable as possible to enable as many families as possible to participate.

**Thus, fees paid to MAA for this program are for the purpose of covering our actual costs.** We have selected a nicer hotel and food options as we want to ensure your comfort so you can spend your time focusing on your host child!



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The administrative fees for this program will include your airfare from Miami to Bogota. Each liaison will need to cover the cost of their own airfare to and from Miami where you will meet with the rest of the Madison group. It will also cover breakfast and lunch daily, all activities, tours, admission tickets, and transportation. Families will be on their own for dinner, but we will help you with restaurant suggestions and grocery shopping options!

Liaisons should also plan for additional minimal costs, which MAA will disclose as soon we have specific plans. MAA will arrange transportation to the different locations for the liaisons while in Colombia. Liaisons should also plan to bring enough funds to cover any additional expenses that may arise. Airport meals and souvenirs are also the responsibility of each Liaison. Please refer to the fee schedule for more information.

**PLEASE REMEMBER - our goal is to keep this as inexpensive, yet as efficient as possible!**

### FEE SCHEDULE

Item	Due	Fee	Paid to
Application Fee	Due with Reverse Hosting Application	\$200	Paid to MAA. Nonrefundable.
Clearances *	Clearance for all household members over 13 ( <i>other clearances may be required based on state laws and residence history</i> )	Varies by state – typically \$30-\$75 per person	Paid to each entity (check and credit card accepted)
<b>Reverse Hosting Program Fee-DEPOSIT</b>	<b>Due upon acceptance into the program</b>	<b>\$300</b>	<b>Paid to MAA. This holds the family’s spot, starts initial program processing, and is nonrefundable.</b>
Home Study Fee	Due with initial HS visit or due upon receipt of draft from partner agency	\$2,800*- HS by MAA <b>OR</b> \$300 MAA HS Review	\$2,800 Paid to MAA if MAA is doing the HS, or \$300 paid to MAA and HS fee paid to partner agency. *HS fee varies by agency
<b>Reverse Hosting Program Fee</b>	<b>Part 1 of 2- Due with Hosting Contract</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>	<b>Paid to MAA</b>
Hosting Education	Due with Hosting Contract	\$100	Paid to MAA
<b>Reverse Hosting Program Fee</b>	<b>Part 2 of 2- Due before flights can be booked.</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>	<b>Paid to MAA</b>



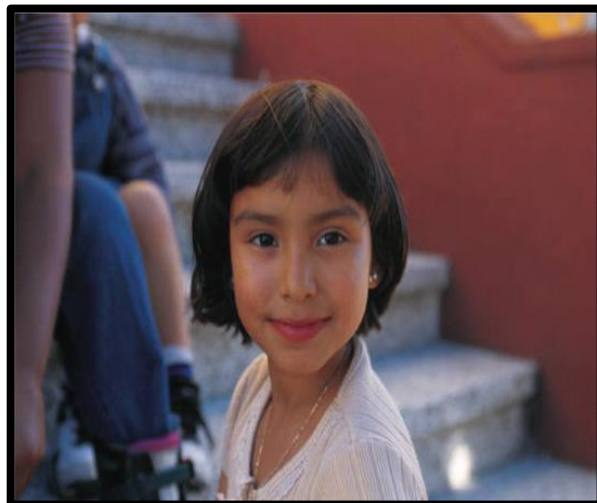
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### REFUND POLICY

Home study fees are actual expenses incurred and will be paid to MAA (for DE, PA, NJ and IL families) or directly to the agency doing your HS report. If MAA is not doing your home study, you will be billed the standard \$300 MAA home study review fee for us to ensure it is compliant. There is also a \$100 training fee. These fees are for services rendered and thus are non-refundable.

The actual Reverse Hosting trip entails months of planning and fees must be paid in advance to the airlines and hotel in Colombia. In the event of an emergency, or if the Reverse Hosting Family decides not to participate in the hosting experience, they will nevertheless assume full responsibility for all expenses, which were incurred by or on their behalf or on the behalf of the child that was expected to be in their custody. MAA will make every effort to accommodate the family in extenuating circumstances, but we cannot guarantee that any refunds will be given.



### MORE INFORMATION

If you would like to participate in the reverse hosting program, please visit our website at [www.madisonadoption.org](http://www.madisonadoption.org) and submit the Hosting Application which can be found under the 'Hosting' tab.

If you have questions regarding hosting requirements, training, costs, or other details, please contact Adriana Chaves at (305) 952-0451, or via email at [Adriana@madisonadoption.org](mailto:Adriana@madisonadoption.org).

We look forward to you joining us in our effort to help the ones who need us the most!

*Sincerely,*

*The Staff of Madison Adoption Associates*